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**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**

**Mr. Sasiwat Wongsinsawat**

**Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand**

**at the Review of Greece**

**during the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**on Monday 2 May 2016 from 14:30 to 18:00 hrs.**

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

**(Speaker Number: 85 – Time: 1 minute 20 seconds)**

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Mr. President,

Thailand welcomes the delegation of Greece to the second UPR Cycle. Despite the economic challenges faced by the country, Greece should be commended for the progress made in implementing the recommendations made during the first UPR Cycle, in particular the adoption of various action plans in the area of human rights, such as the National Human Rights Action Plan and the National Action Plan for Children's Rights.

While we welcome Greece's ratification of the CRPD and its Optional Protocol, we recommend that effort be intensified to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities with a view to improving their access to employment, social services and education.

Thailand commends Greece for its initiatives to address gender equality and combat violence against women through the "National Programme on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women", especially the operation of counseling centres, shelters for abused women and their children as well as the bilingual emergency hotline. However, given that there has been no significant reduction in the number of cases of domestic violence, we recommend Greece to revise its Law on Combating Domestic Violence 3005/2006 to address the issue of marital rape, to prohibit physical violence against minors and facilitate legal procedure for victims, as well as ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).

Lastly, Thailand encourages Greece to continue its effort to involve Roma communities in the implementation of Roma integration programmes, including in the follow-up process, whereby access to education and other basic needs, such as housing, should be guaranteed.

I thank you, Mr. President