



Human Rights Office

International Institute Maria Ausiliatrice - IIMA

NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

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22nd SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ITEM 6 UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

JAPAN

Statement submitted by

IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

Mister President,

IIMA welcomes the positive participation of Japan in the 2nd cycle of UPR and urges Japan to accept relevant recommendations concerning the rights of children.

In relation to **the right to education**, we remain concerned about the high competitiveness of the educational system; pressures and high expectations from teachers, strongly supported by parents, bring about stress and frustration among students. High volumes of assignments and the lack of free time to engage in play and recreational activities result in school absence, illness, and even suicide by students. Moreover, the educational system does not encourage and value creativity and individual talents. Therefore, we regret that the right to education was not adequately addressed during the last UPR session and that no recommendation concerning education was listed in the Working Group report.

Regarding **corporal punishment**, although Article 11 of Japan' School Education Law strictly prohibits it at school, we note with concern the lack of implementation of this national law as well as the admissibility of corporal punishment in family environments and alternative care settings.

Finally, we welcome Japan's acceptance of recommendation 147.155 aimed at protecting **the right to health and life of residents living in the area of Fukushima** from radioactivity. Nevertheless, we note with concern the existing gap between the International Atomic Energy Agency's nuclear safety standards and the higher limit on the level of radiation allowed in the Fukushima area. In fact, children's exposure to unhealthy levels of radiation places them at higher risk of cancer, other medical conditions and death.

Therefore, we call on Japan to:

- **Reform the educational system in order to promote students' creativity, freedom and individual talents.**
- **Revise the national legal system in order to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings by law.**
- **Adopt all needed measures to implement recommendation 147.155 in order to fully protect children and other residents living in the area of Fukushima.**

Thank you.