

12/3/12

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Item 4: Individual ID with SR Myanmar

Statement of Japan

Geneva, 12 March 2012

Thank you, Madam President,

Japan pays tribute to Special Rapporteur Quintana for his work over the past year. He produced an informative report as a result of these efforts which included a visit to Myanmar.

As has no doubt been witnessed by Special Rapporteur himself, positive developments have taken place in Myanmar toward democratization and national reconciliation. Japan notes the series of measures by the Myanmar Government, including the recent release of a substantial number of prisoners of conscience, a ceasefire agreement with the Karen National Union (KNU), as a significant step forward. At the same time, it is essential that outstanding human rights issues are squarely addressed. It is also vital to ensure that the April 1 by-elections are conducted through the process in a free and fair manner, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other stakeholders can carry out political activities freely, and Japan will be paying close attention on these issues.

In order to continue democratization and national reconciliation process, to improve further improve the human rights situation, and to build a society that realizes the wishes of the citizens of Myanmar, it is vital that the international community provides united support.

Japan will continue to support the reform efforts by Myanmar. On the whole, the draft resolution on the human rights situation in Myanmar, which is adopted prior to the bi-election ~~which is an important juncture~~, should strike a positive note, welcoming the positive developments and progress on reform made in Myanmar thus far and encouraging such efforts.

I thank you.