

46

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand,
Ms. Piyaporn Putanapan,
16th Session of the Working Group on the UPR – Cape Verde
23 April 2013**

Mr. President,

Thailand welcomes the delegation of Cape Verde to the UPR working group and thanks them for the presentation made.

We welcome the Government of Cape Verde's comprehensive actions as laid out in the voluntary pledges given during the first UPR cycle in 2008. We are pleased to learn that since then, Cape Verde has acceded to various conventions, including the ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW, and amended domestic legislative framework accordingly.

Thailand commends Cape Verde's efforts to promote gender equality by supporting women's access to and full participation in decision-making processes, as well as adopting gender balance in governmental bodies and public administrative entities. The enactment of the Gender-Based Violence Act and the initiatives for the National Gender Equity and Equality Plan are also actions that we commend. We strongly encourage Cape Verde to continue to take necessary measures to eliminate gender-based violence, sexist stereotype, and domestic violence.

On children's rights, we are also pleased to learn about the increasing number of girls attending school and that illiteracy amongst young people has been reduced to only 4 percent. Nevertheless, corporal punishment at home remains a challenge in spite of existing legislation. Here, Thailand recommends Cape Verde to consider prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all forms regardless of settings.

On another point, Thailand is concerned about the trafficking of women and girls, including the "exploitation" in commercial sex work. In this regard, Thailand recommends Cape Verde to consider adopting specific legislation to combat trafficking in persons, to ensure full protection of women and children who often fall prey to illicit networks. We stand ready to share good practices and challenges in this and other areas.

Lastly, we wish the delegation of Cape Verde much success in the second cycle of the UPR.

Thank you, Mr. President.
