

UPR of Tonga - Statement of Japan

21 January 2013

Thank you, Mr President,

Japan warmly welcomes the delegation of Tonga headed by H.E. Mr./Madam [] and expresses its appreciation for the efforts made by the Tongan government for this Review.

Japan welcomes the enactment of the constitutional and electoral reform legislation and the increase in the number of People's Representatives in 2010, and the coming into force of the freedom of information policy in 2012. We hope that Tonga will continue to make steady progress toward democratization.

Japan appreciates the television campaign to prevent domestic violence which was conducted from 2010 to 2011 and the efforts by the Tongan government to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). During Tonga's last UPR review, Japan recommended its swift ratification of CEDAW, and Japan once again **recommends** that Tonga continue its efforts for the ratification of CEDAW and that it ratify the Convention at the earliest possible date.

Japan also recommended previously that Tonga submit its first periodic report to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). While Japan notes with appreciation that Tonga has drafted the report, it also notes that, as of now, the report has not been submitted. Providing reports to treaty bodies is an important obligation of States parties, and in this regard, Japan hopes that Tonga will submit its first CRC report as soon as possible.

I thank you.