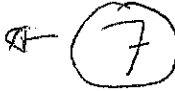


Statement by the Delegation of Thailand,

Ms. Piyaporn Putanapan, 

First Secretary

19th Session of the Working Group on the UPR – Albania

28 April 2014

Mr. President,

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

We commend the Government of Albania for its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. We note progress made since its first UPR, particularly its efforts to address racial discrimination, and gender equality.

We note efforts to put an end to domestic violence and violence against women, including the application of measures of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Elimination of Domestic Violence. We view that such programmes would need to be implemented on a long-term basis to efficiently eliminate beliefs that fuel violence, and to encourage affected women and children to report on such cases.

We are also pleased to learn that importance is given to the promotion of gender equality through various strategies and plans, including the participation of women on public and political issues. However, we believe the Albanian Government could further strengthen measures in areas where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged, and recommend Albania to ensure equality of women and men in accessing socio-economic services, including property tenure, and health-care and services.

With regards to the Albanian Government's efforts to combat trafficking in persons through national action plan and legal framework, we believe that further attention should be given to services provided for victims of trafficking. We therefore recommend Albania to consider improving assistance, including medical and social services, and shelter for trafficking victims, particularly women and children. We stand ready to exchange good practices in this regard.

Lastly, we wish Albania much success in its second UPR.

Thank you.