

UPR of Bangladesh – Statement of Japan

29 April 2013

Ambassador

Takashi OKADA

Mr. President,

Japan would like to welcome the high-level delegation from Bangladesh led by the Foreign Minister, Her Excellency Dr. Dipu Moni. We appreciate the steps Bangladesh has taken since its last Review for the protection of human rights, including enhancement of the functions of the NHRC (National Human Rights Commission).

Japan applauds its work for women's empowerment, in particular in the political sector. At the same time, regarding violence against women, Japan **recommends** that more concrete action be taken to hold accountable those responsible and to remove obstacles faced by victims.

While 'secularism' was restored as a fundamental principle by constitutional amendment in 2011, Japan **recommends** that further measures be employed to ensure the security of religious minorities, including Buddhists and Hindus.

We welcome the zero-tolerance policy toward human rights violations by law enforcing agencies. Japan takes note of the enforcement of the Police Reform Act, adoption of the strict code of conduct, and reform of the judicial system and calls upon the Government to continue to further these efforts.

Japan encourages Bangladesh's cooperation in submitting government reports to the various treaty bodies, including the CAT and the CESCR.

Japan welcomes the commitment by the Government to further improve the human rights conditions in the country and hopes that its efforts will continue to address the challenges that remain.

Thank you.