

As Delivered

Human Rights Council 24th Session

**Item 10: General Debate
Statement by the Government of Japan**

Geneva, 26 September 2013

Thank you, Mr. President,

On Cambodia, Japan appreciates the dedicated efforts of the OHCHR, especially its office in Cambodia, and its preparation of the report. We welcome the continued constructive relationship between the office and the Government of Cambodia.

While steady progress has been made on the human rights situation in Cambodia in the two decades since the Paris Peace Agreements, there remain challenges to be addressed. Japan considers that it would be beneficial for OHCHR and the Cambodian government to deepen their dialogue, jointly to identify priorities in the area of human rights, and to move forward with a focus on these specified items.

Japan, as a main sponsor of the resolution on the situation of human rights in Cambodia and a friend in the region, has continued to support the efforts of the Cambodian government in this domain, and it also supports the efforts of the OHCHR office in Cambodia. In this perspective, Japan hopes that the office will renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). We also hope that the office and the Cambodian government will continue to work together in a constructive fashion on further activities.

On Sri Lanka, Japan welcomes the materialization of a visit to Sri Lanka by the High Commissioner and substantive discussions that occurred during her visit. In addition, we commend the Government of Sri Lanka's announcement to accept visits by the Special Rapporteurs on the human rights of internally displaced persons and on the right to education.

National reconciliation continues to be a crucial and challenging goal.

Japan appreciates the significant progress made toward this end with the implementation of the Northern Provincial Council Election.

A number of outstanding issues still exist. We earnestly hope that the government will implement the LLRC Action Plan and continue its efforts toward recovery. And it would benefit Sri Lanka to make use of the support of the OHCHR in this process. In our view, the High Commissioner's visit should be followed by further building of partnership, of an active and cooperative nature, between her office and the Government of Sri Lanka. It would contribute to the promotion of national reconciliation as well as to the advancement of human rights. Japan on its part remains committed to providing necessary support for Sri Lanka.

I thank you.