

57

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UPR of Pakistan - Statement of Japan

30 October 2012

Ambassador
Takashi OKADA

Thank you, Madam President,

Japan notes with appreciation that laws to protect women against discrimination and violence have been strengthened in Pakistan, including criminalization of forced marriage last year and of violence involving the use of corrosive substances this year.

On the other hand, we are concerned by continuing reports of cases of forced marriages, domestic violence against women, violence against women by throwing acid on women's faces to disfigure them, and so-called "honor killings". Japan **recommends** that measures to address discrimination and violence against women be steadily implemented as well as further enhanced.

Japan commends Pakistan's active appointment of women to important government posts including at the ministerial level. We also hope for future progress in the advancement of women regardless of class.

Japan welcomes that, based on its previous UPR recommendations, Pakistan has passed legislation to secure children's access to education, including a bill which provides free and compulsory education to all children in Islamabad. At the same time, we are concerned by a report that the literacy rate among women and girls is still low. Japan **recommends** that Pakistan continue to make efforts to expand access to education, especially for girls.

(Japan appreciates that progress is being made to combat human trafficking, including through its criminalization and the establishment of a specialized investigative authority. Japan hopes that Pakistan will continue to cooperate with the international community on this issue and steadily implement anti-trafficking measures.)

I thank you.