

(38)

Check against delivery

Ms. Eri Maeda

UPR of the United Arab Emirates— Statement of Japan

28 January 2013

Thank you, Mr President,

Japan appreciates the United Arab Emirates' commitment to international human rights standards, such as through the creation of a permanent human rights committee of the Federal National Council (FNC) and human rights departments within several government ministries. We hope that these organizations will function effectively to further improve the human rights situation in the Emirates.

Japan commends that the UAE has acceded to the Convention Against Torture, as recommended by Japan during the previous review. At the same time, the ICESCR and ICCPR remain unratified; and Japan **recommends** that they are both ratified at the earliest possible date.

Japan welcomes the work toward the formulation of a National Strategy for the Advancement of Women outlining basic policy on the strengthening of women's rights and empowerment of women for the next five years. Japan **recommends** that this strategy is steadily implemented.

Many countries and international organizations have expressed concerns over the detention of human rights defenders in the UAE. Japan hopes that the UAE will eliminate such concerns by responding sincerely with improved transparency and release of information.

Thank you.