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UPR of South Africa – Statement of Japan

31 May 2012

Thank you, Madam President,

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

Japan is concerned that despite a related recommendation during South Africa's previous review, sexual violence against women and girls accompanied by a culture of impunity continues to be pointed out. Japan **recommends** that measures be instated to guarantee thorough investigation and prosecution of crimes of sexual violence, including relevant training of law enforcement officials, and that national human rights awareness-raising focused on women's rights be implemented.

With regard to measures to combat HIV/AIDS, Japan commends the various steps that are being taken, including the Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Treatment and Prevention Programme. Japan **recommends** that further efforts will be made to address HIV/AIDS including by providing equal-opportunity treatment and assistance, and that measures to eliminate HIV/AIDS-related discrimination will continue. We also encourage South Africa to refer the Principles and Guidelines for Elimination of Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy and Their Family Members and the relevant General Assembly resolution as it continues to address leprosy-related discrimination and prejudice.

Finally, Japan hopes that South Africa will continue to take the necessary steps to address racism and xenophobia, as recommended during the last review, including

through the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA).

I thank you.