

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand,
Mr. Krerkpan Roekchamnong,
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
15th Session of the Working Group on the UPR – Mali
22 January 2013**

Mr. President,

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

We commend Mali for a number of significant legislative and institutional reforms to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights, especially women's rights. We recommend Mali to take further steps to ensure equal treatment and non-discrimination against women as well as to expand representation of women in decision making positions.

Mr. President,

Thailand is concerned that the conflict in the northern part of the country has caused serious violation of human rights, especially given reports of rape, sexual violence, alleged inhumane physical punishment, including the strict implementation of *Sharia* according to the *Ansar Eddin* process. We therefore recommend Mali to take measures to provide for the effective protection of human rights and due process of law while guaranteeing freedom of religion and belief for all its population.

Lastly, we hope that the transitional Government will continue its efforts to conduct inclusive dialogue with all sides in order to achieve lasting peace and solutions in the northern part of the country. We wish the delegation of Mali much success in the second cycle of its UPR process.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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