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PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

Statement by Her Excellency Ambassador Graça Andresen Guimarães
Permanent Representative of Portugal

14th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Japan

Madame President,

Let me start by extending a warm welcome to the delegation of Japan and by thanking HE _____, _____, for the presentation of the National Report.

Portugal commends Japan's national and international commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights which is also reflected in its active participation in the UN Human Rights fora and contribution to the UN activities and organizations related to human rights.

Madame President,

Allow me to start by welcoming Japan's decision to withdraw its reservation to the provision regarding the progressive introduction of free education referred to in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (article 13, paragraph 2 b) and c)).

We note however that Japan's national report has very few references to Economic Social and Cultural Rights. We would like to recommend that Japan:

- a) signs the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- b) ensures the access of all migrants, without discrimination and irrespective of their legal status, to health and education;
- c) takes all necessary measures to ensure adequate access to water and sanitation by children with disabilities in all Japanese schools;



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Madame President,

Portugal deeply regrets that Japan resumed executions and that since March 29th this year, a significant number of executions has taken place. We therefore strongly reiterate our recommendation that Japan establishes a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition and that Japan signs and ratifies the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Madame President,

The human right to a nationality and to birth registration are preconditions to the realization of many other human rights. Portugal would therefore also like to recommend that Japan:

- a) facilitates the acquisition, without discrimination, of nationality by all children born on its territory who would otherwise be stateless, particularly to those children born out of wedlock;
- b) ensures free birth registration, including free or low-fee late birth registration, for every child, born on its territory irrespective of his or her migration status and that of his or her parents or family members;

Thank you.