**UPR of Rwanda — Statement of Japan**

**TAKASHIMA Go**

**First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan**

 **25 January 2021**

Thank you.

Japan warmly welcomes the delegation of Rwanda to this session.

Japan appreciates the positive steps taken by Rwanda to promote freedom of expression, including the steps taken to decriminalize defamation. Japan also welcomes the Rwanda’s continued efforts to promote gender equality in various sectors, including the public and private sectors.

Japan would like to make two recommendations:

1. proceed with the early ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;
2. take further measures to protect journalists and human rights defenders.

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

I thank you.