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**UPR of the Bahamas - Statement of Japan**

**Ambassador Mitsuko SHINO**

**The Permanent Mission of Japan**

**17 January 2018**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Japan appreciates the measures taken by the Bahamas that emphasize upholding the principles of the rule of law, democracy, and human rights in the country. We would also like to commend the government for its efforts towards recovery from natural disasters such as the recent hurricanes that have struck the Bahamas. Japan will continue to support the government’s efforts with a focus on the areas of the environment and Disaster Risk Reduction. We further appreciate the Bahamas’ ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as its strengthening of initiatives in this area, including the introduction of legislation for promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.

Japan would like to make the following three recommendations.

First, Japan **recommends** that, in collaboration with the international community, the Government of the Bahamas continue to take measures to reduce the vulnerabilities that small island states are typically susceptible to, including in terms of environmental issues and natural disasters.

Second, we welcome the measures taken to combat trafficking in persons including revision of the criminal procedural code, and **recommend** that the government continue to take measures to raise awareness of this issue and provide support for victims.

Third, we further **recommend** that the Bahamas ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

I thank you, Mr. President.