

**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People**

Item 7: Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for its consideration and approval

*(Please check against delivery)*

**Statement by the Government of Japan**

**Geneva**

**July 11, 2013**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Since this is going to be the last time we will take the floor, I would like to thank Chief Littlechild for his stewardship of this session, as well as all of the expert members of EMRIP and indigenous groups present this week for their participation. Japan looks forward to in-depth discussion in the Council in the near future on proposals concerning EMRIP's future work to be finalized by EMRIP.

Mr. Chair,

Taking this opportunity, allow me to make a brief clarification of position of the Government of Japan concerning a statement delivered by one civil society representative yesterday in order to avoid any misunderstanding, in which reference was made to the Senkaku Islands in Okinawa Prefecture which was mentioned in a manner as if a territorial dispute exists over these islands. The Senkaku Islands are clearly an inherent part of the territory of Japan in light of historical fact and based upon international law. Indeed, the Senkaku Islands are under the valid control of Japan, and there exists no issue of territorial sovereignty to be resolved concerning these Islands. We would also like to add that people who live in Okinawa and natives of Okinawa are Japanese nationals and all of them are equally afforded the rights guaranteed to Japanese nationals.

Mr. Chair,

In concluding our remarks, Japan would like to renew its commitment to continue making efforts to tackle issues faced by indigenous peoples in Japan as well as in the world in cooperation with the international community including the Human Rights Council, and hopes that possible future studies by EMRIP will make a valuable contribution to efforts undertaken by relevant actors of the international community in this regard.

I thank you for your attention.