

Statement by Ms. ERI Arfiya
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At the General Discussion of the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
12 March 2025

Honorable Chair,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Chair, the Bureau members, and entire team for their dedicated efforts in organizing this meeting.

Your excellency,

The Government of Japan aims to realize a society where all people, regardless of gender, can fully demonstrate their individuality and abilities to the fullest and find a sense of purpose in life. To realize such a society, Japan has consistently strengthened its efforts based on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Government of Japan has been working to ensure opportunities for women to participate in the policy and decision-making process and has further strengthened initiatives to realize policies from the perspective of gender equality.

The Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, which was approved by the Cabinet in December 2020, establishes 11 individual fields for extensive focus. The Plan sets achievement targets to be attained through the implementation of specific initiatives in each field, and the reported trends are publicly announced every year. As a result of the government's initiatives in collaboration with civil society and various other stakeholders based on the Fifth Basic Plan and the Act on the Promotion of Women's Active Engagement in Professional Life, the movement around women's empowerment is expanding throughout Japanese society. For instance, the number of female employees increased by 190,000 between 2019 and 2022. In addition, the rate of male employees taking childcare leave has also increased nearly fivefold from 2018 to 2023, which illustrates concrete and consistent progress.

Your excellency,

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution on Women, Peace and Security. Japan, together with Norway, assumed the role of Co-Chair of the WPS Focal Points Network, and held its Capital-Level Meeting in Tokyo this February. Participants reaffirmed the importance of the WPS agenda, addressing its long-established issues such as the importance of the roles of women in peace mediation, as well as emerging issues such as responses to natural disasters, AI and cyber security. Japan hopes that these discussions will lead to concrete actions to promote the WPS agenda. For its part, Japan has contributed approximately 2 million US dollars to UN Women to support the formulation of WPS national and regional action plans in the Asia-Pacific region and the functions of the Focal Points Network.

Japan also promotes gender equality across the globe, together with UN Women, empowering women in conflict-affected and disaster-affected countries and regions in the Middle East and Africa.

Furthermore, Japan carries out its commitments as a member of the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse from the perspective of promoting women's political and social participation.

Your excellency,

Japan's dedication to eradicating discrimination against women remains unwavering. We will continue to contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women in Japan and across the international community, in cooperation with various stakeholders, including UN agencies and civil society.

I thank you.