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**Statement by Mr. Krerkpan Roekchamnong
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand
On the Universal Periodic Review of the Philippines
29 May 2012**

Madame President,

Thailand welcomes the strong commitment of the Government of the Philippines to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Domestically, the government has been very active in transforming its international human rights obligations into national and local legislations, policies and action plans. It has appropriate institutional set up and vibrant civil society that can effectively advocate and monitor human rights on the ground.

The Philippines is at the forefront in promoting gender equality, women's rights and rights of migrant workers. It has made constant progress in combating human trafficking, including through regional cooperation under ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons, which is also commendable.

We, therefore, encourage the Philippines to further cultivate the gains achieved.

In the area of women's rights, we **recommend** the government to undertake concrete measures to further promote gender equality in employment, gender responsive approach in the judicial system and better maternal care.

We also **recommend** the Philippines to intensify its efforts to protect the rights of other vulnerable groups, especially persons with disability, minorities and indigenous peoples so as to allow them equal access to social, educational, health and other services.

As a fellow ASEAN member, Thailand stands ready to support and cooperate with the Philippines in its efforts to advance the promotion and protection of human rights at national, regional and international level.

Thank you, Madame President.
