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UPR of Brunei Darussalam – Statement of Japan

2 May 2014

Thank you, Mr/Madam President,

Japan welcomes the proactive measures for social and economic rights being taken by Brunei Darussalam, along with its active participation in the UPR and treaty bodies' review processes and consideration of accession to as yet unratified treaties. Japan **recommends** that it continue to consider the potential for its accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, which are the most fundamental human rights conventions.

Regarding the status of women, Japan appreciates the steps being taken by Brunei, including the appointment of women to major government posts, submission of periodic reports as a State party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the strengthening of social security during maternity leave mentioned in the report. Japan **recommends** that Brunei continue to make efforts to further promote women's rights and eliminate discrimination.

Japan also appreciates the efforts made by the Brunei government to explain its position on Sharia law. Japan hopes that additional efforts will be made to guarantee its procedural and operational transparency.

I thank you.