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**32nd Session of the Human Rights Council (30 June 2016)**

**General Debate under item 10**

**Statement by Ambassador Misako KAJI**

**Permanent Mission of Japan in Geneva**

**Thank you, Mr. President,**

**We are concerned about the current escalation of political tensions in Cambodia, which seems to have resulted in a considerable narrowing of space for legitimate and normal activities by opposition parties and civil society organizations. We are equally concerned about the status of “the culture of dialogue” between the two main political parties, which seems to have ceased functioning.**

**Thus, we call on all the relevant Cambodian stakeholders to work toward de-escalating the tensions and building trust and confidence. We urge them to make their utmost efforts to create a political environment which allows opposition parties and civil society to function freely and normally, thus enabling the upcoming elections to be conducted in a free and fair manner.**

**We expect that the Government of Cambodia will continue to fulfill its commitment to implement its obligations under international human rights treaties and conventions for the promotion and protection of the human rights of its people. The Government of Japan, in close cooperation with other countries concerned, stands ready to assist Cambodian stakeholders to this end.**

**I thank you,**