**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**

**at the Review of Lao PDR**

**during the 35th Session of the Working Group on the UPR**

**on Tuesday, 21 January 2020, 14:30-18:00 hrs.**

**(Speaker Number: 60 / Speaking Time: 1 minute 15 seconds)**

Mr. President,

Thailand welcomes the delegation of the Lao PDR to the UPR.

Thailand commends the progress made towards the Lao PDR’s graduation from the LDC status by 2024, especially in poverty reduction and socioeconomic development.

Thailand applauds the achievements in promoting gender equality, as reflected by the significantly higher ranking of Lao PDR in the Global Gender Gap Index.

Thailand commends the Government’s efforts to increase access to education, reduce child-education costs for parents, and invest in school infrastructure in the rural areas, all of which have contributed to the notable increase in the literacy and school enrolment rates.

Thailand recommends the following:

**First, continue with efforts to further provide training and information on human rights standards to government officials and judges, as well as human rights education to businesses, students, and the general public.**

**Second, incorporate the rights of women, children, people with disabilities and other relevant groups into its ninth National Socio-Economic Development Plan, and consider taking integrated approaches in the implementation of the SDGs and human rights policies, where applicable.**

As a neighboring country and fellow ASEAN Member, Thailand is ready to cooperate closely and exchange lessons learnt and good practices with the Lao PDR.

We wish the Lao PDR every success in the UPR.

Thank you.