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UPR of Russia– Statement of Japan

29 April 2013

Japan welcomes the measures Russia has implemented since its last UPR for the promotion and protection of human rights, including ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). At the same time, Japan **recommends** that Russia ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED).

Regarding the judicial system, Japan appreciates the legal and institutional reforms that are taking place based on the recommendations Russia accepted during the last UPR in order to strengthen the judiciary and its independence. Japan would like to inquire about how the reform efforts are actually functioning to realize this objective.

Concerning the “Foreign Agents Registration Act” enacted in 2012, Japan would like to hear Russia’s perspective on how it intends to implement this law while requesting Russia to avoid using it to place arbitrary restrictions on the activities of human rights groups. In this connection, we **recommend** that Russia continue its efforts to further guarantee freedom of expression.

Thank you.