

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**

**Mr. Natapanu Nopakun**

**Minister-Counselor, Permanent Mission of Thailand**

**at the Review of Andorra**

**during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**on Thursday 7 May 2015 from 9:00 to 12:30 hrs.**

**in Room XX of the Palais des Nations in Geneva**

**(Speaker Number: 1 – Time: 2 minutes)**

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Mr. President,

Thailand commends the Government of Andorra for taking significant steps to improve and promote the human rights situation in Andorra since its first UPR, notably the progress made in addressing the problems related to domestic violence, discrimination against persons with disabilities and human trafficking. Thailand welcomes the amendment in 2014 of Andorra's Criminal Code creating new offences within the crime of trafficking in persons for purposes such as slavery and sexual exploitation.

Thailand also welcomes the adoption of the Act on the Elimination of Gender-based and Domestic Violence earlier this year which provides for the establishment of a National Commission for the Prevention of Gender-Based and Domestic Violence. In this regard, we recommend the Government of Andorra to ensure effective law enforcement and prevention and protection measures to bridge the gap between the legislation and practice in combating violence against women. Furthermore, we encourage the Government of Andorra to continue giving priority to assist victims of domestic violence as well as to address the reluctance of those subject to violence to report the problem.

Furthermore, Thailand congratulates the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol in March 2014. While noting the measures taken to ensure access to education for children with disabilities, we recommend the Government of Andorra to continue its effort in promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities with particular attention to the specific needs of women and children with disabilities, especially by increasing awareness of their rights to prevent social discrimination and providing equal access to adequate social and health services.

Thank you Mr. President.