I appreciate the opportunity to make a report. It is my great honor to have the opportunity to present my report.

I am a participant from DPI Japan, an International non-governmental organization for full-participation, equal opportunity and support for the right of persons with disabilities. We have been involved in the formulation of CRPD.

Today, I would like to report on the situation in Japan regarding forced sterilization for persons with disabilities. Eugenic ideology still persists in Japan.

Under the (Former) Eugenic Protection Law (1948-1996), at least 25,000 persons with disabilities were forced to undergo eugenic surgery, depriving them of their right to self-determination as to whether to have children. Many of them were not informed of the details of their surgeries and were sometimes cheated or drugged.

Illegal practices such as hysterectomies for women with disabilities may still be performed for the purpose of contraception and reduction or menstrual assistance.

Currently, 38 victims have filed a lawsuit and are still fighting. We, DPI and other DPOs are supporting them. The government has not apologized or compensated them yet. This law defined disabled people as defective offspring and women are pressured to bear healthy children.

Women with disabilities are denied rights for reproductive health, and there is inadequate support for childcare for disabled parents. Just last year, it was reported that a couple with intellectual disability living in a group home were forced to make the ultimate choice of sterilization or leaving the facility.

The eugenic ideology takes root in the Eugenic Protection Law has cast a dark shadow over Japanese society, and unfortunately many people in Japan tend to believe that people with disabilities should not have and raise children.

Concluding observations by Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities last September strongly urged the Japanese government to take measures to prohibit the forced sterilization and abortion of persons with disabilities.

We will keep urging the Japanese government to admit the failure of the law, to apologize sincerely to all victims, and to reach the full-scale solution.

We will work in solidarity to ensure that these inhumane tragedies will never be repeated any part of the world.