

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand

Mr. Krerkpan Roekchamnong

Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand

at the Review of Lao People's Democratic Republic

during the 21st Session of the UPR Working Group

on Tuesday 20 January 2015, 1430-1800 hrs.

at the Palais des Nations in Geneva

(Speaker Number: 16 - Time: 1 min 40 sec)

Mr. President,

The Thai delegation warmly welcomes His Excellency Mr. Phongsavath Boupha, Minister to the Presidential Palace Office and the Lao PDR delegation, to the 21st Session of the UPR Working Group.

Thailand commends the Lao PDR for the significant progress made to align domestic legislation with its international human rights obligations, in particular the enactment and amendment of several important laws, including the Penal Law, the Laws on Criminal Procedure and Juvenile Criminal Procedure, the Law on Social Security, and the Law on Labour.

We also congratulate the Lao PDR on the notable achievements made in implementing its 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan which promotes human rights and addresses rights-related issues such as poverty, land allocation, and gender equality.

Thailand recommends the Lao PDR to further mainstream the rights of the vulnerable populations into its formulation of the 8th NSEDP for 2016 - 2020. Enhancing economic and social opportunities for women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons should be clearly mentioned in the next national plan in order to ensure full implementation at all levels and in all sectors of society.

We also recommend the Lao DPR to intensify its efforts to promote inclusive growth, especially in the rural and mountainous areas. We encourage the Lao PDR to increase public investment in primary education and continue to improve access to medical care and health services, particularly for people living in the remote parts of the country.

As a neighboring country and fellow member of the ASEAN Community, Thailand stands ready to work closely with the Lao PDR to share our knowledge and expertise in such fields as agriculture, health and medicine, and education, in order to help the Lao people fully realizing their right to development.

Thank you, Mr. President.