

**Conference of the States Parties to the International Convention
for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance**

Statement by Ambassador Mitsuko Shino

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva

1. Enforced disappearance is an extremely serious violation of human rights, which no person should ever be subjected to.
2. Japan has experienced having its citizens abducted by the DPRK and understands the grave and serious suffering caused to the victims of enforced disappearance and their families left behind. Megumi Yokota was only 13 years old when she was abducted on her way home from school 39 years ago. Ever since, her family has been suffering great pain.
3. In order to prevent further such tragedy as a result of enforced disappearance, it is crucial to monitor the implementation of the Convention. In this belief, Japan has continued to support the Committee in its monitoring work.
4. Japan understands that the Committee has been actively and promptly engaging in very important work, including consideration of reports by the States Parties and the taking of urgent action in response to requests. Japan appreciates the Committee's activities and believes it is most appropriate that the Committee continue to work on monitoring the Convention the Convention's implementation.
5. We hope that more countries will conclude the Convention and support its appropriate monitoring to prevent further cases of enforced disappearance. Japan has been conducting outreach activities, including making recommendations in UPR sessions to non-participating countries to conclude the Convention. Japan would like to encourage other States Parties to also conduct outreach activities within their own regions and internationally.