Statement
by
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before the Third Committee
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Agenda Item 69: Promotion and protection of human rights

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Mr. Chair,

My delegation appreciates the opportunity to have interactive dialogue and general discussion on the implementation of human rights instruments as well as comprehensive implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which is very useful for States to share best practice, challenges and experiences in these important issues.

In terms of the implementation of human rights instruments, the Royal Thai Government has a number of progressive developments in the past year. The highlighted achievements are as follows:

First, the Amendment of Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code in accordance with Convention against Torture. The Parliamentary Committee on Law, Justice and Human Rights in collaboration with Ministry of Justice, by the Rights and Liberties Protection Department, and relevant stakeholders had drafted the Act on amendment of Criminal Code B.E.... and the Act on amendment of Criminal Procedure Code B.E.... in accordance with Convention Against Torture. The Acts aims to set up various legal measures to be in line with our obligations under CAT, inter alia, specific offence on torture, universal jurisdiction for the offence of torture, appropriate measure for torture investigation as well as assistance for victims of torture. The drafted Acts are, currently, proposed for Parliament’s consideration. Therefore, once these amendments are approved, it can help effectively prevent acts constitute of torture in the country.

Second, Ratification of the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child Thailand is the first country to ratify the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child which allows children and their representatives to report rights violations to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Ratification of this treaty is an important step towards ensuring that children have equal access to justice. The Sub-National Committee on Third Optional Protocol to the CRC will soon be established, under the National Commission on Child and Youth Development Promotion which is chaired by the Prime Minister. The Sub-National Committee comprises of relevant sectors and academic experts, chaired by Director-General of the Office of Welfare Promotion, Protection and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups, with intention to consider complaints received from children and set up appropriate measures to deal with these complaints.
Mr. Chair,

Regarding the comprehensive implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, there are also a number of progressive activities. The key achievements are as follows:

At national level, as the second National Human Rights Action Plan will come to an end this year, the Cabinet has approved the third National Human Rights Action Plan. The Third Plan will be implemented during the year 2014-2018. It includes recommendations derived from UPR review as well as recommendations received from international human rights treaties' committees. The human rights challenges in the country, information gathered from related agencies and lessons learned from the second Plan have also been incorporated in the Third Plan, via inclusive process.

Importantly, one of the key proposals is the commission of in-depth study by the Rights and Liberties Protection Department on the possibility of reducing the death penalty sentence to life imprisonment sentence in Thailand. Following academic research, Thailand plans to conduct countrywide consultations as well as information dissemination regarding the justice system and the death penalty in order to raise awareness and gather public opinion on the issue. Relevant information, including those derived from public opinion, will be proposed to the Parliament for further consideration.

In addition to these steps, Thailand is aware of the importance of disseminating human rights knowledge to all, particularly children, thus, we will continue our project to educate teachers as well as students to respect human rights of other people. The Rights and Liberties Protection Department is collaborating with National Human Rights Commission of Thailand on development of human rights e-learning programme, as another channel to promote human rights education, which we believe that it will be useful for those who are interested, study and work in human rights field.

Mr. Chair,

At regional level, in order to celebrate 20th anniversary of Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights or AICHR together with universities in ASEAN countries agree to promote human rights education. The aim is to make human rights knowledge the key towards change in societal attitudes and ultimately peaceful societies. We are also committed to promote human rights and human rights education through our active support of the work of AICHR,
as one of the most important actors for the promotion and protection of human rights at the regional level, via empowering individuals to understand and exercise their human rights and playing vital role in ensuring human rights and development of a humane-respected society.

Thank you.

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