**UPR of Marshall Islands — Statement of Japan**

**Mr. MAEHIRA Tomoyoshi**

**First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan**

**9 November 2020**

Thank you, Madam President.

Japan warmly welcomes the delegation of the Marshall Islands to this Session.

Japan highly appreciates the active engagement by the Marshall Islands to serve as a Council member for the first time, starting this year, and work to protect and promote human rights in the international community. Japan welcomes the conclusion by the Marshall Islands of major human rights treaties such as the ICCPR, ICESCR, CERD, and CAT since the second UPR cycle together with the preparation of reports to the relevant treaty bodies.

Japan commends the Marshall Islands for having enacted the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2017. In this regard, Japan would like to make two recommendations:

1. consider concluding the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; and
2. further enhance efforts to promote and protect the rights of women and children.

We wish the delegation of the Marshall Islands every success in the review.

I thank you, Madam, President.