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**UPR of Vietnam – Statement of Japan**

**Ambassador Ken OKANIWA**

**The Permanent Mission of Japan in Geneva**

**22 January 2019**

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Delegation of Vietnam.

Japan very much appreciates progress made by Vietnam since the last UPR.

In order to address concerns and further improve the situation on human rights, Japan’s recommendations are as follows:

1. To ensure freedom of expression, including online, and to promote actions to ensure freedom and independence of the media;
2. To continue to strengthen measures to prevent abuse and violence against women; and
3. To continue to strengthen the rule of law, including further development of the criminal justice system taking into account the human rights of suspects and inmates and promotion of impartial and transparent administration of criminal justice. Japan will continue to cooperate with Vietnam in this area.

Japan welcomes Vietnam’s ratification of the CAT (Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment) and the CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities). We also appreciate Vietnam’s measures to improve its legal system and policies on human rights.

On the other hand, we are concerned about the sharp increase in arrests of journalists, bloggers and human rights defenders and reports of their ill treatment in prison. We have also been carefully observing the impact of the Law on Cybersecurity on human rights.

Japan appreciates the cooperation between our two countries toward regulating malicious brokers involved in arrangements for exchange students and technical interns. We expect Vietnam to work to strengthen measures to regulate organizations involved in sending Vietnamese citizens overseas, including to Japan.