**Statement of Japan**

**Ambassador Ken OKANIWA**

**at the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Thirty-third session:**

**Review of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea**

**(9 May 2019)**

●Japan has attached great importance to the role of the Universal Periodic Review as a framework for reviewing human rights situations of all UN member states.

●With respect to the DPRK, the abductions issue is an urgent issue that must be resolved without a moment of delay.

●Japan’s recommendation is that the DPRK should take concrete actions towards the early resolution of the abductions issue, including the immediate return of all abductees.

●Japan and the DPRK should overcome mutual mistrust and deepen cooperation with each other. Japan would like to call upon the DPRK to work together for seeking its bright future.