

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand, Mr. Krerkpan Roekchamnong, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, 15th Session of the Working Group on the UPR – Montenegro 28 January 2013

Mr. President,

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

We congratulate Montenegro for its comprehensive programme for legislative reforms and development of institutions to promote and protect human rights. We also commend the signing of the Optional Protocol to ICESCR and Optional Protocol to CRC on Communication Procedures.

Thailand takes note of Montenegro's efforts to combat discrimination against minorities and marginalized groups. We welcome legal amendments and the inclusion of Roma strategy to ensure their protection and to provide support on socio-economic aspects.

However, we remain concerned with the situation of social inclusion, particularly children of minorities and persons with disabilities. Despite tremendous efforts to integrate children of minorities into local education system, language could be an important communication barrier for social integration. We, therefore, recommend Montenegro to strengthen minorities' languages training for teachers in order to overcome such challenge.

With regards to persons with disabilities, we are encouraged by its efforts to improve livelihood of persons with disabilities and physical accessibility to public placements. Here, we <u>recommend</u> that Montenegro undertake further steps to enhance dissemination of information, including laws and regulations related to their rights and ensure access to all sources of information, which will assist persons with disabilities on their decision-making.

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

Thank you, Mr. President.

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