

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW FOR TURKEY

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Introduction

The following submission is made by the members of the United Nations Country Team in Turkey. The submission provides information on the promotion and protection of human rights in Turkey taking into account the mandates of the various agencies and programmes comprising the UNCT in the country¹.

I. BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK

A. SCOPE OF INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

Core universal human rights treaties	Signature	Ratification or accession
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)	15/08/2000	23/09/2003
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)	15/08/2000	23/09/2003
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)	13/10/72	16/09/02
International Convention of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)		20/12/85
Convention against Torture and other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading treatment or Punishment (CAT)	25/01/88	02/08/88
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	14/09/90	04/04/95
International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)	13/01/99	27/09/04
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)	No	No

¹ Resident agencies and programs participating in this initiative are: UNDP, ILO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	30/03/07	28/10/09
Optional protocols to core human rights treaties	Signature	Ratification
First Optional Protocol to the ICCPR	03/02/04	24/11/06
Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty	06/04/04	02/03/06
Optional Protocol to the ICESCR	No	
Optional Protocol to CAT	14/09/05	No
Optional Protocol to CEDAW	08/09/00	29/10/02
First Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict	08/10/00	04/05/04
Second Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	08/10/00	19/08/02
Optional Protocol to CRPD	28/10/09	

B. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Republic of Turkey is a unitary, democratic, secular and social state governed by the rule of law. Its administrative structure, based on the principle of separation of powers, is composed of legislative, executive and judicial branches. The Constitution consecrates its Part II to the fundamental rights and obligations.

The UNCT welcomes the positive developments that have taken place in the country on the legislative framework in order to elaborate upon the rights recognized in the Constitution and international treaties. In this regard, it is worth to mention the legal reforms made to the Turkish Criminal Code in 2006. Relevant legal reforms include the alignment of the Turkish criminal code with the international protocols against smuggling and trafficking of human beings. In the face of these positive developments on the legislative framework however, further improvements are still needed in the process of identification of victims of trafficking in human beings which relates primarily to trafficking for sexual exploitation rather than also looking into other forms of exploitation and, in particular, labour exploitation and domestic servitude and targets more women and girls rather than men and boys.

Turkey has ratified the 1951 Geneva Convention and the 1967 Protocol, but maintains the geographical limitation pursuant to Article 1B of the Convention, which means that Turkey has assumed the obligation to provide protection only to refugees originating from Europe. The latest recommendations from the CERD Committee call on Turkey to give high priority to lifting the geographical limitation and refrain from deporting refugees or persons registered with UNHCR as

asylum seekers. In its EU accession process, Turkey has emphasized the nexus of lifting the *geographic limitation* and the creation of a national refugee status determination system.

Turkey has not acceded to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, or to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Turkey is, however, a party to the Convention on the Reduction of the Number of Cases of Statelessness of 1973 aiming at preventing cases of statelessness among children. While incorporating some safeguards for prevention of statelessness (especially in the cases of birth and marriage), the Turkish Nationality Act still includes articles, such as article 29, that may lead to deprivation of citizenship.

UNHCR highlights that as a consequence of the absence of an asylum law, many asylum related issues are not addressed. These gaps are partly tackled by *ad hoc* circulars which often fail to have the required impact at the point of implementation. However, in the National Programme for the Adoption of the EU *Acquis* of 2008, the Government committed itself to bring out a comprehensive draft asylum law on foreigners by 2010.

The Child Protection Law was enacted in 2005, but its effective implementation still remains inadequate. Although efforts have been made to bring juvenile justice into line with international standards, much more awareness and capacity is needed if all children in contact with the law are to benefit.

The Turkish Disability Act (No 5378) adopted in July 2005, brought change and improvement in disability services. It includes provisions to strengthen the institutional structure of the Administration for Disabled People. The Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Health, the Prime Ministry General Directorate of Social Services and Child Protection Agency (SHCEK), and the Prime Ministry Administration on Disabled and municipalities are main actors to provide services for persons with disabilities.

C. INSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS STRUCTURE

Turkey still lacks an independent monitoring mechanism for the promotion and protection of human rights. In this regard, a law establishing a general ombudsman was passed in 2006 but the law was overturned by the Constitutional Court in 2008 on the grounds that it did not fit into the constitutional government framework. In this regard, UNICEF reiterates the concern of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child about the absence of an independent mechanism such as an ombudsman to monitor children's rights and to register and address individual complaints from children in Turkey.

The UNCT welcomes the recent approval of the law for the Equal Opportunities Commission for Women-Men in February 2009, which led to the establishment of the Parliamentary Commission on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, with the support and coordination of women's movement. This Commission monitors the developments on gender equality in Turkey as it provides opinions on draft laws and proposes steps to align Turkish legislation and practice with international agreements. It also examines complaints regarding violations of equality between women and men

and gender-based discrimination. This Commission also brings an institutional dimension to gender equality in the country. However, in order to support such institution, it is important to smoothly undertake a close follow up during its earliest activities as well as to further develop its assigned competencies.

D. POLICY MEASURES

The Government of Turkey has disclosed its Judicial Reform Strategy and Strategic Plan in 2009 with the headings of strengthening independence and promoting impartiality of the judiciary, enhancing efficiency and effectiveness, professionalism in the judiciary, improving management system of the judicial organizations, enhancing confidence to the judiciary, facilitating access to justice, improving penitentiary system and continuation of legislation work for EU Harmonization. The overall objective of the Strategy is defined as judicial restructuring for strengthening the rule of law.

The Ninth Development Plan (2007-2013) and Strategic Plan of General Directorate for Status of Women include measures to increase women's employment, however, the implementation of such specific measures are not yet in place.

The Health Transformation Program (HTP) was introduced by the Government to ensure "Health for Everyone" and its implementation was started with an Action Plan declared on 16 November 2002. HTP basically aims at a reform in health system by changing the role of the MoH, introducing general health insurance for everyone, increasing accessibility of health services through strengthened primary health services and family medicine, efficient and graduated referral chain, health facilities having administrative and financial autonomy, etc. Within the framework HTP one of the objectives is to integrate mental health services with primary health care based family medicine system.

II. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND

A. Cooperation with international human rights mechanisms

The UNCT welcomes the latest developments of the country regarding the accomplishment of its obligation of reporting to treaty bodies.

Turkey extended a standing invitation to special procedures in 2001. To date, several special procedures mandate holders have visited the country. In 2006, the following mandate holders undertook official visits: the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences and the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights while countering terrorism. In 2004 the Special Rapporteur on Toxic Waste and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders also undertook visits to the country.

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non discrimination

The principle of non-discrimination is enshrined in the Constitution and upheld in several laws². In the course of its EU accession process, Turkey is addressing the challenges that are linked to the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination. Moreover, the Government is raising public awareness on anti-discrimination and efforts in this regard include removing expressions that may contain discrimination from the textbooks in school (such as discriminatory expressions on gender, religious beliefs or cultural values).

The UNCT regrets a *de facto* discrimination against people living with HIV with multiple manifestations: the refusal of treatment because the patient has HIV-AIDS; HIV testing without the patient's knowledge and approval; refusal to inform the patient regarding the results of the HIV test; lack of confidentiality, supplying names of individuals to third parties such as families or media without permission; discrimination in the field of employment (denial of employment on grounds of HIV-AIDS status) and education (denial of student registration on grounds of HIV-AIDS status)..

1.1 Women rights

In relation to equality between men and women, women face discrimination in a number of areas, including education, employment, level of representation in high-level elected and appointed bodies. Violence against women is another issue of concern in the country.

UNDP recognizes that the legal framework guaranteeing women's rights and gender equality in Turkey is broadly in place. However, Turkey ranks 101st out of 109 in the gender empowerment measure (GEM), which reveals the inequality between men and women in economic and political life³. In this context, further significant efforts are needed to turn the legal framework into practice and to narrow the gap between men and women in economic participation and opportunity, political empowerment and access to education. Domestic violence, honour killings and early and forced marriages remain other serious problems in some areas of the country. Another issue of concern is an increase of suicides committed by women and girls during the last years in certain areas of the country.

UNFPA observes that the implementation of measures to uphold women's human right especially in the area of GBV has displayed considerable progress in the last few years. Several interventions of the Government to combat violence against women, such as *"Platform on Prevention of Violence"*, *"National VAW Monitoring Committee"* paved the way to the *"Parliamentary Investigation Commission for determining the causes of violence against women and children/honour crimes"* which was established under the National Assembly in 2005. *Parliamentary Report* of the Committee led to the *Prime Ministry Circular on "Measures to Prevent Violent Acts against Women and Children, and Crimes in the Name of Honour and Custom"* which was published in the Official Gazette in July 2006. *The Ministry of Interior* also communicated a circular in 2007, to all governorates in order to ensure effective and rapid enforcement of the duties and functions defined in the Prime Ministry Circular mentioned above. The National Action Plan on Combating Domestic Violence against

² E.g. Turkish Penal Code, Law on Execution of Penalties and Security Measures.

³ The GEM tracks the share of seats in Parliament held by women; of female legislators, senior officials and managers; and of female professional and technical workers- and the gender disparity in earned income, reflecting economic independence.

Women (2007-2010) developed by the *Directorate General of Women's Status* is also strengthening the institutional mechanisms for the eradication of domestic violence.

VAW in Turkey is interwoven with discrimination and gender based prejudices. According to the results of the recent "National Research on Domestic Violence Against Women in Turkey" (2009), 2 out of 5 women have been exposed to physical violence by their husbands or partners at least once in their lifetime. There is significant variation between regions with regards to experiencing physical violence. For example, while the prevalence of experiencing physical violence among women living in Western Marmara is 25 percent, it is 53 percent in the Northern Anatolia Region. These figures show the scale of the problem and call for immediate action.

Regarding gender inequalities in the labour market, female employment in the country remains low compared to European Union countries. As stated in the 2008-2013 Turkish National Action Plan on Gender equality, women in Turkey are well behind men in terms of participation in the labour force and there is even a greater decrease in their participation in recent years. Although legal framework guarantees gender equality, there is no specific policy with regards to promoting women's entry in the labour market. Women entering the labour market are likely to be employed in the informal sector, which makes their situation fragile. Overall, women earn less than men for work of equal value. According to TURKSTAT, women are paid less than men with the same educational background, which violates the ILO Conventions 100 and 111. Over 50% of employed women are unpaid family workers in agriculture. Discrimination towards pregnant women in the workplace is an issue of concern in the country.

Women and girls victims of trafficking are still subject to stigmatization and not fully perceived for what they are: mere victims; the access to labor market for ex -trafficked people is still only nominal even when they benefit from temporary humanitarian visas. In this respect both preventive and long term measures against potential forms of discrimination are still needed.

1.2 Minority Rights

Turkey's approach to minority rights remains restrictive, a restriction that mainly results from the official definition and acceptance of minorities, according to which non-Muslim population is regarded as the national minorities. The official definition does not comply with the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Roma population is defined as a disadvantaged group and policies are shaped in line with this definition.

2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

Asylum-seekers entering Turkey generally have access to the asylum process, provided that they affirmatively approach the relevant authorities and register. Contrary to this, claims of individuals intercepted or arrested for their illegal entry, presence or attempted departure from Turkey are generally considered to be non-meritorious. UNHCR regrets that it does not generally have access to these individuals, and there is a consistent pattern of not admitting them into the asylum procedure.

As a consequence of the practice to detain refugees and asylum seekers under administrative detention pending deportation there has been a number of applications to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). A pilot judgment was issued on 22 September 2009, in which the ECtHR unanimously ruled in favour of the applicants and stated that Turkey had violated article 3 (freedom from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment), article 5 (right to liberty and freedom) and article 13 (right to effective remedy).

Actions should be taken to reduce the demand of trafficked men, women, boys and girls, to fully address trafficking for labour and to vigorously combat other forms of exploitation.

3. Torture and ill-treatment

The government of Turkey has made limited efforts to ensure compliance with the legal safeguards to prevent torture and ill-treatment. Allegations of torture and ill-treatment and impunity of perpetrators of these acts remain causes of concern.

4. Juvenile justice

The increasing numbers of children coming into contact with the law (the number of juveniles taken into custody and charged with an offence more than doubled between 1997 and 2006), long detention periods (the average duration of trials for children was 517 days in child courts and 619 days in child heavy penalty courts, compared to 236 days in penal courts on average in 2007) and poor conditions in some prisons are all serious problems. Many boys are being detained and charged as adults under the Anti-Terrorism Act for taking part in political demonstrations, in disregard of their rights as children. The number of child courts remains inadequate (as of the end of 2008, there were 73 child courts in 33 of the 81 provinces while child “heavy penalty” courts, for handling more serious charges, existed in only 7 provinces). Despite the availability of free legal aid to all children, regardless of age or crime, due to the low compensation for lawyers, children are not provided with effective quality legal assistance. The frequent rotation of judicial staff and lack of specialization hamper the professionalism and competence in judiciary.

Access to justice for foreigners and in particular for victims of trafficking in human beings is still limited. Free legal aid, redress and compensation mechanisms are not yet supported by provision of sustainable public funding.

5. Freedom of religion and belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

In the field of freedom of religion and belief, UNDP observes that the dialogue with the Alevis is noteworthy. Though the political discourse of the governing party is encouraging the recognition of Alevis, there is still lack of a concrete step to address their expectations.

As regards freedom of expression, Article 301 of the Turkish Criminal Code (TCC) is no longer used systematically to restrict freedom of expression. Revision of this article led to a significant decline in prosecutions compared with previous years. The Constitutional Court annulled the provisions of the Anti-Terror Law making media owners liable for publishing terrorist propaganda or praise of terrorism, further to the case brought by the former President in 2006. Though there are legislative

steps for a more enabling environment for freedom of expression, the case against the biggest media group and confrontational cases of the media and the Governing party are regarded as challenges to freedom of expression.

With regard to freedom of association, in the context of the EU accession process, legislative framework is improved and establishment of association is easier than in the past. The Directorate in charge of Associations is also making efforts to be more responsive to the expectations of the associations. Despite these, there are frequent events where the right of peaceful assembly is restricted and discouraged. In this regard, ILO states that the freedom of association and right to collective bargaining are not in line with ILO Conventions 87 and 98.

An important concrete step in the scope of right to participate in public and political life is the legislation that makes the establishment of City Councils as local governance structures obligatory for the municipalities. There are some efforts to make these platforms more inclusive and representative.

6. The right to adequate standard of living

UNICEF observes that child poverty is a significant problem for under-fifteens. 4.9 million under-15 (26.11%) live in food and non-food poverty (2007) in Turkey (41.99% in rural areas against 15.86% for urban children).

Refugees are obliged by the Government to reside in one of 32 provincial cities situated mainly in Central Anatolia (so-called satellite cities). Freedom of movement is subject to prior authorization from the police. They also have a regular signature duty with the Foreigners Section of the Police. Asylum-seekers and refugees have to obtain residence permits (ikamet), for which they need to make payment every six months (the equivalent of 306.30 TL for every period of six months per person – first payment includes a booklet fee amounting 145 TL). Children are charged with half of the fee. Despite of the possibility of exemption under the relevant law, asylum-seekers who are not able to pay are not exempted from the residence fee in a consistent way. Many refugees, including separated children, cannot afford to pay these high amounts, and the consequence is that they remain illegally in Turkey and are excluded from access to basic assistance provided by the Government. UNHCR's repeated calls upon the Government to lift the residence fees have so far not yielded the desired result.

Turkey still faces difficulties while addressing the physical accessibilities of disabled people mainly due to physical barriers and lack of awareness. Furthermore, there are still some areas which are not contemplated as issues of concern. However, the Government has shown its willingness to include the improvement of facilities for persons with disabilities among its priorities. , Local authorities are responsible to provide services for persons with disabilities who reside within their boundaries. Many municipalities have centres that provide financial assistance and aid that includes home based care. In this regard, WHO observes that coordination between different sectors is of vital importance for success. At central and local levels, there is a significant need of improving human resources of social services and

health units, establishing supplementary institutions and development of additional services to ensure community support.

7. The right to work and to just and favorable conditions of work

UNHCR highlights that while there is no legal barrier to work for refugees, the legal and administrative procedures involved makes it virtually impossible for refugees to legally enter the work-force. The Law on Work Permits for Foreigners states that only those foreigners who are able to perform work for which a qualified Turkish national cannot be identified, will be granted work permits. In practice, most refugees cannot obtain a work permit under these conditions.

8. The right to education

UNCHR observes that while the right to primary education for refugee children, in the age of 6 to 14 years, is observed pursuant to the Turkish Constitution, the effective implementation of this right can only be achieved when some procedural requirements are met. Refugee children can be exempted from some requirements, but they can only enroll if their parents have legalized their stay in Turkey through the payment for a residence permit. This undermines the exemption's role in cases where the parents are not able or willing to pay the fee.

9. The right to health

One important legislative development in 2008 was the entry into force of the Law no. 5510 on Social Insurance and General Health. The law included asylum-seekers and stateless persons as potential beneficiaries of the general health insurance, provided that the premiums are paid by the 'relevant national institution'. Despite the fact that the law covers these two specific groups, the restricted scope of the law and lack of inter-institutional consultations entail problems in implementation and hinders access to medical services. A recent circular of the SSAF dated May 2009 aimed to fill the gap, however, falls short to address the problems. Problems in having access to health services constitute a serious handicap for the persons in need.

10. The rights of the child

Turkey has committed to end child labour by 2014. Efforts are required to effectively implement the national laws prohibiting child labour, in line with the international treaties that Turkey has ratified. Turkish government has committed to end child labour by 2014, TURKSTAT has undertaken three household labour surveys and child labour is prohibited by the national law. However, data by TURKSTAT show that there are 320000 children –between 6-14 years of age– working in violation with the national legislation. Moreover, 638000 children –between 15-17 years of age– are working in sectors –agriculture, furniture production and commercial street sale– whose employment areas, salaries and working conditions are not in line with the national legislation.

Separated asylum-seeking and refugee children should be protected by services provided by the Child Support and Social Assistance Agency (SHÇEK) in line with the Child Protection Law. As a prerequisite of SHÇEK involvement, medical and age assessment tests are compulsory prior to the

admission to any institution. As margin of error is not applied to the age assessment results, some children or young adolescents could be excluded from the required care. Guardians/ trustees for the separated children are not appointed although this is required by the Turkish Civil Code. A circular concerning asylum-seeking and refugee children drafted by SHÇEK and MoI in December 2008 has so far not been issued and disseminated.

The low birth registration rate remains a concern (6.3% of children under the age five were not registered with the population registry services at that time according to the Demographics and Health Survey 2008⁴); the figure is 8.4% for rural areas, 12.3% in "North East Anatolia", 12.6% in "Central East Anatolia" and 10.3% in "South East Anatolia."

11. Refugees, repatriated and expelled persons

Refugees and asylum-seekers registered in the national procedure for temporary asylum are generally protected from refoulement. However, in 2008, 13 refugees recognized under UNHCR's mandate and nine asylum-seekers were subject of refoulement (mainly to Iran and Iraq), and 50 refugees and five asylum-seekers were deported to third countries. Amongst asylum seekers and refugees who approached UNHCR between 1 January to 30 October 2009, 186 persons, of which three refugees, were refouled to their country of origin, while 41 persons, including one refugee were deported to third countries. Particularly vulnerable refugees are Iranian refugees who previously lived in Iraq and who are not allowed to leave the country.

In 2008, UNHCR intervened in 393 incidents, involving 3,351 undocumented and detained foreigners among whom many expressed to be in need of international protection. Of these 3,351 foreigners, UNHCR was given permission to see only 72 individuals. Access to all others was denied. In this regard the main challenges identified in the Report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention from 2007 remain⁵ to be tackled.

There are some 13,000 Turkish refugees of Kurdish ethnicity residing in Iraq, the majority of whom live in the Makhmour refugee settlement. According to UNHCR sources a significant portion of the Turkish refugees in Iraq would like to return to Turkey, however only under certain conditions. On the 19th of October 2009, 34 persons, 26 of them refugees, returned to Turkey. The return of these persons happened outside of any formal return agreement. The Turkish Government has so far declined UNHCR's invitations to participate in the process in line with its mandate and has not been willing to negotiate a formal tripartite agreement which would provide a legal framework for these returns. Currently, the voices and the legitimate fears and hopes of the genuine Turkish refugees abroad are overshadowed by the political nature of the recent returns.

12. Internally displaced persons

Turkey is one of the countries that has a compensation legislation for IDPs. The process of compensation of losses due to terrorism and the fight against terrorism continued to make progress. The Government of Turkey, in cooperation with UNDP, is developing a national framework to have durable solutions for IDPs which will include not only return to the original settlement but also

⁴ TDHS

⁵ A/HRC/4/40/Add 5

reintegration and rehabilitation. UNDP welcomes the expressed political will from the Turkish authorities for an accompanying supportive legislative framework in this issue.

III. ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

Over the years, Turkey has made good progress regarding the level of ratifications of UN and regional human rights treaties. Early ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the signature of its Optional Protocol can be included among these achievements. However, challenges remain.

Turkey has still not removed its reservations to articles 17, 29 and 30 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Following a government decision in September 2009, the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) is now pending before Parliament. It is necessary the designation or establishment of an independent national preventive mechanism for monitoring places of detention. Turkey has not ratified three additional Protocols to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Similarly, limited progress can be reported on anti-corruption.

The UNCT welcomes the recent presentation of reports from the Turkish Government to relevant human rights treaty bodies, particularly, to the CRC and the CEDAW Committees. However, it regrets that relevant recommendations and observations made by Treaty Bodies and also Special Procedures mandate holders are not known among the relevant authorities and among the population in general. It is necessary to coordinate concrete and direct actions among relevant governmental departments and also with civil society in order to make all relevant officials, as well as society in general, aware of human rights and international obligations of the country.

More efforts need to be done to further reduce gender discrimination, which is still anchored in certain cultures and traditions of the country. A joint action coordinated among different sectors of society is needed to tackle effectively domestic violence, honour killings and early and forced marriages, which are still issues of concern in certain areas.

UNFPA welcomes the efforts of several Ministries who are the service providers for victims of violence such as Ministry of Interior- National Police, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, State Ministry responsible for Women's Issues, Department of Religious Affairs through trainings and awareness raising activities for their own personnel.

UNICEF welcomes the establishment of an e-school data base to monitor enrolment by the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) to monitor enrolment, completion and drop-out rates. The gender gap in primary education decreased down to 1.02% (95.97% for girls and 96.99% for boys). However, the regional disparity remains high (in several provinces, such as Ağrı, Bitlis, Van, Muş, Şanlıurfa and Bingöl, there are only 80-85 girls in primary school for every 100 boys). The net secondary school enrolment ratio still remains low nationwide (58.52 % - 60.63 % for boys and 56.30 % for girls). The pre-school enrolment rate at 30% is significantly short of the government's target of 50%.

IV. CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance and capacity building areas include data collection and analysis of disaggregated data; identification of gaps between laws and strategies and the better way to effectively implement them; promoting participation of socially excluded groups and individuals in decision-making processes.

ANNEX 1

Core ILO Conventions	Ratification or Accession
Forced Labour Convention	30/10/98
Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention	12/07/93
Convention on the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining	23/01/52
Equal Remuneration Convention	19/07/67
Abolition of Forced Labour Convention	29/03/61
Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention	19/07/67
Minimum Age Convention	30/10/98
Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention	02/08/01

ANNEX II

Selected treaties of the Council of Europe	Signature	Ratification
Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms	04/11/50	18/05/54
European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	11/01/88	26/02/88
European Social Charter (revised)	18/10/61	24/11/89
Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings	19/03/09	No
Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	25/10/07	No

ANNEX III

Principal national laws and strategies

<i>Laws related to this submission</i>
Constitution
Civil Code
Criminal Code
Trade Unions Act (Act No. 2821)
Act on Collective Labour Agreement, Strike and lock-out (Act No. 2822)
Public Employees' Trade Unions Act (Act 4688)
Law on Work Permits for Foreigners (Law No. 4817 of 2003)
Compensation Law (Law No. 5233)
Law no. 5378 on Persons with disabilities and on making amendments on some laws and decree laws (07.07.05)
Health Sector Strategy of the Ministry of Health (2009-2013)