**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**

**Mr. Rongvudhi Virabutr**

**Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative,**

**Chargé d’affaires a.i.**

**at the Review of Papua New Guinea**

**during the 39th Session of the Working Group on the UPR**

**on Thursday, 4 November 2021, 09.00-12.30 hrs.**

**(Speaker Number: 10 / Speaking Time: 1 minute and 55 seconds)**

Madam President,

Thailand welcomes the progress made by Papua New Guinea since the second UPR cycle, in particular its positive step in attaining transparency through the establishment of an Independent Commission against Corruption in 2020 to investigate and prosecute private individuals and public officials for their misconduct.

While recognizing efforts to promote gender equality, Thailand remains concerned about high cases of domestic violence and lack of women’s equal and meaningful political participation and leadership in Papua New Guinea. We, therefore, recommends that Papua New Guinea further strengthen its efforts in addressing violence against women and girls, providing adequate support to victims and promoting women’s representation in politics and decision-making processes.

Thailand notes the difficult access to education, especially for children from poor family and those living in remote areas, which could lead to long-term impact on human capital development. We recommend Papua New Guinea to intensify its efforts to improve rate of school attendance across the country and ensure access to education for all, including for children with disabilities, during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

I thank you.

*(178 words)*