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Human Rights Council, 25th Session

Item 4: General Debate

Geneva, 18 March 2014

Thank you, Mr. President,

Japan commends the dedicated efforts and the achievements made by the Commission of Inquiry on the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The report finds human rights violations, including those in political camps as well as abductions, which constitute crimes against humanity and, in addition to making recommendations for concrete measures, calls for resolute action by the international community. Japan believes that the outcome of the COI should not end with a simple report. During this session, we will jointly submit with the EU a resolution on the DPRK that reflects the contents of the COI report. We ask all States for their support.

The abduction issue, which is of vital importance impacting the sovereignty of Japan and the lives and security of our citizens, remains

unresolved. The current administration has determined to make this an issue of highest priority, to be completely resolved during its term of office. As the abductees and their families are aging, it is imperative that the issue be resolved without delay. Japan strongly requests that the DPRK take the concrete measures to this end.

On Syria, Japan appreciates the work of the Commission on Inquiry despite the challenging circumstances under which it has been unable to access the country. Japan calls on the Government of Syria to receive the COI and to cooperate completely with it.

Japan continues to be concerned by reports of continued grave violations and abuses of human rights and humanitarian laws, including crimes against humanity such as large-scale indiscriminate attacks on civilians by government and pro-government forces, war crimes perpetrated by anti-government armed groups, and the refusal of humanitarian relief supplies.

Along with continuing to call for an immediate end to the violence, Japan, under the principle of making a "proactive contribution to peace", will participate responsibly in the steps being taken by the international community, contributing through both humanitarian assistance and political dialogue.

Finally, Japan is deeply concerned by the worsening of religious conflict and consequently the human rights and security situation in the Central African Republic. Japan expects all relevant parties to work toward national reconciliation, the return of constitutional order, and the establishment of a democratic system and the rule of law. We hope that peace in the CAR will be restored as soon as possible through cooperation with the recently appointed independent expert.

I thank you.