

**Statement delivered by Sumbue ANTAS,**

**Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva**

**42**nd **Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Japan**

31.01.2023

Thank you, Mr. President.

Vanuatu welcomes the Delegation of Japan to this review ad thanks them for their presentation.

We commend Japan for its continued efforts to improve human rights standards but we remain concerned about the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant and the nuclear contamination of the surrounding area, as well as the planned discharge of nuclear-contaminated water and waste into the Pacific Ocean.

Vanuatu would like to make the following recommendations to Japan:

1. Undertake and provide further scientific evidence of the safety, health, and rights of Internally Displaced Persons before people return to the vicinity of the Fukushima nuclear plant without coercion or financial duress;
2. Not to discharge dump from Fukushima any nuclear contaminated wastewater and waste from Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean without providing further satisfactory scientific evidence of the safety of any discharged contaminated waste and materials;
3. Extend the standing invitation to all special procedures and cooperate fully with all UN Special Procedures;

I thank you