**UPR of Belarus — Statement of Japan**

**Ambassador OKANIWA Ken**

**Permanent Mission of Japan**

**2 November 2020**

Thank you, Madam President.

Japan warmly welcomes the delegation of Belarus to this session.

Japan would like to make four recommendations:

1. promptly ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances;
2. immediately cease the arbitrary detention and forceful oppression of citizens;
3. engage in national dialogue that respects the principles of the rule of law and democracy; and
4. make an earnest effort to address the human rights situation in the country.

Japan welcomes Belarus’s ratification of international human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), since the last review. Japan expects Belarus to make efforts towards its steady implementation.

In Belarus, since the presidential election on August 9, large-scale protests have been continuing and clashes with security forces have led to casualties and detention of protestors. Japan has been closely monitoring the situation with concern.

Japan wishes the delegation of Belarus every success in the review.

I thank you, Madam President.