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**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand,
Mr. Natapanu Nopakun,
Minister Counsellor,
19th Session of the Working Group on the UPR – Costa Rica
5 May 2014**

Mr. President,

Thailand welcomes the progress achieved by the Government of Costa Rica since its first review, particularly the improvement of its normative framework in the field of human rights and its efforts in addressing social issues aiming for an inclusive and equitable society.

We are pleased to learn about the establishment of the Inter-Institutional Commission on Follow-up on and Compliance with International Human Rights Obligations (CIDDHH) and the Permanent Body for Consultation with Civil Society (EPCSC), which will foster cooperation and partnership among all stakeholders and certainly ensure an effective implementation of human rights commitments at the national level.

We commend Costa Rica's efforts to lift the living standards of its people, especially the amendment of legislation regulating medical care to provide access for women to all services. Nevertheless, we note that there remain challenges in terms of ensuring access by all due to medical personnel's constraint. We therefore recommend Costa Rica to ensure equal access to quality healthcare services, including by promoting training and capacity building of medical personnels and students.

~~While We note various steps have been~~ taken to better protect the rights of persons with disabilities, **we believe further effort could be made**. ~~However, we view that Costa Rica could exert further efforts to implement legislation and assist persons with disabilities to live independently and integrate into society. Here, we~~ recommend Costa Rica to **continue** take further steps to ensure inclusive education for children and persons with disabilities, as we view that education **would** will allow them to **participate more fully in the** ~~become an agent of development of in~~ their own communities.