

**Statement by Mr. Krerkpan Roekchamnong,
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand,
14th Session of the Working Group on UPR: the Czech Republic
22 October 2012**

Madame President,

Thailand welcomes the delegation of the Czech Republic to the UPR Working Group today and thanks them for their statement.

We take good note of the updates provided on implementation of the recommendations from the previous cycle. In particular, we commend the efforts by the Czech Republic to eliminate discrimination against minorities through new legislation and legislative changes. To name a few, we welcome the Anti-Discrimination Act 2009, the Criminal Code 2009, and the amended Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure. It is our hope that such legislation and amendments will be fully implemented in promoting and protecting the rights of minorities, particularly the Roma.

Regarding the rights of the Roma, a statement of regret in 2009 issued by the Government for the identified individual cases of women whose sterilization procedures were not consistent with the applicable regulations is worth highlighting. We appreciate the measures adopted by the Government thereafter to prevent its reoccurrence. Among others, we note the Act on Specific Medical Services 2012, containing comprehensive rules relating to sterilization. Such measures as consent forms available in the Roma language and provisions for compensation in case of sterilization procedures being inconsistent with law are indeed positive developments.

Madame President,

We propose the following two recommendations for consideration. First, we recommend the Czech Republic to continue promoting and protecting the rights of minorities by fully integrating minorities in all socio-economic aspects, in addition to education, medical service, and employment. Second, we recommend the Czech Republic to continue its combat against hate crime and all forms of discrimination against minorities, in accordance with international standards and its human rights obligations, and to bring perpetrators to justice.

Thank you, Madame President.

* * * * *