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4th Human Rights Council Special Event:
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Japan

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26 March 2007

Thank you,
Mr. President,

Japan highly commends the adoption by consensus of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly last December.

We would like to pay our high respects to the former Chair~~man~~ of the Ad Hoc Committee ^{on the Convention} [on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities], Ambassador Don MacKay ^{20, 11, 1} for his skill in successfully guiding the negotiations to conclude such a comprehensive convention.

Japan had been positively participating in the ^{Convention} decision-making process since the first Ad Hoc Committee. This decision-making process was taking place at the same time as policy debates on persons with disabilities were heightening in Japan, and so had significant influence on our domestic discussions on this specific issue.



^{Domestically}
In Japan, in ~~May 2004~~ we revised the Basic Law for Persons with Disabilities, including it among the other equal rights in our constitution and stipulating in an individual law for the first time the prohibition of discrimination for reasons of disability. Since then, we have taken measures on the regulation and reform of the law system in each area of accessibility such as employment, social services, education, public facilities, and transport to enhance the independence and participation in society of persons with disabilities.

Japan is now seriously considering signing this convention and ratifying it, as well as enacting implementation measures through our internal legal system.

In negotiating this Convention, from an early stage Japan worked in cooperation with NGOs by, for example, asking persons with disabilities to be advisors ^{for} in our delegation, and by holding exchanges of views with ~~groups for~~ ^{NGOs} persons with disabilities before the negotiation started.

② We believe that the participation of NGOs for persons with disabilities in these negotiations is one of the special features of this convention, and was indispensable for making this convention a substantial one.

⑤ Last but not least, Japan looks forward to continuing our active participation and contribution for this very important issue at both ntl & intl levels.

Thank you Mr. president.