

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand

Mr. Pakawat Srisukwattana, First Secretary

17th session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review - BELIZE

28 October 2013

Mr. President,

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

We applaud Belize's progress made towards prohibiting corporal punishment of children through its Education and Training Act of 2010 as well as the adoption of the domestic law to ensure the right to safe drinking water and sanitation in the country.

Thailand is concerned, however, on the lack of national legislation to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We would also like to encourage the authorities concerned to seriously look into the possibility of establishing an independent national human rights institution in the country.

Thailand appreciates Belize's commitment to mainstream human rights within the national policy framework and the constructive role that the civil society plays in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

Mr. President,

While we welcome the progress made in the field of access to health services, in particular for older persons, challenges still remain. We recommend Belize to widely expand access to health services for all, especially for marginalized groups and indigenous peoples. As Thailand attaches high importance to Universal Health Coverage, we stand ready to share our experiences with Belize on the matter.

On HIV/AIDS, Thailand welcomes the Government's efforts to provide universal access to antiretroviral treatment to people living with HIV/AIDS as well as the extension of HIV testing sites in the country.

While we acknowledge the lack of resources and limited capacity of Belize to deal with HIV/AIDS, we recommend Belize to step up efforts to provide information and education on sexually transmitted diseases to its population, as well as to combat stigma against people living with HIV/AIDS.

We urge the international community, international organizations, relevant United Nations Funds and Programmes to provide assistance and technical cooperation to Belize upon its request. As for Thailand, we look forward to increasing cooperation with the Government of Belize in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Finally, we wish Belize much success in the second cycle of its UPR review process.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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