**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**

**Mr. Phanpob Plangprayoon**

**Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative**

**at the Review of Cambodia**

**during the 32nd Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**on Wednesday 30 January 2019 from 14.30 to 18.00 hrs.**

**(Speaker Number: 55 / Time: 1 minute 30 seconds)**

Mr. Vice President,

Thailand welcomes H.E. Mr. Remy KEO, President of the Cambodian Human Rights Committee and the Cambodian delegation to the third UPR cycle.

We commend Cambodia for the continued efforts on poverty reduction and development in all dimensions which result in its economic status raised to the lower-middle income country in 2015. We believe that the implementation of “Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency – Phase IV” will bring about sustainable development and help the country attain its goal of achieving an upper middle-income status within 2030.

While applauding Cambodia’s efforts in maintaining its GDP annual growth rate at
7 per cent which contributes to the country’s development, we recommend Cambodia **to take further measures to narrow the development gap as well as improve access to education and healthcare services, especially for people in rural areas, to ensure that no one is left behind.**

To further enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, Thailand recommends Cambodia **to expedite the process in finalizing the Law on the Establishment of the National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.**

As a close neighbour and fellow ASEAN member, Thailand stands ready to share our experiences and support Cambodia in achieving its goals, including through our development cooperation.

I thank you.

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*(216 words)*