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65



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

Mr. Stefan Lee

## 14th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

### Finland's questions and recommendations to Japan 31 October 2012

Madam President,

Finland wishes to thank Japan for the national report and its presentation today. Finland welcomes that Japan has presented a voluntary mid-term report on the implementation of recommendations made in 2008.

Finland acknowledges the commitment of Japan to the advancement of women's rights. However, Finland is concerned about the still existing discriminative provisions of law. Therefore, we would be interested in hearing about measures being taken to counter discrimination against women in law and in practice.

Finland notes with regret that Japan has decided to resume executions. Finland would appreciate receiving more information about the public debate on the death penalty and about measures being taken to guarantee the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty.

Finland has two recommendations:

1. Amend the Civil Code and Family Registration Law in accordance with Japan's international human rights obligations and in this regard make particular efforts to address the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
2. Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to proceeding towards the abolition of the death penalty.

Thank you.