

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
Ms. Rapeephan Phienphantawanich
13th session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review
The Netherlands
31 May 2012

Madame President,

Thailand warmly welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UPR Working Group. We are pleased to learn about the progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights in your country.

We welcome the adoption of the legislation to establish the National Institute for Human Rights and hope that the Institution would come into function as soon as possible.

Noting that the jurisdiction of this National Institution does not cover all territories of the Kingdom, we would like to ask the Government – Is there a plan to set up appropriate institutions for the protection of human rights of the citizens of its overseas territories? If not, what existing mechanisms can be used to provide appropriate redress and remedy for violation of human rights of these people?

Madame President,

Thailand recognizes that the Netherlands have put in place a number of legislations, measures and mechanisms to counter discrimination. But as noted by CERD, these measures may not be specific enough to address the concerns of groups particularly susceptible to discrimination. Therefore, we **recommend** the Netherlands to devise more specific measures to eliminate discrimination against women, ethnic minorities, migrants, Muslim and people of African origin.

Lastly, while we recognize that freedom of expression is one of the mainstays of democracy, we believe that the exercise and protection of such freedom should not allow religious extremism, racism, xenophobia and intolerance to prosper. Hence, we **recommend** the Netherlands to identify, through its domestic discussion, effective ways and means to prevent and suppress manifestation of racism, xenophobia and intolerance.

Thank you, Madame President.
