

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
Mr. Natapanu Nopakun, Counsellor
17th Session of the Working Group on UPR – CONGO
30 October 2013

Mr. President,

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

Thailand commends the efforts made by Congo to enhance the mandate and capacity of the National Human Rights Commission as well as the improvement on the treatment of vulnerable groups. We are pleased to learn that initiatives have been taken to review conditions and treatment of prisoners in detention facilities, in particular women prisoners.

We also commend Congo's commitments to improve the rights and welfare of its population by expanding vaccination coverage and cost-free healthcare for mothers, babies and children, among others.

While challenges regarding stereotypes on the role of women and girls remain, Thailand appreciates efforts taken to improve gender equality, as well as the ratification of the first two Optional Protocol to the CRC.

In this connection, we would like to make two recommendations:

First, to step up efforts and establish a capacity building program to encourage women's participation in decision-making position;

Second, to consider becoming Party to the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.

Thank you, Mr. President.