

Mr. MASATAKA NAGOSHI

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16

UPR of Mali– Statement of Japan

22 January 2013

18th out of 78 states, 1 min 38 sec.

Thank you, Mr/Madam President,

Japan is deeply concerned by the attacks and serious human rights abuses being perpetrated in northern Mali by terrorists and extremist groups. We greatly appreciate the continued efforts by the Government of Mali to ameliorate its human rights situation under such challenging circumstances.

Japan welcomes the implementation of the FGM-related national action plan 2010-2014. We applaud that, as part of the achievements being made on this issue, 428 villages pledged to abandon this practice in 2010. On the issue of child labour, Japan is concerned by the ILO report that two out of three children between the ages of 5 and 17 are involved in child labor. Japan **recommends** that Mali continue to enhance its efforts to eradicate child labor.

Stabilization of the situation in Mali is key to the further improvement of its human rights situation. Japan **recommends** that Mali's interim government continue to work to improve the country's human rights situation, including in northern Mali, in cooperation with the international community. In this context, Japan has provided 63 million USD in food and humanitarian aid to the Sahel region, including assistance for Malian IDPs and refugees, and continues to commit itself to supporting the Malian government in this regard.

I thank you.