

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**  
**(Benjaporn Niyomnaitham) second secretary**  
**at the Review of Malawi**  
**during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**on Tuesday 5 May 2015 from 9:00 to 12:30 hrs.**  
**in Room XX of the Palais des Nations in Geneva**  
**(Speaker Number: 49 – Time: 1 minute 35 seconds)**

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Mr. President,

Thailand commends the efforts of Malawi in implementing the recommendations accepted from the first UPR Cycle, especially the improvement of gender equality by adopting the Gender Equality Act in 2013.

We welcome commitments made by the President of Malawi in his State of Nation Address in June 2014 to enhance women's empowerment and uphold women's rights as a requisite to poverty reduction and sustainable development. We look forward to concrete progress in this regard.

We, however, remain concerned on the high rate of child marriage. Thailand recommends Malawi to develop and implement a comprehensive national action plan to prevent and address the consequences of child marriage by, *inter alia*, ensuring the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence against women and revising its legal incongruence concerning the minimum age of marriage.

Furthermore, we recommend that Malawi continues its effort in combatting sexual violence against children regardless of the sex of the child starting with the review of its related legislation to ensure prosecution of perpetrators and adequate rehabilitation and compensation for the victims.

Lastly, Thailand would like to express its readiness to support Malawi in its realization of socio-economic rights under the framework of Thai-Africa Initiative in the area such as food security and public health.

Thank you, Mr. President.