Remarks of Mr. Sobashima Hidenobu, Ambassador of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia at the Workshop on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Disasters and Climate Change, Enhancing Disaster and Climate Resilience (EDCR) Project on Tuesday 6 October 2020

The Hon. Andrew Yatilman, Secretary of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management,

Other Representatives from the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia,

Representatives of the Governments of States of Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk and Kosrae, joining online,

Representatives from UNDP here and overseas, and other UN and Other Agencies,

Representatives of Civil Society Organizations,

Distinguished Participants,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Representing Japan that is financing the Enhancing Disaster and Climate Resilience (EDCR) Project implemented by UNDP, I would like to welcome all of you present here.

I feel it appropriate for me to say a few words on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Disasters and Climate Change, for two reasons.

First, Japan has been hosting WAW!, that is the World Assembly for Women, since 2014 for 5 times, as part of Japan’s contributions to achieve a Society where Women Shine. Unfortunately, because of COVID-19, the 6th WAW scheduled to take place in April this year was postponed.

Still Japan intends to continue to contribute to achieving a society where women shine.

Secondly, Japan hosted, and only Japan hosted the United Nations’ World Conference on Disaster Reduction for three times. First in Yokohama in 1994, secondly in Kobe, Hyogo, in 2005, and finally in Sendai in 2015.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, states in para. 36 (a) (i) of V. Role of stakeholders, that “Women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes; and adequate capacity building measures need to be taken to empower women for preparedness as well as build their capacity for alternative livelihood means in post-disaster situations.

I stop here.

I hope you will have good discussion on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Disasters and Climate Change, today and the following two days.

Thank you.