

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**  
**Mr. Pakawat Srisukwattana, First Secretary**  
**18<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review - Vanuatu**  
**30 January 2014**

Mr. President,

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

We welcome the positive development in the field of human rights from the first UPR cycle, including the ratification of the Convention against Torture, the Convention against Corruption, as well as the standing invitation extended to HRC special procedures.

On the **rights of women and children**, we appreciate measures taken by the Government through its policies and plans, such as National Plan of Action for Women, National Policy and Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Development, and Inclusive Education Policy and Strategic Plan.

On the **right to health**, we are pleased to learn that in addition to measures taken to enhance voluntary counseling and testing services in clinics and hospitals, people living with HIV/AIDS have been receiving free of charge medicine for their antiretroviral therapy. We do though recommend Vanuatu to continue addressing the HIV/AIDS impact on women and children, in particular the mother-to-child-transmission. We also urge the international community to lend necessary assistance to the Government of Vanuatu upon its request.

On the **rights and treatment of detainees**, we welcome the fact that the new Port Vila Correctional Centre will comply with international standards, accommodating needs of mothers with babies, disabled persons, as well as focusing on youth education. We therefore recommend Vanuatu to consider incorporating the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders, otherwise known as the "Bangkok Rules", as part of its programme to enhance the condition of women detainees in prisons.

Thank you, Mr. President.

\* \* \* \* \*