

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**  
**Mr. Krerkpan Roekchamnong**  
**Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on the UPR – the former Yugoslav**  
**Republic of Macedonia**  
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Mr. President,

Thailand welcomes the delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the UPR Working Group today and thanks them for the presentation made.

We commend the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the positive steps taken since the first cycle of the UPR review and its continued commitment to promote and protect human rights, as manifested in the adoption and amendment of various legislations to promote non-discrimination and to protect the rights of minorities.

We also applaud the Government's undertakings to reform the judicial system and improve justice administration and institutional framework to achieve a transparent, independent and efficient judiciary. We, therefore, encourage its Government to continue such efforts with a view to ensuring administrative and financial autonomy so that the judiciary could perform its task with required independence.

With regard to its obligation under the CRPD, we observe with interest the Government's National Strategy on Equalization of Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Government's engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities to take part in decision-making on the issue. Nevertheless, we are concerned that persons with disabilities continue to face multiple challenges, including access to basic services such as social, education and health care. Hence, we recommend the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to develop policies and measures to ensure equal access to services, particularly access to mainstream education, and participation of persons with disabilities in the elaboration and evaluation of programmes which concern them.

We note the Government's efforts to promote the right to health by improving health status, life expectancy and lowering the infant mortality rate. We are concerned though about the policy shift away from preventive health care, and equal access to medical services, especially for HIV/AIDS treatment. Here, we recommend the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to develop primary health care guaranteeing access to medical services for all children, particularly those from the Roma community.

Finally, we wish the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia much success in its second review.

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