

**Video Statement by State Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr. YAMADA Kenji
Representative of the Government of Japan,
16th session of the Conference of States Parties to
the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
13 June 2023**

Mr. President, distinguished guests,

I would first like to express my appreciation to the bureau and the secretariat of the Conference of States Parties for making this 16th session possible. I am honored to say a few words on behalf of the Government of Japan.

This year, the Japanese delegation includes Mr. TAMON Hiroshi, a lawyer who has 25 years of legal experience with dedication and lived experience as a Deaf person. Mr. TAMON is also a candidate for the elections of members to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to be held in 2024. I hope you will have an opportunity to meet with and get to know him during the Conference.

The Government of Japan has been making vigorous efforts to protect and promote human rights, which are universal values.

As part of such efforts, Japan has been faithfully implementing the CRPD and taking various concrete measures.

Such efforts include having the first constructive dialogue with the members of the Committee in August last year as part of the review of

Japan's state party report. Through that process, we received a number of comments from the Committee, including positive aspects, on Japan's legislative and other measures.

Building on that dialogue, we are determined to work towards realizing an inclusive society. For example, this March, the Government of Japan developed the Fifth Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities and amended the basic policy based on the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities. They were drafted through close consultations with stakeholders including organizations representing persons with disabilities as well as solicitation of public comments.

Taking this opportunity, Japan reaffirms its commitment to further implementing the Convention, including making efforts to realize an inclusive society.

In addition to implementing domestic measures, Japan will continue to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in the international arena. This week, the Japan Mission is co-hosting a photo exhibition called "Positive Energies." The Japanese photographer Mr. NABATA Fumio has captured in the photos smiles of children with Down syndrome. Please take a moment to stop by the exhibitions.

I would like to conclude by reiterating our commitment to realizing a society in which "everyone can feel a sense of fulfillment in life," fully realizing their potential regardless of their circumstances.

I wish you a successful Conference. Thank you.