**UPR of Lao People's Democratic Republic — Statement of Japan**

**Ambassador OKANIWA Ken**

**Permanent Mission of Japan**

**21 January 2020**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Japan warmly welcomes the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Japan appreciates the positive steps taken by Lao PDR to implement the UPR 2nd cycle recommendations by adopting new laws and amending existing laws for improving human rights. We further appreciate the submission of four national reports to human rights treaty bodies, and the acceptance of visits by two Special Rapporteurs.

Japan would like to make three recommendations:

1. take further measures to raise awareness and understanding of human rights in Lao PDR;
2. continue to increase access to health services and education among women and girls, in particular those living in rural and remote areas; and
3. in addition to considering the early ratification of the ICPPED, continue to make efforts for addressing the case of the missing human rights defender.

We wish the delegation of Lao PDR every success in the review.

I thank you, Mr. President.