

Item 2: ID with the High Commissioner for Human Rights

– Statement of Japan–

6/7 March 2014

Human rights challenges still continue to remain in the world and Japan greatly appreciates the wide-ranging activities of the OHCHR to address them.

Japan fully believes that the human rights mechanisms supported by the Office are essential instruments for improving human rights situations. Commissions of Inquiry continue to prove their capacity to unearth numerous grave human rights violations that require urgent and collective action by the international community. One such example is the Commission of Inquiry on the DPRK. Its final report sheds light on the egregious human rights abuses occurring there. We fully support the HC's call to maintain the momentum on addressing the serious violations, including abductions, committed by the DPRK and ask for continued support from the Office in this regard.

The UPR has entered its 2nd cycle and Japan took active part in its second review in 2012. Maintaining the integrity of the UPR is essential for enhancing its capacity and effectiveness in addressing human rights situations across the world. We call on all States to fully cooperate with the UPR and to make contributions to advance human rights in each State through dialogue. We also cannot forget the role of Special Procedures mandate holders who address various human rights challenges by exercising their expertise independently and in complement with the UPR. It is important that this

Council aims to hold constructive discussions free from confrontation under these mechanisms.

Japan welcomes that the Office continues to provide technical assistance to countries including through its presence in the field to bring about real changes on the ground. Mutual trust between countries concerned and the OHCHR should be fostered over time as it will maximize the effectiveness of such assistance. We commend political commitments shown and concrete steps taken by countries to respond cooperatively to such efforts by the Office.

We also pay close attention to the challenges faced by the Office in terms of its capacity and resources. Addressing these challenges requires joint efforts. On one hand, States need to exercise self-restraint in the Council and to thoroughly examine whether the existing mandates are truly responsive to changing human rights circumstances and could be better adapted or even merged. On the other hand, the OHCHR should make its utmost efforts to work in a cost-efficient manner and further explain its financial situation including budgetary usage in greater detail. Japan looks forward to the forthcoming explanation from the OHCHR in order for us to reflect on how best we can support the Office.

I thank you for your attention.