**Oral Statement: Comments to General Comment on Article 11 - Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies**

**Japan Disability Forum**

Japan had painful experience with the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011. It killed more than 15,000 people, and the fatality rate of persons with disabilities in the affected areas was more than twice that of overall residents.

At the time of this disaster, international society kindly offered huge support to Japan. We sincerely appreciate this. And to the victims of recent disaster in Turkey and Syria, we would like to express our deepest sympathy and call for support with international solidarity.

We offer the following 7 comments based upon our experience:

1. The State Parties should let persons with disabilities and their families participate in the discussion as members of national/local government and regional councils related to disaster prevention and reduction, as well as reconstructing livelihoods in order to ensure effective implementation of the Sendai Framework.
2. Local governments and OPDs should hold discussions in advance so that personal information held by the governments can be used effectively to confirm the safety of persons with disabilities immediately following a disaster. Also, all local governments should establish individual evacuation plans for all who have need.
3. The provision of information at the time of a disaster by local governments and the media, and the provision of information at disaster sites such as shelters, should be conducted in all forms of accessible communication of the choice by persons with disabilities.
4. The State Parties should make public shelters inclusive and accessible as well as take effective measures to ensure privacy.
5. The State Parties should take effective measures to make general temporary housing inclusive and accessible in accordance with the particular characteristics of each disability.
6. In Fukushima, people were forced to repeatedly move between shelters due to the nuclear plant disaster, and there were persons with disabilities who became physically weak and died from hypothermia or other reasons. Referring to this experience, the State Parties should discuss how persons with disabilities living near nuclear power plants can safely evacuate in case of a nuclear disaster.
7. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the system of medical care, testing, and vaccination should ensure that persons with disabilities are not given lower priority.