**UPR of Kiribati — Statement of Japan**

**Mr. Masashi NAKAGOME**

**Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan**

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Thank you, Mr. President.

Japan warmly welcomes the delegation of Kiribati.

Japan highly appreciates the positive steps taken by Kiribati to promote human rights, through various measures such as the accession to the Convention Against Torture (CAT) in 2019 and restructuring of the Kiribati National Human Rights Taskforce (KNHRT) aimed to increase its capacity.

On the other hand, Japan is aware of challenges facing Kiribati, including those related to rights of women, children, and vulnerable groups such as persons affected by leprosy. Kiribati is a leprosy high-burden country according to the WHO Global Leprosy Strategy 2016-2020.

Japan would like to make two recommendations:

1. take further measures to protect and promote women’s rights, including measure to prevent domestic violence against women ; and
2. involve community leaders and persons affected by leprosy in planning and decision-making relating to leprosy issues.

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

I thank you, Mr. President.