Thank you, Mr. Chair,

At the outset, the delegation of Japan would like to express its gratitude to the Chair, the vice-chair and the Secretariat for your continuous efforts toward the success of the SCCR sessions and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We consider the protection of broadcasting organizations to be an important and high-priority agenda item in the SCCR.

We, however, recognize that a consensus on the fundamental issues, including specific scope, object of protection and rights to be granted, has not been reached yet at this stage. This delegation is therefore willing to contribute to the progress of the discussion in order to reach a consensus early when the substantial discussion is resumed.

Concerning Exceptions and Limitations, it is essential that we work to achieve an appropriate balance with balancing the interest of rights holders with the interests of the general public. In this sense, the three-step test has worked well as a properly balanced international standard. The member states have established balanced and suitable exceptions and limitations based on the test with taking into account the respective social and cultural backgrounds in every country. Under the circumstances, we hope that the discussion on this issue will focus on the sharing of national experiences and practices.

Finally, we would like to contribute to further discussions in the SCCR in a constructive manner.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.