

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**

**H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi,**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand**

**at the Review of Bulgaria**

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

**on Thursday 7 May 2015 from 14:30 to 18:00 hrs.**

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

**(Speaker Number: 5 – Time: 1 minute 35 seconds)**

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Mr. President,

Thailand commends Bulgaria for the significant progress made since its first review to align domestic legislation with its international human rights obligations, in particular, amendments to the Criminal Code as well as the adoption of the Public Education Act and the Anti-discrimination Act. We also welcome Bulgaria's efforts to combat trafficking in persons and encourage Bulgaria to develop an annual national programme in this regard.

While noting the efforts of Bulgaria to promote and protect human rights of vulnerable groups, challenges remain particularly on the living conditions and treatment of children in institutions-like social-pedagogical boarding schools. We encourage Bulgaria to put in place appropriate legislative, administrative and other relevant measures to ensure full respect for children's rights including in the area of juvenile justice.

Furthermore, Thailand recommends Bulgaria to consider revising its legislations to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, especially the law relating to legal capacity and accommodation of persons with mental disabilities in institutions. We also encourage the Bulgarian Government to step up the efforts to promote access to social services for persons with disabilities.

Thailand also recommends that Bulgaria continues its effort in improving the situation of the Roma and Bulgarian citizens of other ethnic groups, especially through effective implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategy 2012-2020 with adequate allocation of financial and human resources.

I thank you, Mr. President.