

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand,**  
**H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi,**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative,**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on the UPR – New Zealand**  
**27 January 2014**  
\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. President,

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

We applaud New Zealand for its efforts in upholding and promoting the observance of human rights both domestically and internationally, in particular in the field of children and women's rights, disability and sexual orientation and gender identity related issues.

We also commend New Zealand for its recent accession to additional international human rights instruments, including the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, and recommend New Zealand to become party to the remaining Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.

With respect to the situation of Maori in the country, we recognize that the Government has made tremendous efforts in settling outstanding grievances of Maori Iwi regarding the Treaty of Waitangi. Nevertheless, we are concerned that more than a half of the prison population in the country are Maori. We therefore recommend New Zealand to continue its efforts to address this situation through, among other things, its "Drivers of Crime" initiative and Youth Crime Action Plan recently launched.

Thank you.