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UPR of India – Statement of Japan

24 May 2012

Thank you, Madam President,

Japan joins others in welcoming the delegation of India and expresses its appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the government of India to prepare for this Review.

Japan welcomes recent adoption of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Bill.

Japan welcomes India's decision, as one of the UPR recommendations it accepted from its last review, to take into account recommendations made by treaty bodies in developing a national action plan for human rights as well as the establishment of various mechanisms to combat discrimination against Scheduled Castes. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has also suggested strengthening the enforcement of existing legislation to prohibit discrimination. Japan **recommends** that India monitor and verify the effectiveness of, and steadily implement, measures such as quota programmes in the areas of education and employment, special police and special courts for effective implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Act, and the work of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes.

Japan notes with appreciation the steps taken by India to provide human rights education not only for university students and public servants but also for teachers. On the other hand, we note the finding by UNESCO that strong prejudices remain

among teachers toward children of specific castes. Therefore, Japan **recommends** that India strengthen human rights training aimed at teachers in order to eliminate discriminatory treatment of children of specific castes, as well as appropriately followup on the results of the training that has occurred thus far.

Lastly, Japan appreciates India's submission of an amendment bill to remove discriminatory references against children affected by disease, including leprosy. Japan encourages India to continue to address leprosy-related discrimination and prejudice in line with the Principles and Guidelines for the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy and Their Family Members and the relevant General Assembly resolution.

I thank you.