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Human Rights Council 24th Session

Item 4: Interactive Dialogue with COI-Syria

Geneva, 18 March 2014

Thank you, Mr. President,

Japan appreciates that the Commission of Inquiry has produced this detailed report in spite of the challenging circumstances under which the Commission has not been granted access to Syria. We find it regrettable that the Syrian Government has not sincerely cooperated with the investigation of the CoI. We urge the Government of Syria cooperate fully with the Commission including through granting access to the country.

Japan strongly condemns the indiscriminate attacks against civilians that have continued over a long period of time and resulted in tremendous suffering to civilians. We call for putting an immediate end to all violence in Syria.

We are also deeply troubled by the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation including more than 250,000 people being denied basic necessities while under siege. We note with great concern the report by the CoI which states that siege has been imposed by both Government forces and anti-government armed

groups as part of their military strategies. Japan strongly calls upon all parties to the conflict to observe relevant international humanitarian law and to realize unfettered humanitarian access throughout the country including to those areas currently under siege.

Japan urges all parties to the conflict to build trust through practical arrangements on the ground, including local ceasefires and to continue dialogue to find a political solution to the conflict. Japan fully supports Joint Special Representative Brahimi's efforts in this regard. Japan is committed to making its utmost efforts to provide humanitarian assistance as well as to make a contribution to the political dialogue, including the resumption of the Geneva II peace talks, in cooperation with the international community.

Thank you.