

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
Ms. Piyaporn Putanapan, First Secretary
18th Session of the Working Group on the UPR – Eritrea
3 February 2014

Mr. President,

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

We welcome the progress achieved since the first UPR review in 2009, particularly the Government's efforts to improve living conditions and access to clean water, affordable food and commodities, as well as health services.

We are pleased to learn about the emphasis placed on education at all levels and on combating discrimination against women in law and in practice by providing empowerment programmes. Despite these commendable efforts, we view that there remain challenges in promoting women's rights, particularly protecting them from domestic violence and curbing harmful practices such as FGM. Here, we recommend Eritrea to work with civil society organizations to assist and redress women affected by domestic violence.

We note Eritrea's commitment to promote and protect human rights and its intention to establish a standing committee to receive complaints and petitions, as well as redress cases of human rights violation. Therefore, we recommend Eritrea to make operational such mechanism, including by appointing independent members of the standing committee created to address human rights violation and providing adequate resources, to hold those violators accountable.

Although the Government has put great efforts in improving human rights in the country, we take note of constraints and challenges faced in many fields. We view that the OHCHR could potentially provide technical assistance in areas where human rights could be strengthened. We therefore encourage Eritrea to look into areas of cooperation with the OHCHR.

Lastly, we wish Eritrea much success in its second UPR cycle.

Thank you, Mr. President.
