

Statement made by the Japanese Delegation

June 11, 2007

Japan acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 1995 and expressed clearly its will to combat racial discrimination.

Article 14 of our Constitution prohibits racial discrimination and xenophobia. The purpose of our Constitution is interpreted as extending to the relations among private citizens through the provisions of the Civil Code. In fact, there are cases in which the courts judged that acts of private citizens were invalid because of discrimination.

We support “the long term construction of a democratic, non-discriminatory and interactive multicultural society, based on the recognition, respect and promotion of cultural, ethnic and religious diversity” as Mr. Diene recommended in his report. Therefore, we take the issues of Dowa, Ainu and Foreign Nationals as human rights issues, and promote strategies to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against them and report the situation to the Diet every year.

This is only an example of our strategies. We share the view with Mr. Diene that we should create a multi-cultural society which is tolerant of others and we will continue to make every effort to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.