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Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
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At the Review of Kiribati
During the 21st Session of the Working Group
on the Universal Periodic Review
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Thailand commends Kiribati's significant progress made in meeting its international human rights obligations. In particular, we congratulate Kiribati on its recent ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD). We also welcome the establishment of the Kiribati National Human Rights Task Force (KNHRT) and the enactment of several national legislative acts to further protect and promote the rights of women and children.

Despite notable achievements in the past few years in combating sex-based discrimination and violence against women such as the adoption of the Eliminating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy (ESGBV) and the inclusion of this issue in the National Action Plan for 2011 - 2021, the traditional views of women's role in society and customary practices persist, and there still have been reported cases related to domestic violence. Thailand therefore recommends that the Government of Kiribati intensify its efforts in raising awareness within communities and providing additional training for the police and the judiciary to ensure that victims of sexual and gender-based violence receive adequate medical support and legal aid.

We also recommend Kiribati to improve its public health system, especially to upgrade the existing facilities in both central and local hospitals nationwide, as well as to put in place measures to reduce infant mortality, malnutrition, and epidemics, particularly HIV/AIDS. Thailand believes Kiribati would find the implementation of a universal health coverage scheme useful in promoting the right to health of its people. We are ready to share with Kiribati our experiences in implementing this scheme in Thailand.
