**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand,**

**Mr. Netithorn Praditsarn, First Secretary,**

**14th Session of the Working Group on the UPR – Guatemala**

**24 October 2012**

Madame President,

Thailand welcomes the delegation of Guatemala to the UPR today and thanks them for the statement and report. We take good note of such recent developments as the visit by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the extension of mandate of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala.

In the area of economic, social and cultural rights, we congratulate Guatemala on its establishment of the Ministry of Social Development this year. It is our hope that the Ministry will give priority to strengthening of poverty reduction programs and improving the living standards of its population. In this connection, we support its “Zero Hunger Pact” which will be implemented in 166 municipalities identified as priority targets. We hope that the program will also be implemented in the rest of the municipalities nationwide.

At the same time, we commend the seriousness of the Government to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples. We then encourage for additional concrete measures such as education programs that promote understanding among diversity and tolerance, and a formal mechanism for consultations on adoption of measures affecting indigenous peoples.

Madame President,

We welcome Guatemala’s ratification of the CRPD and establishment of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities. To further promote the rights of the most vulnerable group, especially children, with disabilities, we recommend Guatemala to ensure access to education, health, cultural life and services for children with disabilities and give them the necessary support to enable them to exercise their rights as active members of their communities. Moreover, we support policies in Guatemala to combat gender-based violence and promote gender equality. We note with concern, however, the high number of women falling victims to domestic violence. In this connection, we wish to recommend Guatemala to implement and adequately fund the National Plan for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women. Lastly, we wish Guatemala success in the second cycle of the UPR process.

Thank you, Madame President.

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