**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO JAPAN (FIRST BATCH)**

**PORTUGAL on behalf of the Group of Friends on NMIRFs**

* Could the State-under-review describe its national mechanism or process responsible for coordinating the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations and the monitoring of progress and impact?
* Could the State-under-review elaborate specifically on how is the collaboration of its national mechanism with other stakeholders, such as National Human Rights Institutions, CSO, the judiciary and parliamentarians?
* Has the State-under-review established a dedicated ‘national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up’ (NMIRF) covering UPR recommendations, but also recommendations/observations generated by the UN human rights Treaty Bodies, the Special Procedures and relevant regional mechanisms, which, inter alia, clusters all the above, manages them in national databases, coordinates implementation actions across government, monitors progress and impact, and then streamline reporting procedures back to the UN? If so, could the State-under-review briefly share its experience on creating such mechanism, including challenges faced and lessons learnt, as well as any plans or needs to strengthen the NMIRF in the future?

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

* What steps has Japan taken to ratify the Kampala Amendment to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression?
* What steps has Japan taken towards the full and legal abolition of the death penalty?
* What steps has Japan taken to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture?
* What steps has Japan taken to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure?
* What steps has Japan taken to accede to the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?
* What steps has Japan taken to ratify the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime?
* What steps has Japan taken to implement Liechtenstein’s recommendations from the previous cycle of the UPR that have been accepted by Japan, notably recommendation 161.27 and 161.45?

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* What steps has Japan taken to ensure proper treatment of refugees and asylum seekers in detention facilities and to fulfill its obligations to grant refugee status or other form of permanent residency status to individuals from other countries who would face persecution or torture if returned?
* The penalty for insulting a person in public was recently expanded to include imprisonment for up to one year. Is Japan considering abolishing criminal penalties for libel and defamation? What is the government of Japan doing to ensure that defamation laws that criminalize libel and slander are not abused?
* We are concerned about the inability for same-sex persons to be legally married in Japan. How does the government of Japan interpret the 2022 decision of the Tokyo District Court stating that the lack of a legislative framework for same-sex couples to form a family violated the Constitution? How will the decision affect marriage equality?
* We are concerned that individuals must have medical intervention including irreversible surgeries, among other eligibility requirements such as not being a parent, before having the option to legally change their gender marker on official documents. What steps is the government of Japan taking to eliminate such requirements?
* We are concerned that sexual crimes as currently defined in Japan’s penal code require assault, intimidation, or an inability to resist to be proven as an element of the crime and that Japan age of consent is set at just 13-years. What is Japan doing to ensure accountability for perpetrators and the protection of children and all survivors of rape, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence?
* Under the 2014 State Secrets Law, journalists who encourage whistleblowers could face up to five years in prison. What is Japan doing to ensure this law is not abused and that journalists’ freedom of expression is protected?

**CANADA**

* We recognize Japan’s ongoing review and consultations related to family law reform. It is critical to establish enforceable domestic child access mechanisms that allow the child to maintain, on a regular basis, personal relations and direct contact with both parents in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. How will Japan ensure that family law reforms improve mechanisms for child custody determinations and meaningful access to both parents?

**BELGIUM**

* Is the government of Japan considering ratifying the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure and to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Workers?
* Will Japan respond positively on outstanding requests for visits from special procedures, amongst which the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, the Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, the Special rapporteur on racism and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention?
* Which measures has the government of Japan taken to implement the recommendations by the CEDAW Committee, in particular with regards to the criminalization of marital rape, providing shelters that are adequately equipped for women victims of violence, training all relevant personnel so that all cases of violence against women and girls are thoroughly and effectively investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted and, if convicted, adequately punished?
* How is the government of Japan addressing the underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions in the public and private sectors, as well as in political life and parliament? Is the government considering the adoption of special temporary measures (art. 4 CEDAW), as recommended by the CEDAW Committee?
* Does the government of Japan intend to legally recognize same-sex partnerships and marriages at national level?

**SWEDEN**

* What measures has the Government taken, including in the legislative area, to prevent discrimination and hate speech?

**PANAMA**

* In the third cycle, Panama recommended that Japan ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In paragraph 97 of its national report, Japan informs that it continues to engage in serious discussions on this matter, while taking various opinions into account. What is the state of play of the ratification process and what challenges is Japan facing to fully implement this recommendation?
* Could Japan please elaborate on efforts made to integrate a human rights-based approach and a gender perspective into the framework for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction?
* What preventive measures are being implemented to address the root causes of suicide among children and young people, and to ensure their access to mental health services?