



Position of Japan for the purpose of the conference held by Forum 21st Century on 29th November 2011 reflected in the first draft of the negotiation paper, regarding human rights.

Japan welcomes the proposal of the Forum for the 21st century to create a system for enforcing human rights. The problem with finding a consensus on what should or should not be regarded as a human right, with respect to any culture and civilization, could be solved by simply following the already existing lists of human rights, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or the Geneva Conventions. If there are any disputes found among these existing lists, then those should be discussed and solved.

- 👉 The question of setting up an international tribunal for solving the problems and complaints concerning rights within the UN could be resolved by issuing more rights and responsibilities to organizations, such as European Court of Human Rights and African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and setting up branches of these organizations in every member state.
- 👉 The adoption of human rights as a way of fighting poverty is certainly one way, but is it not a better way to raise the level of education? Several studies show, that people with at least basic level of education have much better chances to escape poverty, than those without it. Therefore, Japan accepts the proposal of empowering of the poor, but specifically, empowering their right for education.
- 👉 The idea of binding the states to incorporate human right into their legislations is a very good idea, but needs a lot of discussions about which rights to implement, how to implement them and whether to include only member states of the UN or enforce these new standards on all states in the world. Therefore Japan cannot agree completely with the given proposals, but is happy to be included in the Forum's discussion and the process of creating these new standards.