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Ms. KHORNKAMON RUJIROSAMPAI

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand,
Ms. Kornkamon Rujirosampai,
16th Session of the Working Group on the UPR – Turkmenistan
22 April 2013**

Mr. President,

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

We applaud Turkmenistan for the increased interaction with the treaty bodies via the joint EU, UNDP and OHCHR project with a view to promote human rights in the country.

Given the importance Thailand attaches to the promotion and protection of women and persons with disabilities, we are pleased to note Turkmenistan's determined efforts in implementing many recommendations from the first cycle of the UPR, in particular the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Op-CEDAW).

Mr. President,

Thailand notes the progress made to promote gender equality and women's rights in the country. However, we wish to further encourage Turkmenistan to undertake appropriate measures to enhance access to education, health care and services, and employment opportunity for women, especially those living in rural areas and of ethnic minorities, in order to avoid double discrimination they may face.

Furthermore, we commend Turkmenistan's tireless efforts to fulfill its obligation in the field of civil and political rights, particularly on access to justice and the right to a fair trial, as stated in its Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure. Nevertheless, we note that conditions in detention facilities could be further improved to ensure basic rights, including the rights to safe and adequate water and the sanitation of detainees, particularly women detainees. In this connection, we wish to invite Turkmenistan to consider implementing the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Woman Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders or the "Bangkok Rules", and we stand ready to exchange practices with Turkmenistan on the issue.

Thank you, Mr. President

