

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**

**Mr. Natapanu Nopakun, Counselor**

**18<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review - Comoros**

**31 January 2014**

Mr. President,

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

We commend the Government of Comoros's efforts to incorporate international human rights obligations into its legislation. We also appreciate its adoption of a national human rights policy in 2012 and encourage the Government to ensure an effective implementation of the said plan.

Thailand welcomes the establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms and recommends the Government to ensure the Commission's independence and to provide it with adequate human and financial resources in the fulfillment of its mandate.

We are pleased to learn that the Government has made education a key element for the country's economic and social development and encourage the Government to ensure free access to education for boys and girls through its Education Plan for 2013-2015, among other initiatives.

Although the Government has made efforts to improve the national health system and infrastructure, concerns remain regarding access to free healthcare services, especially for women and the most vulnerable groups. We therefore recommend Comoros to step up its efforts in ensuring free universal healthcare services for all.

We also encourage Comoros to further strengthen women's participation in decision making bodies, as well as to resolve reported patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes concerning the inferior roles of women in society.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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