

(84)

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative,
14th session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review,
Switzerland

29 October 2012

Madam President,

Mr. Didier Buchhalter
Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Thailand welcomes the delegation of Switzerland to today's session and we thank them for the presentation made.

We are pleased to learn about the implementation of many accepted recommendations and voluntary pledges from the first UPR cycle. In particular, we take note of steps taken by the Swiss Government to become Party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Thailand applauds Switzerland's efforts in the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children by strengthening both domestic laws and international cooperation. On the treatment of minor offenders, we recognize the efforts made with regards to pre-trial detention, including the establishment of the first prison for minors to be opened next year.

In this connection, we wish to recommend that consideration also be given to incorporating the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders, also known as the "Bangkok Rules", as part of its policy on the treatment of prisoners.

While we value direct democracy and the high level of freedom of expression and freedom of religion in Switzerland, it is equally important to ensure that popular initiatives do not infringe on freedom of religion or other practices of minorities. We therefore recommend Switzerland to enforce and enhance national policies as well as relevant laws and regulations in this regard.

Thank you, Madam President.
