

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand,  
Mr. Natapanu Nopakun,  
Minister Counsellor,  
19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on the UPR – Congo  
29 April 2014**

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Mr. President,

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

Despite difficulties faced by the recurrence of armed conflict, we commend Congo for its efforts in improving domestic legislation to be in line with its international human rights obligations, including the process towards the accession to the CRPD. Here, we encourage Congo to expedite the internal process for the ratification of the said instrument.

Thailand is pleased to learn about the enactment of laws pertaining to sexual and gender-based violence, and the zero tolerance policy. However, we remain concerned about the high numbers of such incidents, and therefore recommend Congo to strictly enforce relevant laws, with equal emphasis on care and rehabilitation, and to prosecute those responsible in order to provide meaningful results and ensure the protection of women and children.

We also welcome efforts taken to ensure the independence of the judiciary and to fight against impunity. Nevertheless, we remain concerned of the issue of independence when dealing with cases of high-profile perpetrators and asserted political interference, and recommend Congo to take further steps to strengthen the independence of the judiciary, including by allocating sufficient resources and adequate training to judges and prosecutors.

Lastly, we wish the Democratic Republic of Congo much success in its second UPR.

Thank you.