

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
Ambassador Thani Thongphakdi
Permanent Representative of Thailand
at the Review of Australia
during the 23rd Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
on Monday 9 November 2015 from 14:30 to 18:00 hrs.
in Room XX of the Palais des Nations in Geneva
(Speaker Number: 67 – Time: 1 minute 5 seconds)

Mr. Vice-President,

Thailand commends the significant progress made by Australia to promote and protect human rights, particularly the appointment of a full-time Human Rights Commissioner, the implementation of initiatives to address the specific needs of vulnerable populations, and the continued engagement with civil society in the UPR process.

We welcome Australia's renewed commitment to improve the livelihood of indigenous peoples. We recommend the Australian Government to continue to work towards closing existing gaps in the protection of human rights and the promotion of welfare for indigenous peoples in order to achieve sustainable economic and social development.

While welcoming Australia's Multicultural Policy and National Anti-Racism Partnership and Strategy, Thailand is concerned that racial discrimination remains a problem in the country. We recommend the Government of Australia to continue raising public awareness to combat racial discrimination, particularly those stemming from Islamophobia and fears of terrorism.

Lastly, in light of growing migration crises, we hope the Australian Government will continue its active role in this area to promote regional cooperation and will accord necessary assistance to migrants who are in need of protection based on humanitarian principles.

I thank you, Mr. Vice-President.