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Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Thailand

*Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Veronika Bard
Geneva, May 11, 2016 (1 min 10 sec)*

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to welcome the delegation of Thailand.

We are concerned about the human rights situation in Thailand, including the increased restrictions on freedom of expression in connection with the constitutional referendum.

Sweden recommends the Government of Thailand:

- 1) To amend article 14 of the Computer Crimes Act to ensure it cannot be used to prosecute cases of alleged defamation.
- 2) To explicitly prohibit in law any form of corporal punishment or other cruel or degrading punishment of children in all settings.
- 3) To develop, enact and implement a national action plan on business and human rights in order to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Sweden encourages the government of Thailand to fully cooperate with the UN in Thailand, and to follow through on its standing invitation to all special procedures.

Finally, we ask the Thai government to ensure the space for civil society to operate without undue restrictions.

Thank you Mr. President.