**UPR of Bahrain– Statement of Japan**

**Check against delivery**

**21 May 2012**

Mr/Madam President,

Japan welcomes the delegation of Bahrain and expresses its appreciation for the efforts undertaken to prepare for this review.

Japan continues to pay close attention to the human rights situation in Bahrain. Japan welcomes King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa’s National Dialogue as well as the submission of a final report by the follow-up committee on the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry. In relation to the human rights violations in Bahrain, Japan **recommends** that further progress be made toward concrete and visible reform, including through implementation of the follow-up committee’s report, in a way which guarantees transparency and freedom of speech.

It was recommended during the previous UPR that “the draft press law ought not to be unduly restrictive on freedom of expression.” However there are reports that the amended press law now acts to further restrict this right. Treaty bodies also points out that freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly are not always respected in Bahrain. Japan **recommends** that the necessary measures are implemented to guarantee freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

Japan understands that a tentative response has been made to a recommendation from the previous review involving the provision of citizenship to children where the father is not a Bahraini citizen. From the standpoint of gender equality and the rights of the child, Japan **recommends** that Bahrain continue to take the vital steps to grant citizenship to children of Bahraini mothers in the same fashion as children of Bahraini fathers, as CEDAW and the CRC have pointed out.

I thank you.