**UPR of Mauritania — Statement of Japan**

**Mr. NISHINO Shuichi**

**Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Japan**

**19 January 2021**

Japan warmly welcomes the delegation of Mauritania to this session.

Japan commends Mauritania’s commitment to protection and promotion of women’s rights, including its measures to increase the representation of women in politics and in decision-making entities. Japan also appreciates the positive steps taken by Mauritania to guarantee the freedom of associations, including the bill on associations, networks and foundations adopted by the Council of Ministers, under which associations are only required to declare their establishment and do not need to obtain prior authorization.

Japan would like to make two recommendations:

1. strengthen efforts to further promote the rights of women, including through actions for improving literacy rates and reducing dropout rates among women and girls; and
2. ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict to effectively protect the rights of children.

We wish the delegation of Mauritania every success in the review.

I thank you.