**UPR of the Republic of Albania**

**Statement by Mr. SHIOTA Takahiro, Minister-Counsellor**

**The Permanent Mission of Japan in Geneva**

**4 November 2024**

Thank you, Mr. / Madam [Vice-] President.

Japan appreciates the positive steps taken by the Republic of Albania since the previous review cycle to improve its human rights situation.

Japan also welcomes Albania’s initiatives to strengthen gender equality, including through the improvements made to legislation on anti-discrimination and on gender-based violence as well as the approval of the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021–2030.

To achieve further progress, we recommend that the Republic of Albania:

1. redouble its efforts to protect the rights of the child, including through improving access to education and implementing the National Agenda for Child Rights and Protection and the Justice for Children Strategy 2022–2026; and
2. continue guaranteeing fundamental freedoms and rights, including freedom of expression and the media, as enshrined in the country’s Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

We wish the delegation of the Republic of Albania every success in the review.

I thank you.