**UPR of Nicaragua — Statement of Japan**

**Mr. Masashi NAKAGOME**

**Minister, The Permanent Mission of Japan**

**15 May 2019**

Thank you, Madam Vice President.

Japan warmly welcomes the delegation of Nicaragua.

Japan highly appreciates the fact that the status of women has been promoted in Nicaragua, particularly in the area of public decision making, through measures including the enactment of legislation that has boosted the proportion of women serving in the parliament and as cabinet ministers.

On the other hand, Japan is concerned by reports of deterioration of the human rights situation in Nicaragua since April 2018, especially in regard to freedom of expression and other civil and political rights.

Japan would like to make two recommendations:

1. enhance the protection and promotion of freedom of expression and of the media and the right to peaceful assembly, and resolve the ongoing problems through dialogue between the government and the people; and
2. take further measures, including reform of the electoral system, to organize elections in a fairer manner in cooperation with the international community.

We wish the delegation of Nicaragua every success in the review.

I thank you, Madam Vice President.