

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand,
H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative,
15th Session of the Working Group on the UPR – Barbados
25 January 2013**

Mr. President,

Thailand welcomes the delegation of Barbados to the UPR Working Group today and thanks them for the presentation made.

Thailand appreciates the importance Barbados attaches to cooperation with the United Nations to promote and protect human rights, in particular, its close collaboration with the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). We also acknowledge its commitment to mainstream gender equality and promote the empowerment of women into the work and function of the national Bureau of Gender Affairs.

Moreover, Thailand welcomes the initiatives taken by Barbados to facilitate the inclusion of human rights protection and promotion in the new Ombudsman Act and to expand the current Office of the Ombudsman into a National Human Rights Institution. In this regard, we encourage Barbados to allocate adequate budget and resources to the Office and to promote civil society participation in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Mr. President,

Thailand recognizes the efforts of Barbados to adopt and implement the National Strategic Plan for HIV Prevention and Control (2008-2013), in consonance with Barbados' commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. We urge the international community to lend necessary assistance to Barbados upon request in this regard. On our part, Thailand stands ready to share our experiences and expertise in this regard.

On the rights of persons with disabilities, Thailand is pleased to note Barbados' commitment to implement the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, even though it is not yet Party to the said Convention.

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In this connection, Thailand would like to make two recommendations to the Government of Barbados. First, to continue addressing, as a priority, the effects of HIV/AIDS on women and children as a priority, in particular, the mother-to-child-transmission. Second, to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities to better ensure the rights of such persons.

Finally, we wish the delegation of Barbados much success in the second cycle of its UPR.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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