

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. CHAIYONG SATJIPANON
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THAILAND TO THE
UNITED NATIONS AT THE INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON PROGRESS
REPORT OF WORKING GROUP
ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)
2 OCTOBER 2006, GENEVA**

Mr. President,

First of all, my delegation would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Ambassador of Morocco as a facilitator for the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Under his able leadership, Members and Observer States of the Human Rights Council (HRC), as well as relevant human rights entities have a number of opportunities to express and exchange views on this new mechanism which my delegation considers one of the most important initiatives for the HRC.

In this regard, my delegation would like to share some views and proposals on the UPR as follows:

Firstly, the UPR should assess the overall actions taken by States in implementing their commitments with regard to relevant Declaration of Human Rights and treaties or instruments to which they are parties. The overall UPR process should also take into account the different levels of development, as well as their religious and socio-cultural specificities.

Secondly, all UN members should be equally reviewed with the same frequency of 5-6 years. Time allocation for the review of each country should be approximately 3 hours. All members of the Council should be reviewed during their term of membership as articulated in the op. para 9 of the GA Resolution 60/251.

Thirdly, my delegation concurs with the common views expressed by many delegations that the UPR should comprise 3 stages, namely, preparation, interactive dialogue with countries under review, and outcome and follow-up.

My delegation's specific views on this matter appear in the paper currently circulated to all of you at this meeting.

The UPR should be a light process and conducted in the plenary to avoid selectivity and enhance transparency. Principles of constructive dialogue and close consultation with all countries concerned must be applied and upheld. Roles of Members and Observer States should be clearly identified.

The UPR outcome should lead to concrete and effective improvements of the human rights situation on the ground. It should identify needs and opportunities to assist the countries under review through capacity-building and technical cooperation, and recommend practical measures to the States concerned and relevant UN agencies and programs. The HRC should have close consultations with

the countries under review on its draft outcome, taking into account limitations of capacities and resources of such countries.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, although Thailand is not a Member of the Council, my delegation deems it to be our high responsibility to actively engage in and contribute to the discussion on the UPR and support the overall work of the HRC. We look forward to working closely with Member and Observer States of the HRC, as well as the National Human Rights Institutions, NGOs and the OHCHR to make the HRC credible, effective and capable of fulfilling its mandates in an efficient and accountable manner.

Thank you.
