

Agenda item 16: Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (MVT) MVT/A/5/1

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Japan would like to express its gratitude to the Chair and the Secretariat for your great efforts to organize this meeting while the world is in the midst of a crisis.

First of all, this delegation would like to welcome the fact that the number of contracting parties of the Marrakesh Treaty has steadily been increasing.

We recognize that this treaty is important to facilitate access to published works for the visually impaired persons with due consideration to the balance between the interests of right holders and public interest.

The Marrakesh Treaty has come into force in Japan since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Since then, we have several actual cases of cross-border exchange of accessible format copies between Authorized Entities of Japan and foreign countries.

Therefore, we hope that more member states will accede to the Marrakesh Treaty and the cross-border exchange network of this Treaty will expand more.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.