**UPR of China — Statement of Japan**

**Ambassador Ken OKANIWA
The Permanent Mission of Japan in Geneva
6 November 2018**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Japan appreciates the improvement to many economic, social and cultural rights in China since its introduction of reform and open-door policies. We also welcome the economic development that has taken place throughout the country, including in minority and inland areas. In this context, we believe it will be in China’s best interests to continue to address the following issues with a view to gaining further understanding for China’s efforts from the international community.

Japan is concerned by the recent tendency toward increased clampdown on society, targeting human rights defenders and intellectuals in particular. We expect China to take additional measures to protect freedom of expression, including freedom of the press and communication; personal liberty; and freedom of religion and belief, including for the Islamic, Buddhist and Christian faiths.

We are further concerned by the human rights situation of minorities, including Uyghurs and Tibetans. It is important to guarantee for these minorities the human rights and fundamental freedoms that are considered as universal values by the international community. We look forward to seeing China take further steps in this regard.

Noting the above concerns, Japan has the following two recommendations

1. Proceed with the early ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the International Convention of the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED); and
2. increase efforts to promote all human rights including minorities’ cultural rights, personal liberty, and freedom of religion and belief.

I thank you, Mr. President.