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**UPR of Burundi - Statement of Japan**

**Ambassador Mitsuko SHINO**

**The Permanent Mission of Japan**

**18 January 2018**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Japan welcomes the achievement of an increased level of participation by women in the political life of Burundi.

The human rights situation in Burundi, however, remains a cause for concern in the face of the ongoing fluid situation in the country. According to a report by UNFPA, as of August 2017,about 400,000 Burundian citizens had been forced to flee to neighboring countries as refugees. Japan has provided Burundi with cooperation in the form of food aid to address the food shortages.

Japan would like to make the following three recommendations.

First, we **recommend** taking measures, in collaboration with the International Community, to ensure that the people of Burundi can enjoy all human rights.

Second, we **recommend** committing to comprehensive dialogue involving all stakeholders, as it is crucial to ensure that a free, fair, and transparent presidential election can be conducted peacefully in 2020.

Lastly, we **recommend** stepping up initiatives aimed at fostering an enabling environment for the repatriation of refugees, with an emphasis on addressing the country’s serious food shortages.

I thank you, Mr. President.