

**Statement by Japan**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
**Item 4: Individual ID with SR on Myanmar**  
**March 17, 2014**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Japan commends the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Quintana's for his dedicated work over the past six years. In his press statement issued at the end of his visit to Myanmar last month, the Special rapporteur described Myanmar as a country where "there is limited space for backtracking though the democratic transition is still fragile." We are strongly encouraged by this analysis and at the same time we are made aware of the need for the continued support of this transition in Myanmar.

Japan welcomes the series of measures being taken in Myanmar toward democratization and national reconciliation, including the increased space for people to exercise their right to freedom of expression, and ceasefire agreements with ethnic minority groups. We also welcome the significant release of political prisoners following the statement by the President Thein Sein to release all prisoners of conscience. We urge Myanmar to fulfill this commitment. We strongly encourages Myanmar to continue to take steps, particularly to ensure that freedoms of expression and belief are respected and that the rule of law truly takes root in society, including by carrying out necessary legislative reforms.

Mr. President,

Japan remains concerned by the clashes among the residents of Rakhine State as well as the human rights and humanitarian situation there. All violence needs to stop immediately. Humanitarian assistance need to be provided to all affected population without discrimination, based on a mutual trust and cooperative relationship between relevant stakeholders at local and international levels, in a manner conducive to the national reconciliation process in Myanmar.

Japan plans to continue the bilateral Human Rights Dialogue that began in February of last year. We are ready to continue to provide technical assistance, including capacity building for law enforcement personnel in order to help their efforts to establish the rule of law. Myanmar's reform efforts toward democratization need to be supported by the international community. Japan strongly hopes that the cooperation between Myanmar and the international community including OHCHR will be further strengthened, and in this connection, we would like to emphasize the benefit for Myanmar of establishing an OHCHR office in the country.

Japan will endeavor to promote the efforts of the international community, including the UN, to support Myanmar's efforts to further promote and protect human rights in the country.

I thank you.