

As delivered

Human Rights Council 22nd Session

Item 2: HC annual report followed by ID with the HC

Geneva, 28 February 2013

Thank you, Madam President,

As has rightly been pointed out by the High Commissioner, challenges still continue to remain in the world with regard to the protection of fundamental human rights. Japan greatly appreciates the dedicated efforts of the High Commissioner and her Office to address these challenges and to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. Japan, for its part, remains committed to making an active contribution as a member of the Council.

Japan believes that discussions at the Human Rights Council and the activities of the OHCHR should focus on how we can improve the actual human rights situation in each specific case and what is the best suited

action to be taken. It is commendable that progress has been made to put in place the mechanisms in the Council and the OHCHR to provide necessary assistance to the countries concerned which have the will but lack the capacity to improve their human rights situations. For instance, an OHCHR mission has been dispatched to Mali to investigate and assess its human rights situation and we hope that the work of the OHCHR will continue to contribute to the improvement of the human rights situation there.

In addition, the Human Rights Council has acted proactively through investigative mechanisms such as CoIs, or through Special Rapporteurs in order to address country specific human rights situations which require the active engagement by the international community; and it has made its utmost effort to encourage those concerned countries to cooperate with the UN human rights mechanisms. It is deeply regrettable that the human right situation in the DPRK has shown no sign of improvement despite the numerous efforts so far by the Council. Therefore, Japan highly welcomes the Madam High Commissioner's

call to launch an international inquiry into the DPRK's human rights situation. We are preparing a resolution which includes the establishment of a new investigative mechanism. Japan wishes to closely cooperate with the High Commissioner to address human rights violations committed by the DPRK, including those related to the abduction issue.

I thank you.