**Draft statement by Naoko URAOKA (Attorney/ Deputy Director from Foreign Policy Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan)**

**Permanent Representative of Japan**

**to the International Organizations in Vienna**

**on agenda item 6(a): Ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime at the 27th Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,**

**16th May 2018**

Mr. Chairperson,

This is the first time Japan attends the Commission since we became a Party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol in July, 2017.

We are currently preparing the implementing legislation for the Firearms Protocol, which will be submitted to the Diet. We intend to conclude this promptly.

Mr. Chairperson,

We recognize that, now more than ever, the UNTOC is the most effective convention to address the many forms of transnational organized crime. We, therefore, call on each Party to make effective use of the UNTOC. Japan has started mutual legal assistance based on the UNTOC.

 Cybercrime, which is the theme of the thematic discussion in this year’s session, can be addressed by the active use of mutual legal assistance based on the UNTOC. Organized crime organizations are often involved in cybercrime. For instance, fraud is being facilitated through the use of botnet and extortionists are using ransomware. To combat such forms of cybercrime, mutual legal assistance using the framework of the UNTOC is effective and necessary tool.

Japan is working more closely with the international community in efforts to further strengthen measures against crime as a Party to the UNTOC.

Mr. Chairperson,

 Japan would also like to touch on the review mechanism of the implementation of the UNTOC. The review mechanism must be most effective and less burdensome for practitioners to achieve the purpose of the UNTOC enshrined in Article 1, which is to promote international cooperation. A fundamental element to promote international cooperation is for law enforcement practitioners, such as a prosecutor, to understand the domestic laws and criminal proceedings of partner countries. Therefore, it is important to gather and share such information through the review mechanism.

 It is based on such a viewpoint that Japan is proactively proposing a mechanism that is most effective and less burdensome for practitioners thus far. We are aware that certain delegations believe that the UNTOC review mechanism could be based on that of the UNCAC. 　In our view, the scope of the UNTOC is different from that of the UNCAC

Mr. Chairperson,

 To conclude, we would like to emphasize the importance of the UNODC as an imperative instrument to prevent and combat transnational organize crime, including cybercrime.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

(END)