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**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**  
**H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on the UPR – Israel**  
**29 October 2013**

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Mr. President,

Thailand welcomes the re-engagement and renewal of Israel's cooperation with the Council. We also wish to extend our appreciation to you, Mr. President, for your efforts in this regard.

My delegation thanks Israel for the presentation of its report, noting progress and challenges faced in the field of human rights.

Although we are cognizant of the security dimension faced, we call on Israel to end the blockade of the Gaza Strip, lift restrictions on movements and cease the construction of walls in the West Bank, with a view to facilitating the Palestinian people's right to development. In addition, we call on Israel to ensure non-discriminatory treatment of Jewish and non-Jewish peoples, particularly in the West Bank areas under the control of Israel.

While we commend Israel for the progress achieved in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities and women, we encourage Israel to further promote women's rights in the legal aspect, and thus recommend Israel to consider including the provision on gender equality and non-discrimination in its Human Dignity and Liberty law.

- We also recommend Israel to consider establishing a national human rights body that institutionalizes its efforts to promote human rights and engage all stakeholders.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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