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**Statement by Mr. Krerkpan Roekchamnong,
Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative,
Permanent Mission of Thailand,
13th Session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review
Finland
23 May 2012**

Madame President,

Thailand welcomes the delegation of Finland to the UPR Working group today. We appreciate its presentation of the national report which presents its earnest efforts in protecting and promoting human rights both at home and abroad. In particular, we wish to highlight its work to prevent discrimination and all forms of violence against women and children as a follow-up to its first UPR: among others, the formulation of an interdepartmental programme to reduce violence against women.

Moreover, we commend the establishment of National Human Rights Institution and the launch of its first Human Rights National Action Plan, which prioritizes reduction of poverty, inequality, and exclusion. At the same time, the efforts to promote non-discrimination for the Roma population are encouraging, and we urge Finland to further promote the rights of all minorities.

In addition, we take note with appreciation the importance Finland attaches to combating against trafficking in persons by adopting a victim-centered approach. While Thailand shares concerns with the UNHCR regarding the well-being of asylum-seekers and their accompanied children, the ongoing efforts in Finland to follow up on the previous UPR recommendation by reviewing procedures related to asylum-seekers are noteworthy.

Madame President,

Thailand wishes to present the following recommendations for Finland's consideration. First, we recommend Finland to step up its effort to prevent violence against women, particularly victims of trafficking, by providing adequate protection and assistance, especially shelters, funding and staffs for these shelters. Second, we recommend Finland to adopt specified standards for accommodation of unaccompanied children and establish additional conditions for the appointment of a guardian for these unaccompanied children.

Thank you, Madame President.

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