**UPR of Sao Tome and Principe — Statement of Japan**

**TAKAI Ken**

**First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan**

**27 January 2021**

Thank you.

Japan warmly welcomes the delegation of Sao Tome and Principe to this session.

Japan highly appreciates Sao Tome and Principe’s ratification of multiple human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 2017. The country’s commitment to protect and promote the civil and political rights of its people was well-demonstrated by the peaceful and democratic transfer of power in 2018. We also welcome the progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in various areas.

Japan would like to make three recommendations:

1. strengthen efforts to protect children, including by ending child labour, violence against children, sexual violence and early marriage;
2. improve the quality of education at all levels and enhance efforts to prevent dropouts and grade repetitions, especially among girls; and
3. ratify the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

We wish the delegation of Sao Tome and Principe every success in the review.

I thank you.