

Statement by Mr. Jun Shimmi
Ambassador in charge of UN Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan,
At the Ministerial Conference on the role of the UN in Ending Violence and
Discrimination Against
LGBT People

Thank you Chairperson,
Excellencies and other Distinguished Participants,

I am honored to have this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Government of Japan at this historic meeting, dedicated to the issues related to the LGBT people, where we have several Ministers of like-minded countries present.

As is written on the draft Ministerial declaration of this meeting, human rights are the birthrights of every human being and therefore we have to eliminate immediately all forms of human rights violations against the LGBT individuals such as physical violence, discrimination and discriminatory punishment based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.

In this respect, Japan hopes to continue to play an active role in tackling various international challenges surrounding the LGBT people, including by putting an end without delay to violence and discrimination against them. I would also like to thank partner countries for their collaboration in conducting the consultative regional seminars in Kathmandu, Paris and Brasilia early this year, and the concluding international conference in Oslo in April.

On a national level as well, the Japanese Government has been striving to eliminate prejudice and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity through its various awareness-raising activities such as organizing seminars and distributing pamphlets all over the country. We will continue these efforts in order to realize a truly LGBT friendly society in Japan.
Chairperson,

I sincerely hope that the Ministerial declaration to be adopted at the end of this meeting will become a catalyst for the improvement of the environment surrounding the LGBT people not only in Japan but also all around the world.

Thank you very much for your attention.

(End)