

Statement by Japan on Universalization (CCM intersessional meetings, April 2014)

Thank you Madam Coordinator,

Please allow me on behalf of the Japanese Delegation to express our gratitude to Ghana and Norway, as coordinators for the preparation of today's session on the status and activities regarding universalization of the CCM.

I would like to briefly report on Japan's recent efforts on universalization. In 2014, we are celebrating the Japan CARICOM friendship year. In mid-February, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan carried out a program to invite a group of young CARICOM diplomats to Japan. Taking that opportunity, we have conducted a CCM briefing seminar with the hope of advocating the convention widely amongst our colleagues from CARICOM countries. This year's Fifth Meeting of States Parties will be held in Costa Rica, in their neighboring area, therefore we expressed our wish that many CARICOM states will attend the 5MSP. We thank the States Parties and the CMC for providing us with substantial information which was helpful in carrying out the seminar. Japan-CARICOM friendship year related programs will continue to be held throughout the year; therefore we will seek to seize other opportunities to promote the CCM further.

As a State Party from Asia, Japan has also encouraged universalization of the Convention in the Asia-Pacific region. We will continue our efforts in universalization and seize every opportunity at the multilateral, regional, and bilateral levels in encouraging all non-States Parties to join this Convention.

Thank you.