**Draft Statement**

**by Ambassador Seongmee YOON of the Republic of Korea**

**The 42nd Session of the UPR Working Group Review of Japan**

**(Tuesday, January 31, 2023, 9:00–12:30)**

The Republic of Korea notes Japan’s efforts to promote and protect human rights. We appreciate measures taken to address hate speech, including the adoption of the Hate Speech Act and the enactment and implementation of relevant ordinances by several local governments.

In a constructive sprit, we recommend Japan to continue its efforts to implement the Hate Speech Act more effectively, by introducing the prohibition of hate speech and punishment for such conduct into the Act.

We also look forward to Japan’s continued efforts to eliminate discrimination against and promote the rights of ethnic Korean residents.

Regarding the recommendations of the UN Human rights mechanisms on the issue of “comfort women,” we hope that our two countries will continue to work closely together to restore honor and dignity and heal the psychological wounds of the victims. Thank you. /End/