

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
H.E. Mr. Krerkan Roekchamnong
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
18th session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review - Cyprus
4 February 2014

Mr. President,

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

We commend Cyprus's accession to important international human rights instruments, such as the CRPD and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict. We also note with appreciation that Cyprus has signed the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure and encourage Cyprus to expedite its ratification process.

We also welcome the recent appointment of a Commissioner for Humanitarian Issues to promote cooperation between the State and the religious minority group, and encourage the Commissioner to further ensure access to education for minorities.

While Thailand welcomes the National Action Plan on Gender Equality to ensure and address challenges related to women's rights and gender equality in key areas, such as employment, education and violence against women, we remain concerned about reported cases of trafficking of women, sexual exploitation, and unequal or restricted access to health. We would like to make **two recommendations** to Cyprus:

First, to step up its efforts in bringing to justice perpetrators of trafficking of women and sexual exploitation, as well as ensuring appropriate and timely compensation for victims.

Second, to ensure universal access to healthcare services for all, particularly, women, including migrant, disabled and elderly women.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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