

**Item 4: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of  
human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

**Statement of Japan**

**Geneva, 17 September 2013**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Japan wishes to express its appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the UN Commission of Inquiry on human rights in DPRK.

The COI visited Japan from August 27<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup> and held a public hearing during which they heard testimonies from the families of the abductees, experts on North Korea and members of civil society organizations. The COI also met with Prime Minister Abe, Foreign Minister Kishida, and Minister in charge of the Abductions Issue, Mr. Furuya and other government officials. We hope that the results of this visit will assist the COI in its efforts to fulfill its mandate "to investigate the systematic, widespread and grave violations of human rights in the DPRK."

The graveness of the human rights situation in the DPRK has been repeatedly pointed out in past reports by the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur. At the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Council in March, Japan submitted with the European Union the resolution which established the COI. Our action was expressly based on the determination that this grave human rights situation must be addressed without delay. The resolution was adopted by consensus, reflecting the strong agreement of the international community with this determination.

While we understand that the COI commenced its activities with full force only in July, we would like to hear about its findings as of now in more detail. In addition, we would also like to know how the COI views the refusal by the DPRK to cooperate with the COI, how it intends to approach the DPRK in future and what the international community can do to support the activities of the COI

Japan strongly calls on the DPRK to take concrete action to improve its human rights situation, including the resolution of the abduction issue. As has been repeatedly conveyed to the COI during its

stay in Japan, Japan considers that it is possible to achieve a swift resolution to the abduction issue through negotiations and that this would be beneficial to the DPRK itself. At the same time, it is vital that the international community continue to voice its concerns. We would like to request the COI provide a final report which will clearly demonstrate to the international community the graveness of the human rights situation in the DPRK, so that the global community can unite in its appeal to the DPRK.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our thanks to Justice Kirby and the members of the COI for its recent visit to Japan. We are particularly grateful for the great understanding and empathy shown with regard to the abduction issue. Justice Kirby said that he would never forget Mr. and Mrs. Yokota, whose daughter Megumi was abducted by the DPRK 36 years ago when she was only thirteen years old. This remark provided great encouragement to the people in Japan.

Thank you.