

Closing Statement by
H.E. Mr. Sihasak Phuanketkeow
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand
and Special Envoy of the Royal Thai Government
at the Universal Periodic Review of Thailand
12th Session of the UPR Working Group
of the Human Rights Council

5 October 2011

Madame President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank all the delegations for your questions, comments and recommendations during today's session which touched upon a wide range of human rights issues for Thailand. I would like to assure you that we will continue to build upon our progress and move forward to better protect human rights of the people in Thailand. We will also redouble our efforts to tackle those remaining challenges that have been identified.

You have heard from my delegation regarding what we have been doing so far in order to address remaining challenges in human rights promotion and protection in Thailand. However, we must admit that there are still gaps that require attention. We recognize the need to work even harder to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights for all in Thailand.

I also wish to assure you that Thailand is committed to fully cooperating with the international community and the international human rights mechanisms especially the UPR process. Indeed, the questions, comments and recommendations we receive today are valuable to Thailand in this process of human rights self-assessment. We welcome the constructive spirit in which the recommendations were given and we will seriously consider each and every one of them. In general, Thailand believes that we can accept most of the recommendations. However, we will have to consider them carefully as, once committed, we intend to fully and effectively implement them. It is also important to point out that many of the recommendations are in fact in the pipeline or are already being implemented.

I also wish to add that we intend to fully engage the civil society in the follow-up process which was a point raised by many delegations.

As the result of the preparation for the UPR, I am pleased to announce that the Cabinet has now approved the signing of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. In addition, I would also now like to inform you that we are ready to extend an open invitation for visits by all Special Procedures.

Looking ahead, a challenging task lies before us in considering all the recommendations received and charting the way forward to effectively implement them. Towards this end, we plan to organize a series of follow-up workshops to raise awareness of the UPR recommendations and to form an alliance with the public and civil society in translating these recommendations into action. We also plan to integrate the UPR recommendations into our National Human Rights Action Plan and set up a monitoring mechanism to ensure progress. We will also intend to work with the OHCHR, treaty bodies and special procedures of the Council in the implementation process of these recommendations.

In concluding, I would like once again to thank all delegations for your constructive participation in our UPR. Your frank and candid views are very much appreciated and will be very useful in our common cause to promote and protect human rights for all in Thailand.

I thank you.
