**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**

**Mr. Krerkpan Roekchamnong,**

**Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative**

**14th session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review,**

**Zambia,**

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Madam President,

 As a member of the Troika, Thailand warmly welcomes the delegation of Zambia to the UPR Working Group and thanks them for the presentation of their national report.

 Thailand appreciates the efforts of the Government of Zambia to establish a number of institutions aimed at promoting and protecting human rights as well as to incorporate important human rights principles, such as freedom from torture and freedom of religion, into the newly drafted constitution to be adopted through a National Referendum.

We encourage Zambia to seize this opportunity to strengthen normative framework to promote and protect human rights in the country and to ensure the effective implementation of these laws and regulations.

 While we welcome steps taken by Zambia in enhancing access of women to decision-making positions in the country and in addressing gender based violence, we cautiously note the existing adverse cultural norms, traditions and deep-rooted stereotypes regarding the roles and status of women in the society.

 We would like to encourage the international community to consider sharing experiences and good practices as well as to provide assistance and technical cooperation in the areas requested by Zambia in support of its efforts to enhance human rights situation in the country. On our part, Thailand stands ready to explore a venue of cooperation with Zambia in this regard.

Madam President,

 Thailand wishes to propose two recommendations for its consideration. First, to continue giving priorities to human rights education and awareness raising in the Government’s plans, strategies and programs, and to enhance the participation of civil society and private sector, as appropriate, as a complementary driving force in this regard. Second, to continue strengthening measures to address and lessen the HIV/AIDS impact on women and children, in particular, the mother-to-child-transmission.

 Lastly, we wish the delegation of Zambia much success in the second cycle of its UPR process.

 Thank you, Madam President.

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