

**Statement by the delegation of the Permanent Mission of the Lao PDR to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**At the 42nd Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 23 January-3 February 2023**

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**Review of the Japan, 31 January 2023 (09:00-12:30 hours)**

* Mr. President,
* The Lao PDR warmly welcomes the delegation of Japan and thanks for the national report.
* My delegation commends Japan for the adoption of the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and its commitment to increase the participation of women in all fields, including politics, economy and public administration.
* The Lao PDR would like to offer two recommendations:

1. Strengthen the implementation of measures towards achieving goals on gender equality and women empowerment set forth in its national plans;
2. Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable groups, including the persons with disabilities.

* We wish Japan every success in this UPR.
* I thank you, Mr. President.