**UPR of Bhutan — Statement of Japan**

**Ambassador　Ken OKANIWA
The Permanent Mission of Japan in Geneva
8 May 2019**

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

Japan appreciates Bhutan’s efforts since the last review under the philosophy of GNH to promote rule of law, human rights, democracy and socio-economic progress.

In particular, Japan appreciates Bhutan’s emphasis on narrowing the gap between urban and rural areas by focusing on education and employment, including youth unemployment. Concrete actions have been taken such as the establishment of “central schools” and a task force on employment creation.

Japan would like to make the following recommendations:

1. further strengthen efforts to narrow the gap between urban and rural areas; and
2. further promote women’s empowerment, building upon the significant progress in recent years.

I wish the delegation of the Kingdom of Bhutan every success in this review.

I thank you, Mr. Vice-President.