

UPR of Uzbekistan – Statement of Japan

24 April 2013

Mr. President,

Japan appreciates the efforts Uzbekistan has undertaken since its last UPR to improve its human rights situation in cooperation with the international community, including the development of national plans of action for the implementation of UPR recommendations and international human rights instruments.

We welcome its statement during the last UPR that it would continue to cooperate with all special procedures. Japan **recommends** that Uzbekistan extend invitations in a timely manner to the special procedures thematic mandate-holders who have requested to visit the country.

Cases of early marriage and forced marriage as well as a latent gender gap and necessity to tackle inequalities between men and women with regard to employment have been pointed out. We hope that the national plan of action for 2010-2014 to implement the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) will incorporate follow-up on these issues.

Japan appreciates Uzbekistan's expression of support for the activities of NGOs. At the same time, we note reports of constraints on NGOs and human rights defenders as well as limitations to the freedoms of expression and speech. Japan **recommends** that Uzbekistan take measures to guarantee the freedom of expression for all people, including human rights defenders.

I thank you.