

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand,
H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative,
18th Session of the Working Group on the UPR – Afghanistan
27 January 2014

Mr. President,

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

We welcome the Afghan National Development Strategies and National Priorities Programs in which human rights is highlighted as a main element.

We commend the Government for its approval of a number of national laws and regulations, such as the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women and the Law on Prisons and Detention Centers, and for the review of the Shiite Personal Status Law. We also appreciate Afghanistan's accession to the CRPD.

Although significant efforts have been made, reported cases of discrimination against women, ill-treatment of women prisoners, violence against children, including sexual abuse, remain.

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

First, to consider becoming Party to the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure in order to allow an additional mechanism of complaints for children whose human rights have been violated.

Second, to consider incorporating the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders, otherwise known as the "Bangkok Rules", as part of its programme to enhance the condition of women detainees in prisons.

Finally, Thailand looks forward to an inclusive and transparent presidential election to be held in April this year.

Thank you.