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**Statement  
by  
the Thai Delegation  
during the Special Event on the  
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
at the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC)  
26 March 2007, Geneva**

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to thank the panel for its contribution and the HRC for organizing this special event.

Thailand has long attached great importance to the promotion and protection of the rights of peoples with disabilities. We have actively participated since the beginning in the drafting of the Convention of Persons with Disabilities. Mr. Monthian Buntan, who was also part of the Thai delegation, has greatly contributed to the drafting and conclusion of this Convention. Indeed, we have to acknowledge that, without the active participation of persons with disabilities from many countries throughout the drafting and negotiating process of this landmark Convention, we may not have in our hands today such a comprehensive instrument that would truly make a change for the lives of over 600 million peoples with disabilities worldwide.

Thailand is, therefore, proud to announce that the Thai Government will sign the Convention on March 30 in New York, on the very first day it is open for signature. We hope to be able to ratify the Convention at the earliest opportunity. For your information, it should be noted that, as a country with a dualist legal system, obligations under an international treaty which Thailand becomes party to are not automatically enforceable with the Kingdom. The treaty provisions have to be transformed into Thai laws for it to be enforceable and a domestic process needs to be undertaken before becoming party to an international treaty, in order to determine whether new domestic laws need to be enacted and parliamentary approval needs to be sought.

To date, Thailand already has the 1991 Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act which could accommodate most aspects of the Convention. However, this Act is now in the final stage of being amended to ensure better and wider protection for people with disabilities. The Amended Act has now passed the scrutiny of the Office of the Council of State and is being submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval. Once

endorsed and effective, it would help ensure greater compliance with the UN Convention. In addition, the Office of Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities has been established under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to work and focus on disability issues. In short, my delegation wishes to reaffirm that Thailand is doing its best to work towards the full realization of all the rights in the Convention.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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