

**Statement of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC  
on the UPR review of Japan in the 8th Session of UN Human Rights Council**

The Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA) appreciates the positive approach that the government of Japan took in the UPR Working Group by including the officers of the relevant ministries in its delegation and responding to the questions from other states in an open manner. We also welcome the candidness of the government of Japan in response to the questions including difficult issues raised by other states, which we believe the indispensable ground for constructive dialogue. As contained in the report of the UPR Working Group, twenty-six recommendations were made by Member states on various human rights issues including those that have remained unsolved despite repeated recommendations made by treaty bodies, in particular, death penalty, the substitute prison (*Daiyo-Kangoku*) and a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, all of which the JFBA requested in its submission.

Since the UPR Working Group in May, some progresses have been observed to date. For instance, a national consultation for the UPR was organized last week by more than 10 Parliament Members across the parties, well attended by the officers of the relevant ministries, more than 100 civil society people including NGOs.

The JFBA is delighted that the government accepted some recommendations today including the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. We are also encouraged by the willingness of the government to involve civil society in the follow-up to the UPR process and to consider concluding human rights treaties including the First OP to ICCPR. We note with appreciation that the government expressed the intention to carefully consider the need to introduce mandated recording or video-taping of all interrogations. We hope earlier realization of such system and encourage the government to make best endeavours to this end.

However, we are disappointed by reluctance of the government to accept a number of recommendations and the government's attitude of continuation of the same position as before. The JFBA urges the government to take this valuable opportunity of the UPR to re-examine its long standing position and start to move toward acceptance of those recommendations, in particular, establishment of a moratorium on executions and review of the *Daiyo-Kangoku* system.

We are aware that some recommendations may not be easy for the government to accept immediately. Real challenge is to continue open and substantive dialogue on such recommendations. The JFBA trusts that the government of Japan will ultimately accept all the recommendations including those difficult to accept at this moment, in the process of follow-up to the UPR review. The JFBA is willing to engage in dialogue with our government to seriously consider possible steps to be taken to as well as to provide active cooperation for follow-up to the recommendations made to the government of Japan.