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Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
Mr. Krerkpan Roekchamnong
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
18th Session of the Working Group on the UPR – Slovakia
3 February 2014

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Mr. President,

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

We commend efforts made by the Government of Slovakia in promoting human rights especially progress achieved in human rights education which has been integrated into the national educational programme to sensitize children of their rights and multicultural education. We view that such practice can contribute to raise awareness of young people of their multi-ethnic and multi-cultural environment, and create a tolerant and harmonious society.

We have carefully studied the policy and actions conducted by the Government to better integrate people belonging to ethnic minorities, particularly Roma. Nevertheless, this particular ethnic population continues to face discrimination and stigmatization, partly due to negative stereotypes and attitudes against them.

We therefore recommend Slovakia to take action to combat discrimination and prejudice by promoting intercultural dialogue in cooperation with the media to prevent racist statements, hate speech and attacks against ethnic minorities, and promote respect for cultural diversity.

We applaud Slovakia for steps taken to promote gender equality. While we note the increase in numbers of women's participation and representation in decision-making positions, we are concerned about domestic and gender-based violence in all its forms. Hence, we recommend Slovakia to consider adopting measures to prevent gender-based violence, including amending legislation to include such offence.

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

Thank you, Mr. President.

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