

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

SESSION 14

STATE UNDER REVIEW: JAPAN

Intervention by Turkey

Thank you Madam President,

Turkey warmly welcomes the delegation of Japan and thanks them for their comprehensive and informative National Report.

Turkey notes with satisfaction Japan's contribution to discussions on the promotion of human rights at the United Nations as well as to the improvement of human rights situations through dialogue and financial contributions.

We are pleased to see that, since its first review, Japan has undertaken several initiatives to further enhance the protection of the human rights of women and children.

Despite the efforts of Japan such as the adoption of the Third Basic Plan for Gender Equality, we observe that concerns are being raised by several treaty bodies and NGOs as regards discrimination and violence against women. Therefore, Turkey recommends Japan to continue to strengthen its legislation and implementation in this field and to pursue its efforts to promote gender equality, to address violence against women, including domestic violence and to provide support to the victims of gender-based violence.

On the other hand, we regret that the death penalty is still implemented in Japan. We noted with concern that five people were executed in Japan in 2012 and that the number of death sentences is on the rise. More than two-thirds of countries around the world have formally abolished the death penalty. In this vein and in line with the concerns and recommendations expressed by the HR Committee, the High Commissioner and several NGOs, we also recommend Japan to reconsider introducing a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

Thank you.