**Appendix: Data Sources and Coding**

**I. Data**

This study draws on a total of 338 texts, which consist of 93 United Nations documents, 13 documents from the International Labor Organization’s Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), and 232 statements issued by the Japanese government.

**(1) Japan’s responses as reflected in UN documents (****1992–2021)**

UN documents containing the keyword “comfort women” between 1992–2021 were collected from the United Nations Digital Library (https://digitallibrary.un.org). Of the 567 documents found using the “fulltext search” option, I compiled all documents that contain information on Japan’s official position on the comfort women issue. These include the reports that the Japanese government submitted to various UN bodies, UN meeting records, and other UN documents that include information on the Japanese government’s stance. Dates reflect document release dates rather than event dates, which sometimes differ. Table 1 offers a complete list of the documents.

**Table 1: UN documents**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  Date | Document ID | Date | Document ID |
| 3/3/1992 | E/CN.4/1992/SR.45 | 5/30/2008 | A/HRC/8/44 |
| 6/23/1992 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/34 | 9/1/2008 | A/HRC/8/52 |
| 8/31/1992 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/SR.31 | 9/8/2008 | CEDAW /C/JPN/6 |
| 10/2/1992 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/SR.23/Add.1 | 9/23/2008 | CCPR/C/JPN/Q/5/Add.1 |
| 12/7/1992 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/SR.8 | 9/27/2008 | A/63/PV.14 |
| 12/14/1992 | A/C.3/47/SR.57 | 11/5/2008 | CAT/C/JPN/CO/1/Add.1 |
| 2/24/1993 | E/CN.4/1993/SR.27 | 11/7/2008 | CCPR/C/SR.2576 |
| 3/15/1993 | E/CN.4/1993/SR.58 | 8/7/2009 | CEDAW/C/SR.890 (B) |
| 3/23/1993 | E/CN.4/1993/SR.38 | 10/27/2009 | A /C.3/64/SR.11 |
| 6/23/1993 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/30 | 12/7/2009 | A/C.3/64/SR.33 |
| 2/2/1994 | CEDAW/C/1994/L.1/Add.12 | 6/4/2010 | CCPR/C/SR.2575 |
| 3/15/1994 | CEDAW/C/SR.249 | 2/4/2011 | A/C.3/65/SR.12 |
| 4/12/1994 | A/49/38 | 5/16/2011 | E/C.12/JPN/3 |
| 7/5/1994 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/SR.21 | 9/15/2011 | CAT/C/JPN/2 |
| 8/23/1994 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/SR.25 | 11/11/2011 | A /C.3/66/SR.12 |
| 3/5/1995 | E/CN.4/1995/SR.44 | 10/9/2012 | CCPR/C/JPN/6 |
| 6/13/1995 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/28 | 12/28/2012 | A /C.3/67/SR.9 |
| 8/18/1995 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/SR.15 | 3/8/2013 | A/HRC/22/14/Add.1 |
| 3/27/1996 | E/CN.4/1996/137 | 5/27/2013 | CAT/C/SR.1155 |
| 4/17/1996 | E/CN.4/1996/SR.31 | 5/31/2013 | E/C.12/2013/SR.4 |
| 7/19/1996 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/24 | 11/7/2013 | A /C.3/68/SR.10 |
| 8/19/1996 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/SR.13 | 1/29/2014 | S/PV.7105 |
| 5/20/1997 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1997/5 | 5/19/2014 | CCPR/C/JPN/Q/6/Add.1 |
| 7/11/1997 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/13 | 8/11/2014 | CCPR/C/SR.3080 |
| 7/18/1997 | E/CN.4/1997/SR.39 | 8/27/2014 | CERD /C/SR.2310 |
| 8/20/1997 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/SR.18 | 9/16/2014 | CEDAW/C/JPN/7-8 |
| 11/17/1997 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/SR.19 | 11/11/2014 | A/C.3/69/SR.12 |
| 8/28/1998 | CEDAW/C/JPN/4 | 4/22/2015 | CAT/C/JPN/CO/2/Add.1 |
| 8/20/1998 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/SR.19 | 11/2/2015 | A/C.1/70/PV.22 |
| 7/16/2001 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/30 | 11/3/2015 | A/C.3/70/SR.12 |
| 9/18/2001 | E/C.12/2001/SR.42 | 6/3/2016 | CAT/C/JPN/CO/2/Add.2 |
| 12/5/2001 | E/CN.4/2001/SR.46 | 1/19/2017 | CERD/C/JPN/CO/7-9/Add.2 |
| 9/13/2002 | CEDAW/C/JPN/5 | 5/30/2017 | A/HRC/35/22/Add.5 |
| 11/29/2002 | E/C.12/2002/12 | 8/7/2017 | CEDAW/C/SR.1375 |
| 1/6/2003 | E/CN.4/2003/75 | 9/8/2017 | CCPR/C/120/2 |
| 1/15/2003 | E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/SR.25 | 11/24/2017 | A/HRC/22/2 |
| 8/19/2003 | CEDAW/C/SR.617 | 1/4/2018 | A/HRC/37/15 |
| 4/8/2004 | E/CN.4/2004/SR.36 | 8/23/2018 | CERD/C/SR.2662 |
| 4/18/2005 | E/CN.4/2005/SR.36 | 8/23/2018 | CERD/C/SR.2663 |
| 6/26/2006 | A/HRC/1/G/3 | 11/14/2018 | CED/C/SR.258 |
| 11/2/2006 | A/C.3/61/SR.9 | 11/23/2018 | CED/C/SR.257 |
| 11/22/2006 | A /C.3/61/SR.34 | 4/23/2019 | S/PV.8514 |
| 4/17/2007 | A/HRC/4/SR.3 | 10/29/2019 | S/PV.8649 (Resumption 1) |
| 5/1/2007 | A/HRC/4/SR.16 | 11/14/2019 | A/C.3/74/SR.10 |
| 5/9/2007 | A/HRC/4/SR.18 | 4/28/2020 | CCPR/C/JPN/7 |
| 11/5/2007 | A /C.3/62/SR.12 | 12/29/2021 | CEDAW/C/JPN/9 |
| 1/8/2008 | CAT/C/SR.770 |   |   |

**(2) Japan’s responses as reflected in ILO CEACR documents (1992–2021)**

In addition, I collected all documents issued by the ILO’s Committee of Experts on the comfort women issue as it relates to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), which Japan signed in 1932. The CEACR has issued statements on the issue periodically since 1996, and they are titled the “Individual Observation concerning Convention No. 29, Forced Labour, 1930 Japan (ratification: 1932).” Of these documents, 13 contain a summary of Japan’s responses to the committee’s comments and recommendations. They were released in 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003–2005, 2007–2009, 2011, 2013, 2016, and 2019. The annual statements are available via the ILO’s NORMLEX information system (https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en), as well as two Internet archives: the Korea-based Women's Human Rights Institute of Korea (https://www.archive814.or.kr) and the Japan-based Asia Women’s Fund (https://www.awf.or.jp).

**(3) Statements, remarks, and speeches by the Japanese government (1992–2021)**

Lastly, I collected all available statements, remarks, and speeches by Japan’s prime ministers, chief Cabinet secretaries, and foreign ministry officials, which contain the keyword “comfort women.” Given the focus on international condemnations and Japan’s self-proclaimed mission to correct the international community’s misunderstanding of the comfort women issue, I collected texts available in English. The texts were compiled from the following web sources: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, including the archive of press conferences and the annual Diplomatic Bluebook (https://www.mofa.go.jp); Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet, including press conferences by the chief Cabinet secretary (https://japan.kantei.go.jp); the Digital Museum created by the Asian Women's Fund (https://www.awf.or.jp); “The World and Japan” Database (https://worldjpn.net); and the Center for Korean Legal Studies at Columbia Law School (https://kls.law.columbia.edu). I added statements from the Asian Women’s Fund despite the program’s ambiguous nature as a non-government entity because it was established as a result of the Japanese government’s own deliberations about the comfort women issue. The program’s establishment is itself an enunciation of the official view that the comfort women issue had already been legally resolved.

**Table 2: Statements, reports, and remarks by the Japanese government**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **SOURCE** | **DATE** | **SOURCE** |
| 1/17/1992 | Prime Minister | 11/14/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 4/1992 | Foreign Ministry | 11/18/2014 | Foreign Ministry |
| 7/6/1992 | Chief Cabinet Secretary  | 2/20/2015 | Foreign Ministry |
| 8/4/1993 | Chief Cabinet Secretary  | 2/25/2015 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 8/4/1993 | Cabinet Secretariat  | 3/23/2015 | Foreign Ministry |
| 8/31/1994 | Prime Minister | 3/26/2015 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 12/7/1994 | The Sub-committee to Address the Wartime Comfort Women Issue  | 5/13/2015 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 6/14/1995 | Chief Cabinet Secretary  | 6/15/2015 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 7/18/1995 | Prime Minister  | 6/21/2015 | Foreign Ministry |
| 8/11/1995 | Cabinet | 8/14/2015 | Prime Minister |
| 1996 | Prime Minister | 10/1/2015 | Foreign Ministry |
| 1996 | Asian Women’s Fund | 10/23/2015 | Foreign Ministry |
| 2/6/1996 | Foreign Ministry | 10/27/2015 | Foreign Ministry |
| 3/5/1996 | Foreign Ministry | 11/1/2015 | Foreign Ministry |
| 4/23/1996 | Foreign Ministry | 11/2/2015 | Prime Minister |
| 6/7/1996 | Foreign Ministry | 11/2/2015 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 6/18/1996 | Foreign Ministry | 11/11/2015 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 10/1996 | Asian Women’s Fund | 11/13/2015 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 1/11/1997 | Asian Women’s Fund | 11/13/2015 | Foreign Ministry |
| 1/17/1997 | Foreign Ministry | 11/19/2015 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 1/21/1997 | Foreign Ministry | 12/15/2015 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 1/28/1997 | Foreign Ministry | 12/25/2015 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 12/16/1997 | Cabinet | 12/28/2015 | Foreign Ministry |
| 6/11/1998 | Asian Women’s Fund | 12/28/2015 | Prime Minister |
| 7/15/1998 | Prime Minister  | 1/5/2016 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 9/1/2000 | Asian Women’s Fund | 1/5/2016 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 9/1/2000 | Chief Cabinet Secretary  | 1/7/2016 | Prime Minister |
| 9/19/2000 | Foreign Ministry | 1/8/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 1/1/2001 | Prime Minister  | 1/15/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 06/2001 | Foreign Ministry | 1/26/2016 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 2/20/2002 | Asian Women’s Fund | 1/26/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 10/2002 | Asian Women’s Fund | 1/27/2016 | Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 1/2003 | The Government of Japan | 1/29/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 1/24/2005 | Asian Women’s Fund | 2/17/2016 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 1/24/2005 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 3/1/2016 | Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 8/26/2005 | Foreign Ministry | 3/11/2016 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 4/2006 | Foreign Ministry | 4/1/2016 | Prime Minister |
| 11/19/2006 | Asian Women’s Fund | 4/22/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 3/6/2007 | Asian Women’s Fund | 5/17/2016 | Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 2/20/2007 | Foreign Ministry | 5/30/2016 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 3/9/2007 | Foreign Ministry | 5/31/2016 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 3/20/2007 | Foreign Ministry | 5/31/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 3/27/2007 | Asian Women’s Fund | 6/1/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 4/3/2007 | Foreign Ministry | 6/2/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 5/22/2007 | Foreign Ministry | 6/28/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 6/19/2007 | Foreign Ministry | 7/25/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 10/8/2009 | Foreign Ministry | 7/29/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 9/15/2011 | Foreign Ministry | 8/2/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 12/14/2011 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 8/12/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 12/14/2011 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 8/24/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 12/15/2011 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 8/24/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 12/18/2011 | Prime Minister | 9/7/2016 | Prime Minister |
| 12/19/2011 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 9/30/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 4/25/2012 | Foreign Ministry | 10/25/2016 | Foreign Ministry |
| 5/24/2012 | Foreign Ministry | 1/17/2017 | Foreign Ministry |
| 6/22/2012 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 1/19/2017 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 9/27/2012 | Foreign Ministry | 1/31/2017 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 1/31/2013 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 2/1/2017 | Government of Japan |
| 3/29/2013 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 2/3/2017 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 5/9/2013 | Foreign Ministry | 2/20/2017 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 5/14/2013 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 6/30/2017 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 5/15/2013 | Prime Minister | 6/30/2017 | Foreign Ministry |
| 5/17/2013 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 7/11/2017 | Foreign Ministry |
| 5/21/2013 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 7/24/2017 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 5/22/2013 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 7/25/2017 | Foreign Ministry |
| 5/27/2013 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 8/3/2017 | Foreign Ministry |
| 5/31/2013 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 8/7/2017 | Foreign Ministry |
| 6/18/2013 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 9/7/2017 | Prime Minister |
| 7/25/2013 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 9/15/2017 | Foreign Ministry |
| 7/26/2013 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 9/27/2017 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 7/31/2013 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 9/29/2017 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 10/9/2013 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 11/24/2017 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 11/6/2013 | Foreign Ministry | 12/12/2017 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 1/17/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 12/27/2017 | Foreign Ministry |
| 1/31/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 1/9/2018 | Foreign Ministry |
| 2/20/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 1/16/2018 | Foreign Ministry |
| 2/21/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 2/9/2018 | Prime Minister |
| 2/24/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 2/23/2018 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 2/28/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 2/23/2018 | Foreign Ministry |
| 3/6/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 3/1/2018 | Chief Cabinet Secretary |
| 3/6/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 5/9/2018 | Prime Minister |
| 3/7/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 6/19/2018 | Foreign Ministry |
| 3/12/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 8/2/2018 | Foreign Ministry |
| 3/14/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 9/11/2018 | Foreign Ministry |
| 3/24/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 9/20/2018 | Foreign Ministry |
| 3/13/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 9/25/2018 | Prime Minister |
| 3/18/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 10/30/2018 | Foreign Ministry |
| 3/27/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 11/20/2018 | Foreign Ministry |
| 4/16/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 11/21/2018 | Foreign Ministry |
| 4/17/2014 | Foreign Ministry | 2/12/2019 | Foreign Ministry |
| 4/18/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 2/22/2019 | Foreign Ministry |
| 6/13/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 2/26/2019 | Foreign Ministry |
| 6/20/2014 | Study Team on the Details Leading to the Drafting of the Kono Statement etc. | 10/17/2019 | Foreign Ministry |
| 6/20/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 10/18/2019 | Foreign Ministry |
| 7/25/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 11/13/2019 | Foreign Ministry |
| 8/4/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 12/27/2019 | Foreign Ministry |
| 8/5/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 5/19/2020 | Foreign Ministry |
| 8/6/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 10/14/2020 | Foreign Ministry |
| 8/7/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 10/21/2020 | Foreign Ministry |
| 9/5/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 12/25/2020 | Foreign Ministry |
| 9/16/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 1/8/2021 | Prime Minister |
| 9/17/2014 | Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary | 1/8/2021 | Foreign Ministry |
| 9/17/2014 | Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary | 1/9/2021 | Foreign Ministry |
| 9/18/2014 | Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary | 1/14/2021 | Foreign Ministry |
| 9/19/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 1/13/2021 | Foreign Ministry |
| 9/22/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 1/15/2021 | Foreign Ministry |
| 9/26/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 1/20/2021 | Foreign Ministry |
| 10/3/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 1/22/2021 | Foreign Ministry |
| 10/14/2014 | Foreign Ministry | 1/23/2021 | Foreign Ministry |
| 10/15/2014 | Foreign Ministry | 2/3/2021 | Foreign Ministry |
| 10/15/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 2/16/2021 | Foreign Ministry |
| 10/16/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 4/23/2021 | Foreign Ministry |
| 10/16/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 5/5/2021 | Foreign Ministry |
| 10/21/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 6/2/2021 | Foreign Ministry |
| 10/22/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 6/16/2021 | Foreign Ministry |
| 10/24/2014 | Chief Cabinet Secretary | 12/16/2021 | Foreign Ministry |

**II. Coding**

Coding was based on an inductive process of reading this corpus of texts and identifying specific and repeatedly used phrases that indicate different types of evasive rhetoric. Each category is associated with straightforward, unambiguous stock phrases that are consistently used to refute international condemnation. First, responses coded as “claims of legality” involve a justificatory invocation of the postwar settlements Japan reached with relevant parties. Specific keywords include the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty and the 1965 treaty that normalized relations between Japan and Korea. Second, responses coded as “claims of the inapplicability of relevant treaties” involve Japan’s rebuttal of international condemnation that draws on specific human rights treaties and conventions (e.g., the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)) on the ground that they cannot be retroactively applied to the comfort women case. Third, responses coded as “claims of the inapplicability of relevant norms” refer to Japan’s repeated assertion that relevant norms (e.g., norms concerning sexual slavery) are inapplicable to the case. Fourth, responses coded as “equivocation” include vague statements that either obscure Japan’s agency or implicate other states in the same wrongdoings. Fifth, responses coded as “non-disparagement pledges” include a justificatory invocation of Japan’s 2015 agreement with Korea, which includes an agreement to refrain from criticizing each other at the United Nations. For illustrative purposes, Table 3 below shows excerpts from some of the relevant texts and how they were coded.

**Table 3: Coding examples**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Text** | **Rhetorical Strategies** |
| The Government of Japan has sincerely dealt with issues of compensation as well as property and claims pertaining to the Second World War, including the comfort women issue, under the San Francisco Peace Treaty … In particular, the Agreement on the Settlement of Problems Concerning Property and Claims and on Economic Co-operation between Japan and the Republic of Korea stipulates that “problems concerning property, rights, and interests of the two Contracting Parties and their nationals (including juridical persons) and concerning claims between the Contracting Parties and their nationals … have been settled completely and finally” … (Source: CEDAW/C/JPN/7-8) | Claiming legality |
| Since the Covenant has no retroactive effect and does not apply to issues arising in Japan before Japan’s accession of the Covenant (1979), it is not appropriate to mention the issue of the comfort women before and during the Second World War in the report on the measures implemented under the Covenant. However … Japan concluded the San Francisco Peace Treaty, bilateral peace treaties, agreements and instruments with countries concerned … The Asian Woman’s Fund (AWF), established in 1995, with financial support by the Government amounting to approximately 4800 million yen, provided assistance to former comfort women, including medical care and welfare services. The AWF also provided direct payment totalling approximately 600 million yen funded by contribution from Japanese people … (Source: CCPR/C/JPN/6) | Claiming inapplicability of relevant treaties and conventions |
| Claiming legality |
| The remarks in this paragraph have no relation to the Special Rapporteur’s mandate. Therefore it is not necessary to comment on the report’s content in this paragraph, but commenting for reference, it is inappropriate to regard “comfort women” as “the system of sexual slavery.” In addition, other remarks contain factual errors and they are also inappropriate. … The Government of Japan addressed in good faith the issues of reparations, property and claims arising from the Second World War, according to the provisions of the San Francisco Peace Treaty and other related treaties, agreements and instruments. The issues, including the so-called “comfort women” issue, have been legally settled by these treaties, agreements and instruments … (Source: A/HRC/1/G/3) | Claiming inapplicability of relevant treaties and conventions |
| Claiming inapplicability of relevant norms |
| Claiming legality |
| The Committee notes the Government’s repeated statement in its report that it has no intention of denying or trivializing the “comfort women” issue … As a result of diplomatic efforts, the Government of Japan and the Government of the ROK reached an Agreement on this issue in December 2015, which declares that the “comfort women” issue is resolved “finally and irreversibly” and that the two Governments will refrain from accusing or criticizing each other regarding this issue in the international community, including at the United Nations … In its response to the joint observations of the FKTU and the KCTU, the Government also indicates that it has conducted a full-scale fact finding study on the “comfort women” issue since early 1990’s, and that the “forceful taking away” of “comfort women” by the military and government authorities could not be confirmed in any of the documents that the Government was able to identify in the abovementioned study … (Source: CEACR 2019) | Making non-disparagement pledges |
| Claiming inapplicability of relevant norms |
| Throughout history, women’s dignity and basic human rights have often been infringed upon during the many wars and conflicts of the past. The Government of Japan places paramount importance on and is committed to doing its utmost to ensure that the 21st century is free from further violations of women’s dignity and basic human rights. 59. Lastly, the Government of Japan considers that it is not appropriate for this report to take up the comfort women issue in terms of the implementation of State Party’s undertakings under the Convention as this Convention does not apply to any issues that occurred prior to Japan’s conclusion thereof (1999). With regard to the expression “sexual slave” used in the Committee’s concluding observations concerning Japan’s report, the Government of Japan has considered the definition of “slavery” stipulated in Article 1 of the Slavery Convention, concluded in 1926, and finds that it is inappropriate to consider the comfort women system as “slavery” from the perspective of international law at the time … (Source: CAT/C/JPN/CO/2/Add.1) | Equivocating |
| Claiming inapplicability of relevant treaties and conventions  |
| Claiming inapplicability of relevant norms |
| In December 2015, the foreign ministers of Japan and the Republic of Korea had reached an agreement and had confirmed that the long-standing issue of the “comfort women” had been resolved finally and irreversibly. Each of the two Governments was making an effort to faithfully implement that agreement. Engraving in its heart the past, when the dignity and honour of many women were severely injured during wars in the twentieth century, Japan would lead the world in making the twenty-first century an era in which women’s human rights were not infringed upon. However, since the Convention did not apply retrospectively to any issues that occurred prior to its ratification by Japan in 1985, it was not appropriate to address the “comfort women” issue in terms of the implementation of the State party’s duties regarding the Convention … (Source: CEDAW/C/SR.1375)  | Citing non-disparagement pledges |
| Equivocating |
| Claiming inapplicability of relevant treaties and conventions |
| On many occasions, his Government had expressed its apologies and remorse to the former “comfort women” and had established the Asian Women's Fund to atone for offences against their dignity and honour. It was bearing the full operational cost of the Fund and providing all possible assistance to its fund-raising activities. As of March 1997, some 470 million yen (US$ 4 million) had been contributed by the Japanese people. Atonement money had been offered to the Philippines in August 1996 and the Republic of Korea in 1997, in which countries medical and welfare support projects had been initiated with government funds. The Fund had also concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indonesian Government to build facilities for elderly people, particularly seriously ill women … (Source: E/CN.4/1997/SR.39) | NA |