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UPR14/Japan/Statement by Slovakia
31 October, 2012

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Mme. President,

I would like to thank the delegation of Japan for the presentation of the country report and for its participation in the review process.

Slovakia commends Japan for its commitment to the follow-up of the recommendations received in the first review. Japan traditionally plays an important role in the global promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, sharing similar values and holding a regular dialogue on this key UN pillar agenda with the European Union, including open, transparent and constructive cooperation at various international fora. We have taken a positive note, inter alia, of the ratification of CPED in 2009 and the standing invitation issued to HRC Special Procedures. Slovakia perceives positively also Japan's cooperation with UN HR mechanisms as well as its regular financial contribution to the regular OHCHR budget, various voluntary funds and a number of field activities.

Slovakia would like to present Japan the following comments and recommendations:

- 1. to introduce an immediate formal moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its abolition, while commuting the existing sentences to life imprisonment terms,**
- 2. As recommended by the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women in children after her visit to Japan in 2010, with a view to enhance cooperation in this area, we also recommend Japan to consider ratifying the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction,**
- 3. Slovakia welcomed the active engagement of Japan in the process leading to the adoption of the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communication Procedure, including its cosponsorship of the related resolutions in the HRC and the General Assembly. We recommend Japan to consider its early ratification.**
- 4. to ensure full alignment of its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, acceding also to its Agreement on Privileges and Immunities.**

I thank you, Mme. President.