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Statement by the Delegation of Thailand,
Mr. Krerkpan Roekchamnong,
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative,
13th session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review,
South Africa
31 May 2012

Madame President,

Thailand welcomes the delegation of South Africa to the UPR Working Group today. We wish to begin by expressing our appreciation for its active roles in promoting and protecting human rights both at home and abroad, especially in the Human Rights Council.

We take positive note of South Africa's promotion of socio-economic development under National Development Plan and New Growth Path announced last year. We are certain that both plans will help generate economic growth and reduce income disparity in the country – on its way to eradicate poverty by 2030 and to achieve the MDGs.

Moreover, Thailand welcomes the implementation of the recommendations from the first UPR in HIV/AIDS prevention and provision of systematic care for patients in South Africa. We particularly commend its work under Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Treatment and Prevention Programme. We stand ready to exchange our experience with South Africa in this area.

Our delegation wishes to propose to South Africa two recommendations for its consideration. First, to continue its best efforts to combat xenophobia and prevent any violence against foreigners. Second, to expedite the adoption of Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill as a mechanism to assist victims in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights standards and to prosecute the perpetrators.

Thank you, Madame President.

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