

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand  
Ms. Eksiri Pintaruchi, Minister-Counselor**

**15<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review - Burundi  
24 January 2013**

Mr. President,

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

Thailand commends Burundi's efforts to promote gender equality, rights of minorities, as well as protection of the Batwa minority and albinos against discrimination. We are pleased to learn that the budget allocated for empowerment of rural women has been increased and that necessary measures have been taken to punish perpetrators of crimes against albinos. We also note the Government's policy to separate female prisoners from men, as well as its initiatives to enhance conditions in detention facilities.

However, we are particularly concerned by the reports on discrimination against girls from access to education, including albinos children and children of the Batwa minority. We also regret that homosexuality is criminalized in the country. We encourage Burundi to continue its efforts in addressing these challenges.

In this connection, Thailand would like to make two recommendations to the Government of Burundi. First, to consider decriminalizing homosexuality, in particular intimate relations between consenting adults. Second, to take steps to enhance the treatment of children born in prison, as well as pregnant women prisoners.

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

Thank you, Mr. President.

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