34th Session of the Human Rights Council (9 March 2017)

ITEM 2 Interactive Dialogue with

the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein

Statement by Ambassador Mitsuko SHINO

Permanent Mission of Japan in Geneva

Mr. President,

There is growing concern about serious violations of human rights and humanitarian issues and growing uncertainty about the future. In this current climate, the Human Rights Council and the role of the High Commissioner are more important than ever.

With regard to the issue of "access" to the UN human rights system, Japan shares the view of High Commissioner on the need to deal with it.

Japan will continue to cooperate with the OHCHR and decided to contribute a total of 110,000 US dollars to OHCHR by the end of this month toward support for the activities of the Special Procedures, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and the field offices in Seoul and Cambodia.

Japan highly commends the work of the OHCHR field offices, in particular those above mentioned. Japan welcomes the agreement reached with the Cambodian government around the renewal of the MoU. In this connection, in order to effectively and flexibly deal with an increasing number of issues, I would like to again declare Japan's intention to support restructuring of the OHCHR, which aims to strengthen the role of the field offices while maintaining cost neutrality.

This is the first session for Japan since resuming its seat in the Council. Japan intends to actively involve itself in country-specific issues, including Syria, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka, as well as in thematic issues such as freedom of expression.

Finally, the human rights violations by North Korea, particularly the abduction of foreign nationals, continue to be serious concern. Together with the EU, Japan is submitting a draft resolution on the human rights situation in the DPRK, in order to continue to pursue accountability. We hope that this resolution is duly adopted by consensus.

I thank you.