**Fourth Session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on a United Nations Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas**

**15 May 2017**

**Japan General Statement on Draft Declaration presented by Chair-Rapporteur**

**Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues, dear members from Civil Societies.**

**Madam Chair, I would first like to offer you my sincere congratulations with your re-election as Chair-Rapporteur of this intergovernmental working group.**

**Japan believes that it is extremely important to protect and promote human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas from the views of human security. Japan has been one of the top donor countries of the ODA. In 2013 alone, US$ 656 million has been disbursed in the relevant sectors. As the top donor in the agricultural and rural development, Japan will play an important international role.**

**At the same time, Japan reserves its position on this draft declaration as a whole. We believe it is not appropriate to include points that are immature and currently not recognized as human rights by the international community.**

**More importantly, to protect the rights of peasants and others, rather than**

**drafting a new declaration, we believe it would be more effective to make use of the existing human rights mechanisms.**

**In closing, Madam Chair, I would like to express Japan’s appreciation for your work and our wish that this intergovernmental working group will make a meaning progress this week toward improving the human rights situation for all people living and working in rural areas.**

**I, Thank you.**