

**14<sup>th</sup> Session Universal Periodic Review: Japan, 31 October 2012**

(Oral Intervention by Ireland)

Read by Ms. Aileen Roche

Thank you Madam President.

Ireland warmly welcomes the Japanese delegation this afternoon and thanks them for the presentation of their comprehensive national report.

Ireland welcomes the significant effort the Japanese government has made to conclude international human rights treaties and commends Japan on the progress in implementing commitments made during the first Universal Periodic Review held in May 2008.

In particular Ireland welcomes the announcement by Japan in 2011 of a standing invitation to Special Procedures and commends Japan on the efforts made in furthering gender equality and protecting the rights of women.

Notwithstanding the above progress, Ireland deeply regrets that seven death row inmates have been executed in Japan this year. This is especially worrying as it comes after an almost two-year period during which no executions took place. Ireland recommends that Japan seriously consider an immediate moratorium on executions to allow a comprehensive public debate on this issue to take place.

Ireland wishes to state our encouragement to the government of Japan in respect of continued efforts to ratify the Hague convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and acknowledges that preparations for domestic implementation are currently underway. Ireland recommends that Japan promptly completes ratification of the Hague convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

Thank you Madam President.