

Madame Haider and members of the Committee,  
Distinguished participants and panelists,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, Japan will commemorate the 5th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The earthquake and subsequent tsunami caused unprecedented damage leaving over 18,000 people dead or missing. However, with much support from the international society, we rose again and have been striving to reconstruct the disaster-stricken regions ever since.

Women played an important role in the area affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, not only in rescue, relief, medical and fire-fighting activities, but also during the recovery and reconstruction phase. On the other hand, in some cases, women encountered challenges during their time living as evacuees due to the lack of consideration for women's concerns and perspectives in the management of shelters. For example, they did not always have access to dressing rooms or nursing rooms.

In order to overcome such hardships, Japan developed guidelines to promote gender equality in DRR management and reconstruction, and shared those guidelines with local governments and relevant organizations. Japan also shared its experiences with, and learned from, the international community through international conventions such as the Commission on the Status of Women, the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and the World Assembly for Women (WAW!).

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on DRR held in Sendai[, in northeastern Japan]. Drawing on what we learned about the importance of the role of women in DRR from the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Framework emphasizes the promotion of women's participation in managing disaster risk, as well as the need for capacity-building measures to empower women for preparedness and for dealing with post-disaster situations.

Furthermore, a proposal based on discussions at last year's WAW! was made under the name of "WAW! To Do 2015" and registered as a UN document. It includes the following proposals from Japan to mobilize women's leadership in disaster risk reduction.

- 1 Mobilize women's leadership in the disaster risk reduction field through creating an environment that allows men and women of all ages to participate in all related decision-making processes.
- 2 Create opportunities for men and women to share ideas for concrete measures to implement in the field.
- 3 Consider the whole disaster cycle (from prevention to recovery) from the viewpoint of both men and women with diverse backgrounds and from different regions.
- 4 Introduce factors that will appeal to the various interests of a wide range of people, including the young, to DRR Activities, and work to apply their abilities.

Professor Keiko Ikeda, who is a specialist in gender and disaster risk reduction and a participant in WAW! 2015, will be participating in today's discussion as a panelist. Japan wishes to share its experiences and know-how, including the challenges we face and lessons we have learned, in the area of gender equality and disaster risk reduction with the Committee members and our colleagues from other States parties. In so doing, we hope to contribute to CEDAW by helping the Committee to provide more meaningful guidance for States parties on the promotion of disaster risk reduction strategies that incorporate the point of view of gender equality.

Thank you.