**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**

**H.E. Mr. Sek Wannamethee, Ambassador and Permanent Representative**

**at the Review of Bhutan**

**during the 33rd Session of the Working Group on the UPR**

**on Wednesday, 8 May 2019, 14:30-18:00 hrs.**

**(Speaker Number: 32 / Speaking Time: 1 minute 15 seconds)**

Mr. Vice President,

Thailand welcomes the Foreign Minister of Bhutan and his delegation to the UPR.

Thailand acknowledges Bhutan’s “Gross National Happiness” development philosophy, a holistic approach to promote sustainable development and the rights and welfare of its citizens.

Thailand commends the provision of free health services, as guaranteed by the Constitution, and the financing of essential drugs and vaccines through the Bhutan Health Trust Fund.

Thailand applauds Bhutan’s committed efforts to reduce poverty and promote inclusive development, and to improve the quality of and access to education, such as the Central School system and the Education ICT Master Plan.

Thailand welcomes Bhutan’s commitment to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities, including the drafting of the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities in alignment with the CRPD.

Thailand recommends the following:

**First, take appropriate steps towards ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**

**Second, further provide human rights education and training for law enforcement agencies, students and other stakeholders, taking into account the World Programme for Human Rights Education.**

We wish Bhutan every success in the UPR.

Thank you.