

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand

Ambassador Thani Thongphakdi

Permanent Representative of Thailand

at the Review of Belgium

during the 24th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

on Wednesday 20 January 2016 from 14:30 to 18:00 hrs.

in Room XX of the Palais des Nations in Geneva

(Speaker Number: 103 – Time: 1 minute 10 seconds)

Mr. President,

Thailand welcomes the Belgian delegation to the second UPR Cycle. We commend the Government of Belgium for the progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights since the first Cycle, in particular, the role of the Belgian courts in upholding human rights law, including the obligation to provide remedies for victims of human rights violations. On the promotion of religious tolerance, we are of the view that the facilitation of the practices of all religions, including Buddhism which promotes virtuosity and unity, will further contribute to a harmonious and stronger society in Belgium.

Thailand welcomes the establishment of various human rights institutions and agencies to address human rights challenges, such as the Interfederal Center for Equal Opportunities, the Institute for the Equality of Women and Men, and the Federal Migration Centre. We are also of the view that the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution in line with the Paris Principles should be expedited to further strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights.

We recognize the steps taken by Belgium to address overcrowding and improve conditions of prison and detention facilities. In this regard, we recommend Belgium to continue its effort to also improve conditions in detention facilities with serious consideration to implement the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Sanctions for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules). We also recommend Belgium to ensure that domestic measures in the fight against terrorism and all forms of extremism uphold the fundamental rights of the individual, irrespective of their faith.

I thank you, Mr. President.