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## Thailand UPR

Thank you Madam President,

The Maldives would like to welcome the Thai delegation to the UPR working group and to thank them for their comprehensive national report. We would also like to recognize the enthusiasm and engagement of Thai civil society.

The Maldives would like to congratulate Thailand on the extensive consultation process which included the establishment of a national UPR committee, plus numerous clinics and consultations. As Thailand notes, such consultation is an important part of the self-reflection process which lies at the heart of the UPR.

Thailand is a parliamentary democracy with a clear and long-standing commitment to human rights, as demonstrated by its ratification of most human rights conventions and its national human rights action plan. As the three UPR reports make clear, Thailand has secured many achievements in the field of human rights, both civil and political, and economic and social. Thailand's commitment to children's rights is particularly noteworthy.

Against this background, the Maldives would like to ask 2 questions, and make 3 recommendations.

Our questions are as follows:

1. Will the national UPR committee remain in place to oversee the implementation of the UPR recommendations, and will NGOs and other actors such as parliamentarians be included in that committee.
2. The Maldives welcomes the drafting of a gender equality promotion bill. However, civil society has claimed that under the bill gender-based discrimination will be allowed under certain religious or academic circumstances. Can the delegation clarify this point?

Our recommendations are:

1. Sign and ratify the OPCAT and establish an NPM.
2. Implement plans to include a specific definition of torture within the country's criminal code.
3. Ensure that the gender equality promotion bill is fully in line with the CEDAW.

Thank you.