

UPR of Cuba – Statement of Japan

1 May 2013

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Thank you, Mr. President,

Japan appreciates Cuba's commitment to international human rights instruments, such as its ratification of the major human rights treaties, in particular its ratification in 2009 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED). At the same time, Japan **recommends** that Cuba ratify at an early stage the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), both of which it signed in 2008 but remain unratified.

Japan takes positive note of Cuba's relaxation of restrictions on foreign travel, including for human rights defenders, with the 2012 amendment of its Migration Law. On the other hand, we are concerned by reports of short-term detentions of political opponents for the reason of "pre-criminal social dangerousness". In addition, we are concerned by the large number of limitations placed on Internet access. Japan **recommends** that access to the Internet be improved.

As a measure illustrating its commitment toward improving the human rights situation, Japan also **recommends** that Cuba issue a standing invitation to special procedures thematic mandate-holders. We hope Cuba will continue to engage in dialogue with the international community on its situation of human rights.

I thank you.