

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand,
H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
16th Session of the Working Group on UPR – Germany
25 April 2013**

37

Mr. President,

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

Thailand is pleased to note that Germany has established new independent human right institutions and taken steps to become party to a number of international human rights instruments, especially the CRPD, the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. We also welcome the fact that Germany is the third Member State to ratify the CRC Optional Protocol on a communications procedure. We encourage Germany to continue to strengthen measures to prevent sexual abuse of children both in the country and aboard.

Additionally, Thailand welcomes the efforts of Germany to address the problems of minority groups and discrimination on the basis of race, nationality, sex and religion, including discrimination against the Roma, Sinti and other minorities.

As a country that has provided shelter to millions of migrants, Thailand is pleased to note the progress made on the rights to education and healthcare for children with a migration background. We recommend Germany to take further steps to encourage these children in all *Länder* (federal states) to strive for higher education or to complete professional training after leaving school. We also recommend Germany to continue its efforts to change the perception of the general public and government officials vis-à-vis minorities.

Thank you, Mr. President.