**Opening statement of Mikiko Otani, Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child**

**at Public Opening of the 91st session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child**

**29 August 2022**

**This session is the second time that the Committee on the Rights of the Child was given one additional week added to make up the shortened 89th session in February this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Once again I would like to thank the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Director General of the UN Office at Geneva for this decision and the support provided for us to fulfill our mandate for the children of the world.**

**Children are continuing to suffer and experience various challenges. Children are seriously affected by conflict, climate change, food crisis and other humanitarian situations, poverty and the negative impact of pandemic, such as the disruption on education and mental health. But children’s issues are continuing not to receive necessary attention. Our Committee has a crucial role to play in this regard to call on States and the international society to put children at the center by highlighting the needs of children and the support for them and making children’s agenda much more visible. I am determined to do my best for this purpose together here with all my colleague members of the Committee who are dedicated to work for children. I would also like to reiterate the importance of our working together with UN bodies and agencies, civil society and of course children as our partners. I am very much grateful for your collaboration and support.**

**I look forward to working with all of you and having a very productive five week session ahead of us.**

**I thank you for your kind attention.**

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