

## Statement of Japan

First of all, Japan appreciates the informative presentation made <sup>earlier</sup> by Mr. Martinez, <sup>the</sup> Chair of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee; Mr. Henriksen, Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and Ms. <sup>the</sup> McDougall, Independent Expert on Minority Issues, as well as <sup>the</sup> ~~the report made earlier~~ by H.E. Dr. <sup>the</sup> Burayzat, Chair of the Social Forum. We look forward to these mechanisms' future efforts aimed at the protection and promotion of human rights.

Regarding the Advisory Committee that has held two sessions thus far, we appreciate members of the Committee for actively working on the tasks with which they were entrusted by the Human Rights Council.

Japan expects that the Advisory Committee will <sup>continue to</sup> make a useful contribution to the Human Rights Council by working effectively on a variety of human rights issues, in keeping with Resolution 5/1 of the Human Rights Council. ~~From this perspective, we expect discussion on how best to consider the recommendations of the Advisory Committee at the Council level will be conducted,~~ taking into full account the structural change from the Human Rights Commission's ~~Sub-Commission~~ to the Advisory Committee of this Council.

Japan has addressed the issue of discrimination against persons with leprosy and their family members at great length in the Human Rights Council and has gained cooperation from many countries on this issue. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to <sup>the Council's members</sup> all the members of the Advisory Committee. Japan would also like to extend its sincere appreciation to the OHCHR for compiling the information of stakeholders and for convening this January the consultation on discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members. Japan also appreciates those who participated in the consultation as well as those stakeholders who submitted invaluable information to the OHCHR. Japan intends to continue <sup>to</sup> following-up on this issue.