

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

Mr. President,

Thailand welcomes the delegation of France to the UPR session today and thanks them for the presentation made.

We are pleased to learn that many accepted recommendations from the first UPR cycle have been implemented, in particular, the ratification of the CRPD and its Optional Protocol.

We take note with appreciation the commitment of the French Government to fight against discrimination, racism and xenophobia, and welcome, among others, the elaboration of a national plan of action to combat racism and anti-semitism (2012–2014) and a Roma Inclusion Strategy.

However, Thailand remains concerned with reports of continued discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, ethnic origin or religion, with regards to access to education, employment and other public services. In order to help strengthen implementation of relevant anti-discrimination laws and regulations, we recommend France to reconsider the recommendation made from its first UPR cycle on the collection of statistics based on the notions of ethnic origin or identity and in accordance with conditions of confidentiality and objectivity as given in the French Council of State's Opinion of 1 April 2010.

We also recommend France to reconsider both the bans on students wearing ostentatious, religious symbols in public schools and on full-face concealment in public spaces to ensure expression of freedom of religion or belief.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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