**Universal Periodic Review 14 – Japan 31 October 2012**

**Intervention by the Netherlands**

**Ambassador Roderick van Schreven**

Madam President,

The Netherlands would like to thank mr/mrs (?)

for his/her presentation today and the excellent national report drawn up by the Japanese government.

The Netherlands considers Japan to be a like-minded nation in respect of its adherence to human rights and the instruments put in place to defend and promote them.

The Netherlands would like to raise two points.

Firstly, on the subject of comfort women during the Second World War, it is our understanding that a reference to this system is no longer part of the school curriculum and textbooks. This eliminates an instrument to raise awareness on an important aspect of the atrocities committed during World War II in conjunction with a discussion of the relevant fundamental human rights involved and still valid today. We **recommend** Japan to ensure that future generations continue to be informed of all aspects of their history, by taking measures such as the introduction of this topic in textbooks for school children.

Finally, the **recommends** the government of Japan to consider seriously an immediate moratorium on executions as a first step to abolition of the death penalty and to add the possibility of a life sentence without parole to the range of penalties for grave crimes.

Thank you, Madam President.