**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**

**at the Review of Benin**

**during the 42nd Session of the Working Group on the UPR**

**on Thursday 26 January 2023, 09.00-12.30 hrs.**

**(Speaker Number: 33 / Speaking Time: 1 minute 10 seconds)**

Mr. President,

Thailand welcomes the progress made by Benin in implementing the recommendations received from the previous UPR cycle.

Thailand commends Benin for launching a Human Rights Commission and the establishment of the National Women’s Institute. However, the existing pattern of stigmatization and discrimination against some populations, especially women, LGBTIQ+ persons and persons with albinism are still of concern.

In this connection, Thailand recommends Benin the followings:

1. Guarantee the independence of the Human Rights Commission and its members in accordance with the Paris Principles and strengthen its institutional framework and working methods; and

2. Step up efforts to promote the rights and participation of women in the political, economic, social, legal and cultural spheres, and to combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

We wish Benin a successful review.

I thank you.

*(137 words)*