

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
H.E. Mr. Krerkpan Roekchamnong
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
19th session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review – Portugal
30 April 2014

Mr. President,

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

We note with appreciation that Portugal has implemented most of the accepted recommendations during the first cycle and has become a Party to several international human rights instruments, in particular OP-CRC on a communications procedure.

On the rights of the child, we commend Portugal's initiatives taken to ensure non-discrimination, in particular on access to education and healthcare for all children, including migrant children in irregular situations. We welcome Portugal's commitment to achieve the 2015 targets for "Education for All" set by UNESCO and to place education as a major focus of its development strategy, including by raising awareness on violence against children. We recommend Portugal to step up its effort in improving access to education for children from Ciganos and Roma communities and continue to combat racial stereotypes against those communities.

On women's rights, Thailand appreciates Portugal's efforts to ensure gender equality and in combating violence against women, through legal and administrative instruments. We also welcome ongoing efforts to modernize detention centres to provide adequate treatment for women detainees, especially young pregnant women. We therefore recommend Portugal to incorporate the UN 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 in this regard.

Thank you, Mr. President.