

COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT AND SURVEY PREPARED BY TURKEY ON THE OCCASION OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ADOPTION OF 4TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION (1995)

SECTION ONE: PRIORITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND SETBACKS

1. What have been the most important achievements, challenges and set-backs in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women over the past 5 years?

In answering this question, please explain why your country considers these important, how it has addressed them, the challenges encountered and the factors that have enabled progress or led to set-backs in each case (3-5 pages).

ANSWER 1:

Turkey is a member/party to various international agreements/mechanisms for protection and promotion of women's rights, empowerment of women and ensuring gender equality and; related activities are carried out in this scope. In this scope;

- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was ratified in 1986,
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted in 1995,
- The Optional Protocol which was prepared based on CEDAW was put into force in 2003,
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which are also known as the twin binding covenants were adopted in 2003,
- "The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence" was opened for signature on 11 May 2011 in Istanbul and Turkey was the first country to sign and ratify the Convention. For the purpose of monitoring the implementation of Istanbul Convention, the initial review by Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) was completed. The tenure of the current GREVIO Turkey representative, Prof. Dr. Feride Acar will end on 4 May 2019 and thus Prof. Dr. Aşkın ASAN was selected as the candidate of Turkey for GREVIO as a result of the candidate selection process in line with decision the Council of Europe Resolution Nr. CM/RES (2014)43 on "Rules of the Election Procedures for GREVIO Members" CM/RES (2014)43 Rules of the Election Procedures for the Members of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.
- Sustainable Development Goal 5, which is the expanded version of Millennium Development Goals and which Turkey commits to achieve by 2030 is; to ensure gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.

In parallel to the developments, Turkey has implemented constitutional and legal arrangements on empowerment of women's social status, ensuring equal opportunities for men and women, protection of women rights, prevention of violence and abuse against women in the last two decades for eliminating gender inequalities. In addition, various institutional mechanisms have been established for empowering women; activities have been carried out in cooperation with relevant organisations for reflecting the legislation into

implementation; targets for ensuring women's empowerment have been included in development plans, government programmes, and strategic plans.

Particularly in constitution, various legislative and institutional regulations have been realised under the following subjects; "Regulations on Married and Family Life", "on Business Life", "on prevention of violence against women" and "other regulations on women's empowerment".

On the other hand, **projects** have been implemented by public institutions and agencies, local governments, international agencies, NGOs and private sector for empowering women and girls, ensuring equal opportunities for men and women. Many activities have been carried out under the projects with the support from all relevant parties for the purpose of **implementing legislative reforms and increasing social awareness. Along with projects on increasing girls' participation in education, projects supporting women's employment have been prioritised** which is particularly considered as a critical factor in terms of economic and social development in the 10th Development Plan Period.

In the light of all these; main priority areas, policies and measures for increasing effective participation of the women in economic, social and cultural areas in the **Development Plans and Annual Programmes** as well as important achievements, challenges and malfunctions are listed below.

1. Women's participation in the labour force and women's employment are important elements of sustainable development. Women's participation in working life paves the way for them to be more productive in other areas in society, economically empowers them, strengthens their position in society and increases their self-confidence and decision-making capacity. Thus, participation of the women in the development process is important not only in terms of productive activities and its contribution to economy but also in terms of their presence as the main actors and active participants of development as well as realising their own potential.

In this sense, increasing employment through active labour market policies gained importance with the 8th Five-Year Development Plan. Active labour market policies which aim at increasing employment by improving the skills and competences of the labour force cover labour training, (vocational) training and adaptation programmes, occupational orientation, provision of vocational counselling and guidance services, improving job searching strategies, employment of vulnerable groups including unemployed persons, persons with disabilities, women and youth, entrepreneurship training and employment guaranteed training programmes.

In the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018), it is stated that increasing women's participation level in business life and social life through education and training is an important factor which would affect the economic and social development of the countries and that if the education-industry cooperation policies for qualified labour force are strengthened with measures that would increase women's participation in the work force, Turkey has the potential to best utilise its demographical opportunity window.

In the 10th Development Plan, it was foreseen that labour market participation would be increased by 5.3% through increasing education level, increasing employability through active labour market policies, facilitating and promoting entrance into labour market. The women are considered as the main determinants of the achievement of this target. In addition, increasing women's labour market participation and employment is among the targets of "Programme for Labour Market Activation" which is included in Priority Transformation Programmes. Accordingly, the activity and employment rates of women are targeted to be increased to 34.9% and 31% respectively by the end of plan period.

According to Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) statistics on labour force (age 15+); women's employment rate was **26.7%** and labour force participation rate was **30.3%** in 2014 whereas women's employment rate was increased to **29.4%** and women's labour market participation rate was increased to **34.2%** in 2018.

Despite the recent increase, the obstacles for women's labour market participation and employment can be listed as:

- The employment opportunities of the women increase as their education level increase. In this scope, besides formal education, informal training for improving knowledge and skills of the women is also needed for qualifying female labour.
- There is no discrimination in our legislation on women's labour market participation or their retainment in employment. However, there are occasional discriminative examples such as dismissal of the women first during economic recession periods or the pay gap particularly in informal sector due to the fact that some jobs and occupations are not considered as suitable for women.
- Since jobs and occupations are segregated as `women's work` and `men's work` in the labour market, which is socially accepted, the women are densely populated in traditional women's occupations, which prevents them to enter relatively high paying jobs with social security.
- The underlying reason for the women who end their working life in a short term and/or who cannot fulfil their full potential in career advancement is that they have problems in terms of reconciliation of the family life and work life. At that point, effective policies are needed for the dissemination of institutional support on care services.

New Economy Programme (2019-2021) states that; "measures will be developed to implement target group, sector and local oriented active labour market programmes and to increase employment of the youth and the women".

2. For the women to have an efficient role in social life, it is very important that they benefit from **educational facilities and opportunities equally at any level**. In addition, education mechanism plays a key role in eliminating reproduction of potential inequalities within the knowledge process provided at schools as well as within the cultural environment of the school.

In recent years, there has been a substantial increase in **pre-school schooling rates** for both girls and boys. Net schooling rates among age 4-5 group was 11.7% in 2002 whereas this was increased to 50.4% between 2017-2018 school year. The net schooling rate in primary education was 90.9% in 2002 whereas the rate was increased to 96.1% in 2017-2018 school year. The net schooling rate in secondary education was 50.6% in 2002, which was increased to 83.6% in 2017-20018 school year. The net schooling rate in higher education was 14.6% in 2002, which was increased to 42.4% in 2016-2017 school year.

The rate of illiterate women declines over the years. The illiteracy rate of women in the age group of 6 and older in 2000 decreased from 19.4% to 5.9% in 2017.

For 2017-2018 academic year, primary schooling rate is determined as 91.6% for girls and 91.4% for boys; secondary school schooling rate is 94.6% for girls and 94.2% for boys; schooling rate in secondary education is 83.3% for girls and 83.7% for boys; schooling rate in higher education is 47.3% for women and 43.9% for men. Although schooling rates of female students are higher than the male students, the rate of female students in numerical fields such as technology and engineering is lower and studies promoting female education in these fields should be actively conducted and disseminated. In this scope, it is important to increase the support given to school girls by taking special temporary measures and encourage them to get higher education and education in the fields of science-technology-engineering-mathematics (STEM).

3. **Women's active participation in decision making mechanisms** at all levels, their involvement in social and public life effectively and solution offers for their problems are extremely important elements for achieving development goals of the countries.

The participation of women in the authority and decision making mechanisms is on rise over the years in our country. In 2002 General Elections, the number of women MPs in the Parliament was 24 and female representation ratio was 4.4%, in General Elections dated 12 June 2011, the number of women MPs in the Parliament increased to 79 and female representation rate increased to 14.4% and in General Elections in 1 November 2015, the number of female MPs was 81 and female representation rate was 14,73%. **Finally, in General Elections dated 24 June 2018, the number of female MPs in the Parliament was 104 and the representation rate was 17.45%.**

In Presidential System, which was first implemented after the Elections in 24 June 2018, there are 2 women ministers (12.5%) in the cabinet. Besides, four deputy ministers in the Ministries are also women.

Considering the representation rate of women in local administrations which can be referred as the first step of the participation in political life, according to the results of the local elections on 30 March 2014, the number of women metropolitan mayors is 3 out of 30 and the number of women mayors is 40 out of 1.381.¹ At provincial level, female candidates are elected as mayors in Aydın, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep and Hakkari (There has been a change in duty because of the continuing judicial process in Hakkari

¹ The current number of female mayors" in duty as of November 2018 after the dismissals by the Ministry of Interior is 14.

and Diyarbakır.) 2.198 (10.7%) out of 20.498 Municipal Assembly Members are women. The situation is similar considering the number of Provincial Assembly Members. 60 (4.8%) out of 1.251 Provincial Assembly Members are women.

On the other hand, the ratio of women in **professions requiring expertise in Turkey is quite high**. In universities, the ratio of female instructors is 50.08%. In this scope, the rate of female professors is 31.4%, female associate professors is 39.3%, female Dr. Instructors is 43.11% and female research assistants is 50.6%. (Council of Higher Education, January 2019) Besides, in 17 of the 200 universities, women rectors are in charge (8.5%) and the rate of female deans is 17.5% (Council of Higher Education, January 2019)². 26.327 (44.8%) architects out of 58.641 in total (Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects, February 2019), 51.356 (44%) of 116.779 lawyers registered in bar associations, 6 (7.5%) presidents of bar associations out of 79 (Union of Turkish Bar Associations, January, 2018) and 51% of the bankers (The Bank Association of Turkey, December 2018) are women. According to the data of Supreme Council of Judges and Public Prosecutors given in January 2019, 6.052 (45.3%) out of 13.344 judges and 782 (12.8%) of 6.065 prosecutors charged in judicial and administrative courts are women.

In order to encourage women to participate in decision making mechanisms at all levels and to increase women participation starting from the local level, principle of equality of women and men should be taken as a basis in main plan and programs. Within this framework, it is expected that women and men participate equally in decision making mechanisms within the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, women are promoted to participate actively in decision making mechanism at all levels and especially starting from the local level, the number of ongoing activities regarding the women participation will be gradually increased.

4. As the **problem of violence** is still a universal problem and the violence against women is still common, practices on the effective fight against violence are developed and continued to be implemented. In this context, accelerating the efforts for the prevention of violence and early and forced marriages, increasing the capacities of Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres (VPMC) and other service units and implementing the legislation effectively are among the issues prioritized.
5. There are differences in the use and production of technology among women in terms of need, living conditions, region, age and education. It is expected to produce policies by taking into account these differences and extend the trainings for increasing especially digital literacy.
6. Within the scope of environment and development policies, **effective use and protection of agricultural areas, food safety and organic agriculture are the leading areas for women to participate actively and serve as a part of the green economy**. In this regard, it is envisaged to develop special training programs for women as well as to support women entrepreneurship and provide different incentives for technology

² Including Public, Private Universities, Private Vocational High Schools and TRNC.

and mechanization in accordance with the size of the enterprises. In addition, it is planned to create consciousness for responsible consumption by raising awareness on environmental protection and climate change among women who are also the main consumption regulators of the family.

On the other hand, the massive influx of refugees into Turkey from Syria has become a priority issue and a challenge for the Turkey within the last five years. Turkey has shouldered the bulk of the financial cost of the refugee response since 2012. Regulations provide Syrians access to national systems in health, education, employment and social services. However, 75% of the Syrian refugees are women and children and refugee women have specific gendered barriers to access livelihood opportunities (such as education, decent work, justice, etc.). Turkey has undertaken unparalleled efforts in regards to the services provided to Syrian refugees considering their specific needs and is committed to continue to do so in coordination with UN Agencies and EU.

2. Which of the following have been the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country over the past five years through laws, policies and/or programmes? (please check relevant categories)

- Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice
- Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls
- Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security
- Eliminating violence against women and girls
- Access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights
- Political participation and representation
- Right to work and rights at work (e.g. gender pay gap, occupational segregation, career progression)
- Women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises
- Unpaid care and domestic work / work-family conciliation (e.g. paid maternity or parental leave, care services)
- Gender-responsive social protection (e.g. universal health coverage, cash transfers, pensions)
- Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, energy, transport etc.)
- Strengthening women's participation in ensuring environmental sustainability
- Gender-responsive budgeting
- Digital and financial inclusion for women
- Gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and resilience building
- Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes
- Other

Please provide brief reflections on how your country has addressed these priorities (3 – 5 pages).

ANSWER 2:

In our country, Development Plans, Medium-term Programs (New Economy Program), Medium-term Financial Plans and Annual Programs are among prominent high policy documents. However, thematic strategy documents and action plans as well as strategic plans are also being prepared. In all these documents, there are privileged policies and measures for increasing the participation of women into economic, social and cultural lives.

Tenth Development Plan (2014-2018): *“In the context of gender equality, empowering women’s role in social, cultural and economic lives”* is taken as the main objective. The plan focussed on family and women’s rights, while it is stated that *“in terms of equality of opportunities for women and men, the need for increasing the efficiency in practice and maintaining the improvements particularly in more active participation of women to the labour force, decision making processes as well as in prevention of violence, education and health, continues”*.

In that context, the main policies that are being implemented in the Plan are as follows:

- The increased participation of women into decision-making mechanisms, improvements in the employment as well as increased levels for skills and education will be ensured.
- In order to eradicate violence and discrimination against women, the level of social consciousness will be raised through formal and non-formal education especially beginning from the period of early childhood.
- Awareness will be created about gender-responsive budgeting and best practices will be developed.
- By taking into consideration regional, local and sectoral labour force dynamics, qualified employment opportunities for all segments of the society, and especially for women and young people, will be further developed.
- In order to preserve young and dynamic population structure and prevent rapid decline in fertility, the activities which reconcile family and working life for women, leaves and rights related to birth will be developed; nurseries will be subsidized; flexible working conditions will be ensured.
- State support for entrepreneurship and SMEs will be provided on the basis of criteria such as innovation, productivity and increase of employment, growth and collaboration, as well as by giving priority to women, youth and social entrepreneurship. Monitoring and evaluation of implementation will be improved and contribution of the supports to the economy will be measured by using impact analyses.
- Full access to primary and secondary education, especially of disabled and female students, will be ensured. Grade repetition and drop-outs will be decreased.
- Eliminating children’s deprivation stemming from poverty, supporting early childhood development, increasing the enrolment and attendance rates of girls, increasing the participation of youth, who are not in education or employment, to economic and social life will be targeted.

Women’s Employment: In our country, the participation of women in labour force and the employment rates have shown a significant increase over recent years. In Turkey, the female labour force participation rate increased by 0.6 compared to the previous year and reached 34.2 percent. The female employment rate increased by 0.5 points in 2018 and reached 29.4 percent.

Current data and experiences reveal that the economic and social empowerment of women contribute to the economic growth in the short term, while it also provides an important

impact in the long term with the positive and important change it generates in terms of raising future generations with a good education and in a healthy manner.

The increased rate of female participation in labour force and turning women into an active component of the development will have a big role for their economic and social empowerment. The active labour force programs for the intention of increasing female participation into labour force in Turkey have been further expanded, while professional guidance, professional consultancy and coaching services that are provided in that context have been developed. In order to support these programs, social security premiums and tax incentives for women employment have been introduced. Besides, with the amendment to the Labour Law, women have been provided with half-time employment right for a certain amount of time after giving birth. Works are being conducted in order to provide women with efficient and sustainable support in terms of women entrepreneurship and establishment of cooperatives.

The success of policies that have been implemented in the context of increasing women's active and efficient participation in the employment depends on establishing direct links between macro and micro economic policies and ensuring harmony and cooperation between the institutions. In that context, not only public but also private resources should be encouraged to support the implementation of projects related to the disadvantaged segments. In that context, cooperation projects between public and private sector especially for the intention of women are being developed.

In spite of important developments in the labour market, the participation especially among young people and women in the labour force and employment, as well as unemployment, occupational accidents, unregistered employment, the quality of work force and the relation of employment with education and social assistance along with the vulnerable situation of the employment still maintain their importance. In order to increase the effectiveness in the labour market, efforts in terms of empowering social dialogue mechanisms are ongoing in the areas such as guaranteed flexible work, active and passive labour force programs.

Education of Women and Girls: In recent period, there have been important developments in terms of providing higher quality, more extensive and easily accessible educational services. In that context, the human and physical infrastructure has been improved; the schooling rates have been increased; and number of student per classroom has been decreased.

Various activities have been conducted in order to ensure the educational continuity of girls and poor students and to strengthen mobile teaching, while concentrating on the on-the-job training for teachers.

Having launched an educational campaign in order to ensure the equal participation of girls and boys' into education, Turkey also opened primary boarding schools in order to provide children of low income families and those at the primary school age but living in villages and in smaller rural districts lacking schools with primary school services.

"Mobile Primary and Secondary Education" is being implemented in order to ensure a high quality educational opportunity and implement an equality of opportunities in the education

for the girls and boys at the primary school age who are living in under-populated and dispersed districts lacking school as well as for students who attend schools where multigrade class teaching is applied. Educational programs are being implemented especially for decreasing girls' drop-out rates and for the intention of girls and women who left school at an early age. Works are ongoing for ensuring the employment of women who have benefited from professional education workshop programs at the public education and professional training centres, while at the same time increasing their participation into social and economic life and encouraging them to acquire a revenue-generating profession.

Besides boarding educational services for the children coming from poor families, there are also scholarships for the sixth, seventh and eighth grades of primary schools and for the general and professional technical secondary educational institutions. With the scholarship services and Conditional Educational Support, free-of-charge educational support is provided to every corner of Turkey in order to establish a social support network that helps children from poorest segments of the society to fully accede to basic educational services. In order to increase the girls' schooling rates and to boost the rates of continuing the secondary education, the financial assistance given to girls and to the students continuing their secondary education have been kept at a higher rate, and the payments are made to mothers. For girls at the primary education 40 liras, for boys at the primary education 35 liras, for girls at the secondary education 60 liras and for boys at the secondary education 50 liras are paid each month.

Health Services for Women and Girls: Data regarding women health in our country show that the upward trend in the access to reproductive health services is still valid. In that context, maternal mortality was 15.9 and 14.6 per 100.000 live births respectively in 2014 and 2017. The birth rates that have been realised in health institutions were 98 percent in 2014 and 98 percent in 2017. Pre-natal care rates were 96.9 percent in 2014 and 99.7 percent in 2017. Adolescent fertility rate was 28 and 21 per 100 000 live births respectively in 2014 and 2017.

Various programs, especially in the reproductive health area, have been conducted in a planned and uninterrupted way, and programs in parallel with the ICPD Action Program have been prepared and executed in a determined way by the Ministry of Health which is responsible for the execution. People who face difficulties in access to the services are provided with health services on site through mobile health and home care units. In addition to these activities, Conditional Health Assistance is also implemented.

Preventing Violence against Women and Girls: Turkey, during the term presidency of the Council of Europe, was among the first countries which signed the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) that was opened for signature in Istanbul. The Convention was approved on November 24, 2011 by Turkish parliament long before other countries did it. Following the publication in the Official Gazette, Turkey was the first country to have submitted its instrument of ratification to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe on 14 March 2012. In October 2018, GREVIO (First) Evaluation Report-Turkey was published in relation to the legal and other measures that ensure the realization of the Istanbul Convention's (Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence) articles. In the framework of the activities in the area of violence, that is a

problematic issue in terms of women's empowerment, *"the legislation has been strengthened; national action plans have been prepared and implemented; training and awareness-raising activities have been realized; the services being provided to the victims of violence have been developed/boosted; data collection, monitoring and evaluation activities have been carried out; very important efforts have been made in terms of establishing a common database across the institutions in order to monitor efficiently the data on violence against women"*.

Legislative activities have been complemented related to the Centres for monitoring and prevention of violence (VPMC). By March 2019, the number of VPMCs reached up to 79 and works are ongoing for expanding them to 81 provinces. The total number of women's shelters is 144, and they continue to provide services throughout the country.

Active Participation of Women into Decision-Making Mechanisms: It is of utmost importance for a country to reach out to its development targets by ensuring that women participate to the decision-making mechanisms at all levels in an efficient way, while generating solutions for their own problems by being an active part of the social and public life. In that framework, support policies are being designed in various countries of the world in order to ensure the adequate representation of women in the political life; and by using international conventions there are ongoing efforts to transfer some notions such as "gender equality", "affirmative action" and "special measures" into domestic legal settings. The most basic instrument in Turkey for the political participation is political parties. The increased number of women taking part in the decision making organs of the political parties such as general presidency, party assembly, management councils is very critical for increasing women's representation in the local and national politics as well as for ensuring sensitiveness for gender equality in party policies. In terms of political representation at the domestic level, since women of Turkey were allowed to be nominated as candidates in national elections in 1935 for the first time, 712 out of 12.416 lawmakers (5.7 percent) were female. In 2018 general elections, the number of women lawmakers was 104, while the rate of women participation in the parliament was 17.48 percent. (GNAT, 2018)

Our country ranks among the prominent countries in attaching importance to women's position in the social and business life, while designing its policies with a focus on gender equality. Very important legal arrangements have been made to **contribute for the gender equality, preserving, and boosting social and economic positions of women**. In that context, the following steps were taken between 2014- 2018:

- On September 10, 2014; an amendment to the social security legislation was made and the right to delivery loan was increased to 2 to 3 children. This loan aimed at counting off for premium the days when mothers could not work because of their motherhood duties within the first two years following the delivery. This right is given to the women under social security system. Thus, women who carry insurance before delivery can gain premium days for the period they cannot work by paying loan to Social Security Institution for six years in total if they have three children –in other words two years per children.
- With an amendment made to the social security legislation on September 10, 2014; the number of in vitro fertilization trials that "married couples being covered by a

general health insurance and who cannot have children through natural ways” can benefit was increased from 2 to 3 under general health insurance. In addition to this, with an amendment made on November 15, 2018; the age range of women who can benefit from that treatment was increased from 23-39 to 23-40.

- With a regulation made on March 27, 2015; “Maternity Benefit” was regulated and accordingly “Turkish citizens are entitled to a one-off maternity benefit for 300 TL for the first child being born alive, 400 TL for the second child, and 600 TL for the third and subsequent child.”
- With a regulation made on April 23, 2015; any worker whose wife gave birth is entitled for 5 days of parental leave.
- With a regulation made on February 10, 2016; the following arrangements were done regarding personal benefits of female workers and parents:
 - The periods when public officers spent as non-paid leave shall be considered in degree and rank improvements
 - With the regulation made, after the termination of maternity leave, women are allowed to work paid half-time up to 1 months for the first, up to 4 months for the second and up to 6 months for the third and subsequent children, provided that they stay alive. In case of multiple birth, one month will be added to these periods of time. In case the child is handicapped, women are entitled to work as paid and half-time for 12 months.
 - The salaries and premium payments of the workers for the periods they work will be paid by the employers.
 - The half allowance for the days off, the daily amount is the brut equivalent of the gross minimum wage and it will be paid to the worker through unemployment fund.
 - Workers can start their current non-paid maternity leaves just after the termination of their paid half-time working period.
 - Working parents are entitled to part-time working rights.
 - Until the child reaches the obligatory primary school age, the civil servant and employee parents have the part-time working right for each child. In terms of business and human resources planning in public and private sectors, each parent will benefit from this right once for each child.
 - As it is the case with the public servants, in case the employee parent dies during the delivery or just after it, the father is entitled to benefit from the remaining maternity leave rights of his deceased wife.
 - In case of child adoption, parents can benefit from these delivery-related leaves by analogy.
- With a regulation made on September 7, 2016; private nurseries and day care centres are exempt from income and corporate taxes during five taxation / accounting periods from the day they launch their operations.
- With a regulation made on March 27, 2018, provided that employer makes the payment for each child of the women employee (for each child, it is 50 percent of the minimum monthly salary, which is 1,015 TL for 2018) directly to the nurseries and day care centres which are providing these services, then this amount will be exempted from income tax.

Various projects have been implemented by public institutions, local administrations, international organizations, civil society actors and private sector in order to strengthen the status of women and girls. In the context of the projects, many activities were carried out with the support of all relevant parties in order to **realize the legal arrangements and to increase social awareness and consciousness**. Besides **projects about increasing the participation of girls into education**, projects that **support women’s employment in terms of female participation into labour force** –as a factor that is deemed critical for economic and social progress during the Tenth Development Plan period which covers the period from 2014 to 2018- have gained weight. In addition to this, very important activities were carried out under the “**zero tolerance to violence**” principle in order to eradicate violence against women and girls.

The answers being laid down under the relevant questions have explained in detail the activities that have been carried out under all topics.

3. Over the past five years, have you taken specific measures to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination? (please check relevant categories)

- Women living in remote and rural areas
- Indigenous women
- Racial, ethnic or religious minority women
- Women living with disabilities
- Women living with HIV/AIDS
- Women with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities
- Younger women
- Older women
- Migrant women
- Refugee and internally displaced women
- Women in humanitarian settings
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 3:

Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey established as national human rights and equality institution pursuant to publication of the Law on Human Rights and Equality Institution No. 6701 in the Official Gazette dated 20/04/2016 and No. 29690 is one of the most significant improvements in our country within the past 5 years regarding the fight against all types of discrimination including gender discrimination against women.

Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey is established with the aim of protecting and improving human rights by having regard to human dignity, **ensuring the right of equal treatment, operating in line with the principles of prevention of discrimination in exercising legal rights and freedoms**, fighting actively against torture and maltreatment and on this point, performs its duty as the national prevention mechanism. As stated in the justification of the Law of Establishment, the Institution operates in accordance with the Paris Principles recognized in UN General Assembly gathered on 20 December 1993 and operates in the field

of protecting and developing human rights at national level. On the other hand, within the framework of negotiation process with European Union (EU), Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey (TİHEK) has been assigned with the **duty of equality** with the intention of meeting the criteria in the Council Directive No. 2000/78/AT and Council Directive No. 2000/43/AT.

The Directorate General of Migration Management has been both established and charged with the **Law on Foreigners and International Protection** No. 6458 published in the Official Gazette on 11.04.2013 concerning the control of the foreigners entering, staying in and leaving our country and works and transactions related to international protection.

The Law No. 6458 in question comprises certain regulations regarding **unaccompanied minors and the protection of people with special needs**. In this regard, provisions of this law involve ensuring high benefit of unaccompanied minors in their works and operations, giving priority to people with special needs in their works and operations related to international protection, providing necessary treatment to the people exposed to torture, sexual assault or other serious psychological, physical or sexual violence for their damages derived from these acts. The secondary legislation put into force under the Law No. 6458 also includes certain regulations regarding the situation of people with special needs and unaccompanied minors.

In addition, within the scope of the **Regulation on Combatting Human Trafficking and Protection of Victims** entered into force on 16/03/2016 and within the prevention of human trafficking and combatting this crime, radical regulations concerning procedures and principles related to the identification procedures without exception for both foreigners or citizens, time for thinking for the foreign victims of human trafficking, conditions for the residence permit, procedures and principles related to the operation of the national commission authorised to determine policies for combatting human trafficking, rights and services for the victims, voluntary and safe return procedures, training and awareness raising activities in this context, health care services for the victims and access of the victims to the labour market.

All activities conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in rural areas are based on the principal of **“Ensuring Equal Opportunity, Increasing Entrepreneurship and Employment.”** In view of the results of **Women in Rural Areas Workshops** – 1 workshop at national level and 9 workshops at regional level- held by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and also with the contributions of public institutions and organisations, universities, professional associations and non-governmental organisations, **National Action Plan for the Empowerment of Women in Rural Areas (2012-2016)** comprising 4 strategic areas, 9 development axes, 24 measures and approximately 300 activities was prepared and implemented.

The Action Plan played a significant role in terms of providing solutions for the problems identified in National and Regional Workshops (in the areas of poverty, education, health, social security, agricultural production, entrepreneurship, organisation, employment, marketing, use and conservation of natural resources), putting these solutions into practice through short, medium and long-term targets, bringing new initiatives in agriculture sector

where half of the women in labour force are employed, empowerment of the women in rural areas and enhancing their capacities.

In 2016, with the aim of following developments in fulfilment of the objectives identified in National Action Plan, activities of 81 Provincial Directorates, public institutions and organisations, universities, non-governmental organisations, professional associations were gathered in 6-months periods, a combined report was created and implementation period for the action plan was completed. The Action Plan raised awareness about women in rural areas and provided cooperation with public institutions and organisations.

In this context, **training and extension services for women in agriculture, domestic economy, social issues** are provided, activities for supporting women to **establish cooperatives** are conducted, **women entrepreneurship** in agriculture sector is promoted and supported, projects for **providing income, increasing activity diversity and empowering women socially and economically** are conducted; trainings, programs and projects for children, young people and especially for women to conserve the family farming and provide sustainability are prepared; and strategy development studies for determining strategies to solve the problems of women are conducted.

Information regarding the **projects at provincial level conducted in 2015-2018** is as follows:

- **In Gaziantep, in 2016;** Alternative Product Stevia Growing and Industrialisation with Women Farmers Project was conducted. (Budget: 185.000TL/852.53,4 \$³)

Following production planning and the studies revealing that the climatic conditions are convenient in Gaziantep, it was aimed to grow alternative agricultural product stevia with women farmers, disseminate and create a stevia processing sector in Gaziantep.

In this scope, 43 women farmers from 2 villages in 2 different districts were trained in cultivation of medicinal aromatic plants, establishing a cooperative, entrepreneurship, leadership, branding, publicity and marketing in accordance with the module system of the Ministry of Education and 10 women farmers grew stevia in 10 decares -1 decare for each- area in total. The leaves of the stevia plants were dried in the drying kilns operating with solar energy system and used to raise awareness in the market.

As part of the project conducted with the slogan of “Women Produce, Industrialists Process”, example enterprises operating in Spain were visited with project coordinators, technical staff working in the field and 3 leading women farmers determined with scoring method to gather information about Stevia production, extracting and processing, direct sale of the leaves and marketing techniques, to observe the operations on site and contribute to industry.

³ 1\$=2.17 TL in this whole Report. (The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey Indicative Exchange Rate in 02.01.2014 at 3.30 p.m.)

- **In Şanlıurfa, in 2017;** “Silkworm Rearing with Seasonal Agricultural Women Workers Project” (Budget: 139.000TL/640.55,3 \$) was conducted.

The women earning their lives from seasonal agricultural works and under the welfare level socially and economically were supported by providing an opportunity to participate in income generating activities with the establishment of “Silkworm Feeding Areas” in their regions for silkworm rearing. The project which is a sustainable development model for small family enterprises in Şanlıurfa has a significant importance in terms of supporting silkworm rearing which plays an important role in rural development and providing a basis for increasing cocoon production and encouraging seasonal agricultural women workers to participate in production through their employment in their villages. Within this Project, 110 women were trained in the field of silkworm rearing and 31 women farmers made silkworm rearing in “Silkworm Feeding Areas” and made cocoon production.

- **In Kayseri, in 2017;** “Women Farmers Ecological Training and Production Center (KAÇEM) Project” (Budget: 150.000 TL/69.124,4 \$)

Within the scope of the Project conducted in cooperation with Provincial Directorate of National Education, KAPTAR (Cappadocia Organic Agricultural Producers Association) and Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality, a school building which is an unused public investment located in Bünyan district in Kayseri province was transformed to Women Workers Production and Training Center (KAÇEM) and in this center, trainings were organized for women producers of organic productions in the fields of organic agriculture, processing and marketing of the products and an employment area was created for women. 42 women farmers were trained in the Basic Principles of Organic Agriculture. 10 women farmers were employed in the Women Workers Production and Training Center and a small scale seed box was created to conserve local seeds in the region and transfer them to the next generations. The project will contribute to the prevention of migration from the village to the city by increasing economic source of living and living standards of the women in rural areas participating in all stages of agricultural production.

- **In Kayseri, in 2018;** “Integration of Disabled Women in Agriculture Project” (Budget: 231.000TL/106.451,6 \$) was conducted.

Integration of Disabled Women in Agriculture Project was carried out to integrate people with disabilities in production network with appropriate education by taking into account of their special requirements. The Project aimed to integrate women with disabilities in both agriculture and economy through creating high added value for their products and to support them in joining society and being employed.

80 disabled women applicants will receive a series of training that will be followed by an exam and an interview and 16 disabled women (having the medical board report which will be received from the boards in the center or 16 districts of Kayseri province and confirming that she is able to work at the ratio of 40%, herself or her husband is disabled) succeeded in the exam will be employed in the enterprise. The fruits which

will be dried and packaged by disabled women in this enterprise will be sold in school canteens, online website and vending machines to be placed in Kayseri tram stops. The project is also regarded as social responsibility project and the visibility has been increased through creating a public service announcement film and sharing it from social media accounts with /nobarriersinagriculture hashtag. As a result of the project, efforts regarding the establishment of the first cooperative by disabled women continue.

Examples of the lessons learned during the practices in question are as follows:

- Family and social pressures on women aiming to set her own business have been decreased,
- Spirit of entrepreneurship has been developed, uncovered and women have discovered their strength,
- Awareness of benefiting from national and international financial supports has been created,
- It is noted that the women in rural areas can also be successful in entrepreneurship,
- An awareness in public institutions and organisations, private sector and non-governmental organisations has been created to promote the employment of women in rural areas,
- It has been proven that if women in rural areas have equal opportunities with men in reaching necessary sources, they can also be powerful entrepreneurs and be the representatives of leaders and change for sustainable development.

“Seminars for Financial Literacy and Women's Economic Empowerment” are conducted to raise awareness of women on the points such as money management, income, expenditure, savings, assets, debt, making saving, investment, investment tools, private pension system and to give information on support and incentives for women’s economic empowerment in the coordination of Provincial Directorates of Family, Labour and Social Services and in cooperation with Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR), Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (SMIDO), Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) Women Entrepreneurs Council, Turkish Foundation for Waste Reduction (TISVA), Habitat Association. A total of 7,100 women participated in the seminars organized in 23 provinces in 2018. It is planned to extend the seminars to 81 provinces by providing trainings for the staff in Provincial Directorates to become trainers in financial literacy.

With the **‘Cooperation Protocol for Training of Women Farmers (2012-2016)’** signed between Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Union of Turkish Chambers of Agriculture, it is aimed to prevent discrimination in agriculture of women living in rural areas and engaged in farming, train these women in violence against women, individual rights and freedoms and develop cooperation between institutions. Trainings have been reached 8.600 women farmers.

“Engineer Girls of Turkey Project” is conducted with the cooperation of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, Ministry of National Education (MoNE), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Limak Foundation. The aim of the project is to support school girls who have desire for being engineers in every field and in their path to becoming leading engineers. The Project started in March 2016 is expected to be completed in 5 years.

In this framework, 111 girls are provided with scholarships in 2018-2019 academic year by private sector. In addition, for university students, internship and employment opportunities and English language education and 'Social Engineering' certificate programs are provided, various activities are organised, internship and employment opportunities are provided within the scope of mentor-mentee network and coaching services are delivered for senior students. Within the high school awareness activities which is another target of the project, a total of 21,400 people have been reached to the activities conducted for teachers, parents and students in 10 pilot cities and 50 schools in total. In 2019, activities such as providing internship and employment opportunities, English language education and 'Leadership in Engineering' certificate program will be continued within the project activities.

"Grandmother Project for Promoting Women Employment (April 2017-April 2018)" was conducted by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services to prevent retirement of women working in the labour market with the support of grandmothers looking after their grandchildren between the age of 0-3 and ensure cultural transmission by giving children the opportunity of growing with their grandmothers. In this regard, in total 6500 grandmothers - 1000 in İstanbul, İzmir, Bursa and 500 in Ankara, Kayseri, Gaziantep, Antalya, Sakarya, Konya, Tekirdağ- are paid 425 TL for 1 year.

The Ministry of Health has developed certain programs concerning prevention of gender-based discrimination and violence against women inhabitants and refugees; rehabilitation centers; basic needs of women affected from trauma and disasters and identified as disadvantaged group and how psychosocial support should be provided for them. These programs are "Prevention of Domestic Violence Against Women Programme", "Training of Midwives and Nurses Working in Migrant Health Centers for Strengthening Child and Women Mental Health Services" and "Social Traumas and Psychosocial Support for Disasters Programme".

Syrian refugee women under temporary production can equally benefit from women and reproductive health services provided for the women in reproductive age group in our country.

A memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Health and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) concerning;

- Access to reproductive health services
- Maternal and infant mortality and diseases
- HIV infection
- Unwanted or risky pregnancy
- Sexual or gender-based violence and

reducing the risks for other issues related to reproductive health is signed. Within the cooperation under the "**Memorandum of Understanding**" it is aimed in line with the Sustainable Development Targets to support all vulnerable groups including refugees in order to eliminate differences in access to reproductive health and gender equality.

Brochures including Prenatal Care, Postpartum Care, Reproductive Health Methods, Pregnant Nutrition, Sexually Transmitted Infections prepared by United Nations Population Fund

(UNFPA) in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and translated to Arabic are published and distributed.

A total of 571 Syrian health personnel working in Migrant Health Centers are trained in Reproductive Health Methods Consultancy and through trainings, it is aimed to increase awareness in women and reproductive health issues and prevent maternal and infant mortality.

688 healthcare personnel were provided with training on Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) in case of emergency and disaster.

General Directorate on Family and Community Services, which is under the auspices of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, offers psychosocial support services such as first aid, identification of psychosocial needs, one-to-one talk, psychological information for individuals, families and the society in general who have been victim of emergency and disaster cases like earthquake, flood, terror attacks, wide-scale accidents, mass immigration. During the period of February 2016-February 2018, **377.374 persons in 64.611 houses during 77 incidents benefitted from psycho-social support service.**

According to Temporary Protection Regulation, **381.939** Syrians were provided with psychosocial support services during the period **2014-2018**; while **56.236** Syrians benefitted from other service models of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services for the intention of women, children, handicapped and elder people. Accordingly, **438.175** people in total profited from the service models of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services Ministry.

In 2018, under the On-the-Job Training for Fundamental Level of Psychosocial Support in case of emergency and disaster, 93 personnel were provided with educative training on “Working with Vulnerable Groups” (Children, Women, Elderly and Disabled), while 258 personnel were provided with training on “Gender Awareness” (Discrimination, Human Rights, Gender-based Violence). In this context, the trainings have started and 951 people were trained so far.

Since 2012, General Directorate of Social Assistance under the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services conducts an assistance program for the intention of women whose husbands were deceased. Accordingly, those widowed women, who are not covered by any social security institution and who do not receive any monthly salary from them, are provided with a monthly monetary support amounting to 275 TL as long as they neediness continues. In addition to this, General Directorate also implements a **Conditional Educational Support Program** in order to expand the educational opportunities to the Syrians as well as to other foreigners. In that context, Syrians and other refugee children have been integrated into the program by May 2017.

“**The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**” was the first-ever international and binding document about the disability. It was signed by our country in March 2007, while the Optional Protocol to the Convention was signed by Turkey in February 2015, making Turkey a party to the Convention and the Protocol. With the legal amendment being brought about in 2014 (Law No: 6518), the **Law No. 5378 on the Persons with Disabilities**

became updated and domestic legislation became aligned to the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In that way, the policies and regulations in Law No. 5378 were redesigned and strengthened in line with the perspective of the Convention and the obligations deriving from it. Especially some notions like "disability-based discrimination", "direct discrimination", "indirect discrimination" and "descent regulation" have been integrated into the legislation and the pathway that will be followed by Turkey's policy on the disabled people was clearly identified.

In that context, General Directorate of Services for Disabled People and the Elderly under the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services implemented a **"Support Project for the Implementation and Monitoring Capacity of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities"** (2013-2015) in order to encourage the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to increase the monitoring capacity of that practice. The project will also ensure that all public bodies and institutions will have their awareness raised on the obligations deriving from the Convention, while indicator sets will be identified in order to be used during the monitoring phase of the implementation, and relevant data sets and data collection methodologies will be developed. At the end of the project, the indicators and relevant questions have been designed with the cooperation between public bodies, NGO's and academics. They will therefore ensure that the Convention's implementation phase will be monitored in relevant right areas in a bid to reveal to what extent the rights of the disabled people are being implemented in the eight right areas that have been determined beforehand.

On the other hand, General Directorate of Services for Disabled People and the Elderly, as the main institution that is responsible of introducing, extending and implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, has begun preparations for the **"National Strategy Document and Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities"**. Under the preparatory activities, a series of meetings are planned with the participation of stakeholder institutions and bodies. These meetings are of utmost importance in terms of meeting Turkey's obligations deriving from the Convention, informing other public bodies and institutions about the subject matter and encouraging cooperation to build a common vision and identify a roadmap.

Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR) has been providing **"Childcare Support"** for women who attend vocational training workshops and on-the-job training through active labour force programs in industry and manufacturing sectors in a bid to meet the need of the employers for qualified labour force in industry and manufacturing sectors and to increase female participation into labour force considering that women are still at a disadvantageous position in the labour force market. Accordingly, maximum 400 TL per month and just for one child between the ages 2-5 (including age 2 and 5) is provided to women trainees / participants during the period of workshops starting by April 1, 2018 to help them in sending their child to nursery / daycare centers (private or public) when they attend vocational training courses for the professions in the industrial sector and on-the-job training for the professions in the manufacturing sector.

ISKUR and General Directorate on the Status of Woman cooperated for the **"Mother at Work"** Project in 2018 in order to support women in acquiring professional skills and working experience. Mothers whose children are in the 0-15 age range (including 15) and who benefit

from a social support or social and economic assistance, **especially those who are beneficiary of the institutions under the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services that provide services in the area of fighting against domestic violence**, can benefit from the project. Mothers who adopted children can also be beneficiary of the assistance. In cities where there is already a Business Club, women will benefit from the activities of these clubs; while in cities lacking of these clubs, women will be provided with professional and business consultancy services, and then they will be guided towards professional training courses or on-the-job training programs with employment guarantee that are organized by İŞKUR. In 2018, women were paid 70 TL each for their obligatory expenses for the days they followed the program or the course, while in 2019 this amount is raised to 80 TL. The project aims at increasing female participation into the employment, decreasing unemployment and encouraging more women to have a place in the labour force market. The project, which was implemented by September 2018, reached out to 4.694 women as beneficiary throughout the year 2018. In addition to this, data regarding training on job haunting skills given under the context of business and professional consultancy services for women in the shelters are indicated below:

Years	Number of Beneficiaries
2018	684
2017	764
2016	613
2015	350
2014	400

Economic and Social Integration of Internally Displaced Persons in Van Project was implemented between 2014 and 2016. The project was co-financed by the EU and the Republic of Turkey. The beneficiaries were the Directorate General of Provincial Administration under the Ministry of the Interior and the Governorates of Van. The project aims at providing equal opportunities for the internally displaced people to the main services and increasing their socio-economic conditions and capacities and thus to improve their social and economic integration.

The project has two main components:

1. Grant Scheme
2. Capacity Development Component

1. The Grant Scheme component aimed at improving local capacity to develop and implement repeatable service provision models for integration of displaced persons into urban life and removal of them from the psychology of being displaced. In this scope,

- 67 grant beneficiary women were provided training on grant implementation (implementation, procurement, interim and final report writing, and visibility rules) by experts in **12 sessions**.
- In this line, 67 women were provided grants with an amount of minimum **€ 5.000,00**, maximum **€ 15.000,00**.
- Project monitoring experts conducted minimum 2 monitoring visits for each grant project under the scheme.
- The grant beneficiary women provided employment for approximately 100 persons including themselves.

2. Capacity Development component has two sub-components. The first sub-component included provision of vocational and supporting training for the displaced men and women. The second one included activities for increasing capacity of the public agencies and civil society which provide service for the displaced people.

A) Vocational and support training for displaced people

- In the scope of support training, **1562 women and 128 men were trained (1690 in total)**.
- In the scope of vocational training programmes, **568 women and 294 men (862 in total)** were provided training in 18 branches,
- The initial target of the project was to provide vocational and support training for **2000 people** whereas **2552 people** were provided this training at the end of the project.
- In addition, 203 placements were provided through TVET (Technical Vocational Training) internship.

Support Training:

Training	Number of Female Trainees	Number of Male Trainees	Total number of trainees
Entrepreneurship	556	35	591
Literacy	608	0	608
Computer literacy	258	0	258
Computer operating	104	54	158
Office programmes	15	16	31
Digital picture processing - Photoshop Development and Adaptation Training	21	23	44

Vocational training:

Training	Women	Men	Total
Sous Chef training	37	8	45
Bakery and presentation	53	5	58
Hair care and repair	40	5	45
Knitting	14		14
Weaving manufacturing operator	38	5	43
Disabled care	17	4	21
Patient and Elderly attendant	12	2	14
Child care staff	21	2	23
Greenhouse cultivation	73	27	100
Lockstich machinery	64	36	100
Computer aided accounting	33	24	57
Sign language	114	34	148
Service staff	14	40	54
Solar Panels and Photovoltaic system installation, Maintenance and repair		18	18
Automotive electrician		15	15
Natural Gas Interior fitting		18	18
Patient admission procedures	38	21	59
Work machinery operator		30	30

B) Activities for Public Institutions/Organisations and Non-governmental Organisations

- A study visit was conducted to Czech Republic for one week to see the best practices on the integration of the disadvantaged groups and migrants,
- 8 meetings and workshops were organised to develop expanded policies on internally displaced persons. Additional meetings and workshops were organised,
- Training sessions were organised in migrant neighbourhoods to increase awareness on public services,
- Total 554 representatives from public sector and civil society, including displaced persons attended Provincial Advisory Group (PAG) meetings,
- 226 service provider staff were trained in total,
- 55 public officials and displaced persons conducted technical study visits to Izmir and Istanbul.

Hacettepe University Women's Research and Implementation Center (HUKSAM) has been implementing "**Strengthening Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Sexual and Gender Based Violence Services for Syrian and Other Refugees thru Women and Girl Safe Spaces (WGSS)/Women Health Counselling Units**" Project in cooperation with the UNFPA and Ankara Provincial Health Directorate.

The project aims at providing safe spaces for the migrant women and girls from Syria and other countries, who have been settled in Ankara and in particular, providing health counselling on sexual health/reproductive health and gender based violence (GBV) as well as carrying out support and empowerment activities for women. The project started in March 2015. The duration of the project is expanded via annual contracts and the project will continue by the end of June 2019.

The project started on March 2015 with Ulubey Women Health Counselling Unit and the number of units was increased to 3 in February 2016. Currently, project activities are ongoing at 3 Women Health Counselling Units within the Migrant Health Centers under Ankara Public Health Directorate: **Alemdağ, Gülveren and Yenimahalle Women's Health Counselling Units.**

The main activities being implemented under the project are;

- SHRH counselling for the women and girls who consult to these units
- Psycho-social support on gender based violence
- Activities for empowering women and girls
- Providing information on service provider organisations/institutions, referring to relevant organisations and institutions when needed
- Legal counselling
- Training for service users, service providers and beneficiaries
- Various social/cultural activities
- Activities for the kids
- Practical Turkish language activities
- Distribution of hygiene kits provided by UNFPA
- Promotional activities for introducing the city and the service provider institutions (VPMC, Ankara Bar Association, etc.)

34 women are employed in the Women Health Counselling Unit under the project and 23 of them are refugees.

Qualitative and quantitative research is being carried out under the project and the results are published in English and Turkish in a book format. In this scope, “Need Analysis for Syrian Women Consulting to the Women Health Counselling Units on Reproductive Health and Gender-based Violence”, “A Qualitative Study on Evaluation of Syrian Women’s Experiences on pre and post War, Migration Process and after from a Gender Perspective” and “Cross-cultural Sensitivity and Living Together” were conducted and completed.

In addition, empowerment experiences of refugee patient guides, social workers and service users at the Women Health Counselling Units were recorded as **digital stories**. The activity was conducted on 1-2 November 2018 and is accessible through the website.

Women and Democracy Association (KADEM) carries out activities in various fields in order to carry into effect economic and social adaptation projects; to develop psychological, legal, economic, professional and social services for foreigners and Syrians under temporary protection in Turkey:

- In order to raise awareness about refugee women through carrying the problems besetting refugee women onto national and international platforms; the refugee issue was pointed out within scope of **the International Panel on Women Victims of War (10-11 November 2014)** and G20 Turkey Leaders’ Summit; and **W20 Panel on Refugee Women** was organised at the joint W20-B20 session under the auspices of First Lady Emine Erdoğan, the wife of H.E. President of Turkey to call on G20 countries to take action.
- KADEM Asylum Seeker Women Socioeconomic Research Center conducted “Economic and Social Adaptation Profile Scanning” including education, social services, working life in particular, in order to assess 5.150 asylum seeker women living in Ankara and Istanbul in economic and social adaptation activities; and identified the needs.
- In addition; **Social Adaptation Research Concerning Refugee Women and Their Families in Gaziantep** was implemented for 1.200 persons to find out the demographic, social and economic situation of the Syrian population living outside the camps in Gaziantep, and offer holistic and right-based solutions for the existing and possible problems.
- **Women on the Move Project** was run under the Civil Society Dialogue Programme and funded by EU and Republic of Turkey. The project aimed to identify the real problems female refugees face and their needs, raise awareness on the legal rights and regulations for refugees, reveal the best practices in Europe and Turkey on adaptation and overcome the misconception in the public about refugees.

Under the Project, various activities were carried out including Best Practices Workshop, the Report on Refugees and Asylum Seekers in EU and Turkey, Research, Study Visits, Trainings on Legal Rights of Refugee Women, Documentary Film ‘Separation’ and International Panel on Refugee Women.

- **Social Support Center** was established in order to establish a center to provide economic, social, legal and psychological support for Syrian asylum seeker women in Istanbul, to facilitate the adaptation process of Syrian women and their families, and carry into effect a model to be implemented in Turkey. At the Social Support Centers, Focus Group Works and Turkish Language Courses are organised and Psychological and Legal Support is provided.

Within scope of the aforementioned initiatives; there have been Turkish Language course provided for 600 asylum seeker women; psychological support for 114 asylum seeker women and legal support for 111 asylum seeker women.

On the other hand, KADEM carries out “**Job for the Future Project**” in order to create a civil society-public cooperation model to enable girls between the ages of 16-18 under the legal protection of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services to get a profession and participate in employment.

Under the Project, a volunteer team has provided psycho-social support trainings and trainings as part of rehabilitation services at the vocational workshops to ensure motivation and continuity of rehabilitation process of girls; and they have been enabled to intern in master-apprentice relationship and so adapted to social life easily. Girls who completed the trainings and left the state protection have been employed following the internship period.

Professional trainings under **the Job for the Future Project** (Tourism and Hotel Management & Graphic and Animation, Hospital Procedures & Information and Document Management, Finance Accounting & English Computer & English, Tourism & Hotel Management, Computer & Graphic and Animation, Computer Operating) were organised for three terms in Istanbul, in Elazığ and Antalya for one term and in Gaziantep for two terms.

4. Has the increasing number of humanitarian crises—caused by conflict, extreme weather or other events—affected the implementation of the BPfA in your country?

YES/**NO**

If YES, please give concrete examples of the effects of humanitarian crises on progress for women and girls in your country and of measures taken to prevent and respond to humanitarian crises in a gender-responsive manner (1 page max.).

ANSWER 4: NO

5. Which of the following does your country consider to be the top five Priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country for the coming five years through laws, policies and programmes? (please check relevant categories)

- Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice
- Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls
- Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security
- Eliminating violence against women and girls
- Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights
- Political participation and representation
- Right to work and rights at work (e.g. gender pay gap, occupational segregation, career progression)
- Women’s entrepreneurship and women’s enterprises

- Unpaid care and domestic work / work-family conciliation (e.g. paid maternity or parental leave, care services)
- Gender-responsive social protection (e.g. universal health coverage, cash transfers, pensions)
- Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, hygiene, energy, transport, communication, etc.)
- Strengthening women's participation in ensuring environmental sustainability
- Gender-responsive budgeting
- Digital and financial inclusion for women
- Gender-responsive disaster risk prevention, reduction and resilience building
- Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes
- Other

Please provide brief reflections on how you plan to address these priorities (3 – 5 pages).

ANSWER 5:

In Turkey, Development Plans, Mid-term Programme (New Economy Program), Mid-term Financial Plan and Annual Programs are important policy documents. In addition, thematic strategy papers, action plans and strategic plans are developed. All these documents entail priority policies and measures aiming to increase women's participation in economic, social and cultural life.

In the Tenth Development Plan of 2014-2018, *“to empower women in all aspects of social, economic and cultural life in the context of gender equality”* has been set as the main objective.

Main policies to be implemented within this context are as follows:

- It will be ensured that women are further involved in the decision making processes; their employment and education and skills level will be increased.
- In order to eliminate discrimination and violence against women, the level of social consciousness will be increased with formal and informal education particularly starting from the early childhood.
- Awareness will be raised about gender-responsive budgeting, and pilot implementations will be run.
- Considering regional, local and sectoral labour force dynamics, it will be continued to develop employment opportunities for all segments of society, in particular for women and young people.
- In order to retain young and dynamic demographic structure and prevent fast decline in fertility family and working life reconciliation practices, birth related leaves and rights for women will be developed; crèches will be promoted, and flexible work arrangements will be offered.
- State support for entrepreneurship and SMEs will be provided on the basis of innovation, productivity and employment, growth and collaboration, as well as giving priority to women, youth and social entrepreneurship. Monitoring and evaluation of implementation will be enhanced, and contribution of the supports to the economy will be measured by conducting impact analyses.

- In primary and secondary education, access of all children, in particular children with disabilities and girls will be ensured, and grade repetition and dropouts will be decreased.
- Eliminating children's deprivation stemming from poverty, increasing the enrolment and attendance rates of girls, increasing the participation of youth, who are neither in education nor in employment to economic and social life are targeted.

In the **New Economy Programme of 2019-2021** it is stated that *"In order to ensure the participation of youth and women in labour market, incentives will be developed to implement target group, sector and region specific active labour force programmes and to ensure their employment."*

In **2019 Programme**, main objective is set as follows: *"Strengthening social integration by strengthening women's role in social, cultural and economic life; improving the status of family unit and enhancing social welfare."*

Within this framework, main measures to be implemented are as follows:

- Projects will be implemented and training will be delivered with a view to strengthening women in economic and social life.
- In order to decrease violence against women, level of awareness in society will be increased, and efficiency and quality of services delivered will be enhanced.
- Preparatory work regarding Gender- Responsive Budgeting will be completed with the aim of achieving gender equality in public policies and in their implementation.
- Accessibility of day care nurseries and crèche services will be increased.
- In order to ensure the participation of young people, women and beneficiaries of social assistance in labour market, incentives will be developed to implement target group, sector and region specific active labour force programmes and to ensure their employment.
- A survey report will be prepared in order to meet housing needs of disadvantaged groups such as poor people, people with disabilities, senior citizens, women, students through housing projects.
- Grant will be provided to project-based investments of qualified young and female investors with the aim of promoting sustainable family farms (enterprises) in rural areas.

Compilation of measures towards empowering women set in numerous policy papers such as development plans, government programmes, and strategic plans of relevant ministries in a systematic document ensures the development of an overarching policy document and sets the main framework for monitoring of actions taken. To this end, ***"the Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment 2018-2023"*** was prepared under the coordination of General Directorate on the Status of Women of Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. Entering into force in 2018, the Plan aims at strengthening women in economic and social aspects; ensuring that they benefit from rights, opportunities and facilities on an equal basis and mainstreaming gender. *"the Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment 2018-2023"* is important in the sense that it brings all ongoing or planned actions of relevant

stakeholders towards empowering women in a single policy paper. The document will ensure collaboration and coordination among stakeholders.

“The Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women’s Empowerment 2018-2023” encompasses **5 main policy pillars** for the empowerment of women:

- **Education,**
- **Economy,**
- **Health,**
- **Participation in decision-making mechanisms,**
- **Media.**

The Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women’s Empowerment 2018-2023 is composed of two sections; namely “Strategy Paper” and “Action Plan”.

In the “**Strategy Paper**”, current situation is presented for each main pillar. The current situation provides an overview of issues such as international and national legislation, basic indicators, actions taken, key problems.

The “**Action Plan**” entails “main objective”, “targets”, “strategies” and “activities” under the strategies for each policy pillar.

The Strategy Paper sets “**Cross-cutting Policy Areas**” to be reflected to all Action Plan, to be taken into consideration in all policy pillars and to be considered while identifying main objective, target, strategy, activity and indicator. Cross-cutting Policy Areas are as follows:

- Legislative amendments,
- Existence of gender disaggregated data,
- Training on equality of opportunity for women and men,
- Monitoring and evaluation and impact assessment studies,
- Gender-responsive budgeting,
- Collaboration with local authorities,
- Collaboration with nongovernmental organisations,
- Collaboration with universities,
- Collaboration with private sector,
- Disability,
- Seniority,
- Rural women,
- Women under temporary protection/who have applied for international protection or international protection status,
- Girl children,
- Involvement of men including boy children in the empowerment of women.

These areas have been taken into consideration in all policy axes.

In the Women’s Empowerment Strategy Paper and Action Plan, “main objectives” have been identified for each of 5 main policy axes:

Education: To ensure full access and effective participation of girls and women in all levels of education.

Economy: To ensure that women participate in working life fully and effectively and that they have a voice in economic life in line with changing labour market dynamics.

Health: To ensure that women lead a healthy life by improving health services offered to women and by raising awareness of health.

Participation in Decision-Making Mechanisms: To increase women's representation at local and national level in decision-making mechanisms and to ensure their effective participation in decision-making processes.

Media: To ensure that women's representation is improved and strengthened in media and that women make effective-critical use of media.

In the Startegy Paper and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment, targets have been formulated in order to attain the main objective set under each main policy pillar; strategies have been developed to be able to reach these targets, and it has been presented briefly what will be done and which activities will be carried out by formulating activities under the strategies.

In the Action Plan,

Under the title of "Education"

Targets:

1. Literacy rate among women will be increased to 100%.
2. The net schooling rates of girls will be increased to 100% in all levels of compulsory formal education.
3. It will be ensured that equality of opportunity for women and men in education processes be monitored and the knowledge in this field will be improved.
4. Lifelong learning programs will be expanded to ensure women's economic and social empowerment.
5. Sensitivity of education process and stakeholders to gender equality will be increased.
6. The sensitivity of the education processes to women groups in need of special policy will be increased.

Strategies:

1. Facilitating women's participation in social and economic life by increasing their literacy as well as functional literacy rates,
2. Increasing enrolment, attendance and completion rates for girls and women,
3. Collecting data and conducting research on equality of opportunity for women and men in education,
4. Building the capacity of institutions to ensure equality between women and men and ensuring coordination among institutions,
5. Increasing the sensitivity and competence of all educators to/in equality between women and men,
6. Increasing the sensitivity of education programs and education materials to equality between women and men.

Under the title of "Health"

Targets:

1. Scientific research and measurements on women's health will be increased,
2. Preventive and therapeutic systems for women's health will be strengthened,
3. Health literacy level will be increased to protect and improve women's health.

Strategies:

1. Compiling current scientific studies in the field of women's health and conducting new studies,
2. Improving the quantity and quality of healthcare services targeting women.
3. Increasing awareness of health among women and promoting healthy lifestyle behaviours.

Under the title of "Economy"

Targets:

1. Considering sector strategies in National Employment Strategy of 2014-2023, women's employment in the mentioned sectors will be increased.
2. By the end of 2023, 200 thousand women will be trained in information and communication technology sectors.
3. Actions towards combating informal work among women will be increased.
4. Role of private sector in increasing full and effective participation of women in working life will be strengthened.
5. Quality and accessible care services for children, disabled and elderly will be expanded.
6. Number of women working in the capacity of employer and self-employed will be increased by supporting women entrepreneurship.

Strategies:

1. In view of the objective of further empowering women, revisiting labour market legislation and introducing the improvements required for its effective implementation.
2. Strengthening opportunities for vocational training and skills development in order to increase employment of women in the labour market.
3. Formulating economic and social policies in order to strengthen the economic position of women and combat informal work, in particular unpaid family labour.
4. Developing infrastructure for the certification of companies regarding equality of opportunity for women and men, and promoting collaboration between public and private sector.
5. Promoting women entrepreneurship and ensuring that economic position of women is strengthened especially by expanding the utilisation of information and communication technologies.
6. Increasing efforts towards participation of women requiring special policies in economic life.

(In the **National Employment Strategy of 2014-2023**, one of the key policy papers, it is aimed to increase female labour force participation rate to 41% and to reduce informal work to 30% by 2023.)

Under the title of "Participation in Decision-making Mechanisms"

Targets:

1. The representation of women in decision-making mechanisms will be increased.

2. The effectiveness of women represented in decision-making mechanisms will be increased during decision-making processes.
3. Social support will be garnered on the importance and necessity of the representation of women in decision-making mechanisms.
4. Policies will be formulated to ensure that women's groups requiring special policies participate more in decision-making mechanisms.

Strategies:

1. Monitoring women's representation in decision-making mechanisms better and introducing legislative and administrative arrangements in support of women.
2. Conducting awareness-raising activities to promote social support in order to increase women's representation in decision-making mechanisms.
3. Conducting activities which encourage and empower women with the aim of enhancing women's representation in decision-making mechanisms.

Brief information is provided below about some of the activities envisaged to be implemented under the scope of abovementioned policies and measures:

Research Project on Supporting Women Employment (2019-2020) will be undertaken by General Directorate of Labour of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. The Project is built on labour market surveys which will reveal the key obstacles to women's entry into the labour market, the reasons for not being able to enter the labour market, child care responsibilities and institutional care services need of women with children; and policy recommendations to contribute to increase women's employment will be formulated in the light of the surveys conducted. The findings will demonstrate institutional child care need as well. Policies will be developed to increase women's employment by relieving child care responsibility of women which constitutes one of the obstacles to women's entry into working life.

General Directorate of Labour of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services continues technical work of the project entitled "**Increasing the Capacity of Public Employment Policies and Supporting Women's Employment via Vocational Training (2019-2021)**".

Supporting Women Entrepreneurship via E-commerce (Women Have a Say in E-commerce!) Project (2019) has been developed through the collaboration between the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, Ministry of Trade and Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB). The Project aims at ensuring more active, productive and strong presence of women in every field of economic and commercial life, exercise of opportunities and facilities on an equal footing with men as well as increasing women employment via entrepreneurship. Through the Project, it will be ensured that women sell their products through digital sale platforms thereby gaining income and building confidence.

Under the portfolio of "Gender Equality in Working Life", **Project on Supporting Gender Sensitive Employment Policies (2019-2022)** has been developed through the collaboration of ILO and General Directorate of Employment. The Project encompasses the activities of building the capacity of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services for the formulation of gender sensitive employment policies; developing training programmes and materials so that women are employed at decent jobs and gender equality is achieved in labour market;

conducting impact assessment of amendments to labour legislation introduced recently to facilitate women employment; taking actions that will create a roadmap for the work of the Ministry related to women employment and gender equality.

“Cooperation Protocol on Strengthening Women’s Cooperatives” was signed by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Ministry of Trade on October 30, 2018. Under the scope of the Protocol, a workshop entitled **“Strengthening Women’s Cooperatives”** was organised on November 15, 2018 to discuss current situation, problems of women’s cooperatives in Turkey and possible solutions. Actions have been initiated and are ongoing through the collaboration between the Ministry of Trade and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in the light of the liabilities arising from the protocol and proceedings of the workshop.

Through the fund made available by Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), **“Project on Increasing Women’s Access to Economic Opportunities (2012-2017)”** was carried out in collaboration with the World Bank. Under the scope of the Project, profile of women entrepreneurs, problems inherent in entrepreneurship, difference in income and wage of women employed in formal and informal sectors were examined via thorough qualitative and quantitative surveys conducted pertaining to women entrepreneurship; entrepreneurship support programmes were analysed and differences between women and men were compared in terms of subjects such as credit use, investment making and account opening; characteristic features of male/female decision makers and managers in companies were identified, and analyses describing entrepreneurship processes were conducted. In addition, legislation was examined in order to determine gender based inequalities and differences in relevant legal and regulatory frameworks affecting women’s access to entrepreneurship opportunities and activities. In the light of all these reports, studies in Turkey will continue to strengthen and increase women entrepreneurship in the country.

“Seminars on Financial Literacy and Economic Empowerment of Women” are conducted through the collaboration among ISKUR, SMIDO, TOBB Women Entrepreneurs Board, TISVA and Habitat Association. The seminars are coordinated by Provincial Directorate of Family, Labour and Social Services. The seminars aim at increasing awareness of women on issues such as money management, income, expenditure, money saving, asset, debt, savings, investment, investment tools, private pension systems as well as informing women about supports and incentives towards economic empowerment of women. In total 7100 women participated in the seminars organised in 23 provinces in Turkey. It is intended to disseminate the seminars to 81 provinces by organising training of trainers for the personnel of the province directorates in 2019.

Both the 10th Development Plan and the Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women’s Empowerment 2018-2023 entail measures related to “gender responsive budgeting.”

Within this framework, **‘UN Joint Programme for Promoting the Human Rights of Women: Gender Responsive Budgeting Programme (2012-2015)’**, financed by Sabancı Foundation and with a budget of \$2,000,000, were implemented by United Nations (UN) Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UN Development Programme and Sabancı University in collaboration with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of National Education and Union of Municipalities of Turkey. In total 332

individuals were trained in training programmes implemented in 11 pilot provinces (namely Aydın, Çanakkale, Edirne, Erzincan, Eskişehir, Gaziantep, Kahramanmaraş, Kastamonu, Kayseri, Kocaeli and Ordu). A video was produced to raise awareness of gender responsive budgeting. The Guidelines for Gender Responsive Budgeting were developed for municipalities, NGOs and trainers.

In addition, Project entitled "**Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting in Turkey**" is planned to create political and bureaucratic awareness and ownership about gender responsive planning and budgeting; to develop institutional capacity related to gender responsive public policies, plans, programs and budget processes in central and local governments; to ensure sustainability and to increase monitoring capacity on gender responsive planning and budgeting studies. While the main beneficiary of the project is the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, co-beneficiaries will be Strategy and Budget Department of the Presidency and Ministry of Finance and Treasury. With a budget of 3.3 million Euros, the project is included in EU Fundamental Rights Subfield 2016 Programming. The project will be implemented through technical assistance of UN Women. The work on detailed project text is ongoing. It is aimed to launch this 3-year project in 2019.

Part-time work allowance is a very important and new practice that enables women to take care of their children without leaving working life. The allowance aims at balancing work and family life and supporting the protection of women's employment. Actions have been formulated in ISKUR Strategic Plan to roll out the practice in the course of time and to render it more effective.

2 different projects will be launched by Social Security Institution (SGK) in March 2019, to be cofinanced by the Republic of Turkey and European Union, to promote registered employment of women in child care services:

Project on Promoting Registered Employment of Women through Institutional Child Care Services: The Project aims at supporting women with small children who face the risk of exclusion or staying away from working life for some time due to child care responsibilities with institutional child care services (crèche etc.) and increasing registered employment of women.

Project on Promoting Registered Employment of Women by Supporting Trained Caregivers: The Project aims at supporting women with small children who face the risk of exclusion or staying away from working life for some time due to child care responsibilities provided that they employ trained caregivers. The project aims to increase the registered employment of women in this way.

In these projects it is not required that neither beneficiary women nor caregivers are Turkish citizens. In this respect, registered employment of foreign caregivers, quite common in the sector, will be supported as well.

Works on "**The 3rd National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women**", (details of which are presented in Answer 14) covering the period 2016-2020, are ongoing. The National Action Plan aims at preventing all forms of violence and domestic violence against women in

Turkey and formulating and implementing measures for the purposes of effective protection of victims in collaboration with all parties.

SECTION TWO: PROGRESS ACROSS THE 12 CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

This section covers progress across the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. To facilitate the analysis, the 12 critical areas of concern have been clustered into six overarching dimensions that highlight the alignment of the BPfA with the 2030 Agenda. This approach is aimed at facilitating reflections about the implementation of both frameworks in a mutually reinforcing manner to accelerate progress for all women and girls.

Critical areas of concern:

- A. Women and poverty
- F. Women and the economy
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

6. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to advance gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment?

- Strengthened / enforced laws and workplace policies and practices that prohibit discrimination in the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in the public and private sectors, and equal pay legislation
- Introduced / strengthened gender-responsive active labour market policies (e.g. education and training, skills, subsidies)
- Taken measures to prevent sexual harassment, including in the workplace
- Strengthened land rights and tenure security
- Improved financial inclusion and access to credit, including for self-employed women
- Improved access to modern technologies (incl. climate-smart technologies), infrastructure and services (incl. agricultural extension)
- Supported the transition from informal to formal work, including legal and policy measures that benefit women in informal employment
- Devised mechanisms for women's equal participation in economic decision-making bodies (e.g. in ministries of trade and finance, central banks, national economic commissions)
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 6:

Turkey is one of the countries that attribute special importance to the status of women in social and professional life and implement the policies with due diligence for better positioning of women in society and equality of opportunity for women and men. Almost all laws include provisions which protect and strengthen women's position in professional life and contribute to provide equal opportunities for women and men.

Within this scope:

Principle of equality between women and men was strengthened through amendments introduced to Articles 41 and 66 in 2001; to Articles 10 and 90 in 2004 and to Article 10 of the Constitution in 2010 in Turkey.

The Turkish Civil Code, entering into force on January 1, 2002, granted equal rights to men and women in the representation of the marriage; introduced the provision of the custody right of the spouses on the joint child; removed the obligation that spouses have to obtain the permission of the other in the choice of profession and job and introduced the “regime of participation in acquired property” which aims to protect women's labour if no regime has been established.

The Turkish Criminal Code, entering into force on June 1, 2005, includes reform arrangements to ensure the equality between women and men, and to protect the physical and sexual rights of women and children through the code. In the Turkish Criminal Code, numerous crimes where women are victims were redefined as crimes against individual rather than against society, and heavier penalties have been imposed. Furthermore, it was stipulated that the perpetrators of custom killings should be punished with the aggravated life imprisonment, the most severe penalty prescribed by the Law.

In 2014, with the amendment introduced into the Criminal Code, sexual crimes were re-considered, and a bill was adopted in order to expand the scope of sexual crimes and to increase the penalties; penalties imposed in the face of sexual assault were aggregated; major crimes were re-regulated, and their scope was expanded. In the same year, Article 122 on discrimination was re-titled as “Hatred and Discrimination”, and it was stipulated that preventing a person from utilising public goods or services or from conducting an economic activity due to hatred stemming from difference in language, race, nationality, colour, gender, disability, political thought, philosophical belief, religion or sect shall be punished with from one to three years of imprisonment.

With the amendments introduced into the Labour Act in 2003 regulating the working life, it was stipulated that there would be no distinction in terms of fundamental human rights in working life for any reason, including gender, from the establishment till the termination of the labour contract; provisions on sexual harassment and part-time work were included for the first time in the Act. In addition, significant steps were taken in the Labour Act No. 4857 through **new amendments introduced in 2011 and 2016**.

Details of relevant amendments regulating personal rights of female workers and parents are presented below:

- Provisions on paid maternity leave, prescribed as 8 weeks before delivery, 8 weeks after delivery, 16 weeks in total, are included in the Labour Act. With the regulation of 2016, it was introduced that 16 weeks of paid maternity leave shall be granted not only to women giving birth but also one of the spouses or adoptive parent in case of adoption.
- In 2016, it was stipulated that in case mother passes away during or after the delivery, post-delivery non-used period can be used by the father, and one of the spouses or adoptive parent adopting a child below the age of 3 can use 8 weeks of maternity leave starting from the date of actual delivery of the child to the family.

- Another regulation in 2016 allows parents to work half-time. Accordingly, one of the parents, after the expiry of the legal maternity leave, will be able to request half-time work and half-time compensation until the beginning of the compulsory school age of the child.
- Furthermore, with an amendment introduced in 2016, after the expiry of the legal maternity leave, female workers and female or male workers adopting a child under the age of 3, upon their request, will be able to use unpaid leave of half of weekly working time depending on the number of children (60 days in the first delivery, 120 days in the second delivery and 180 days in the third delivery).

Decision on the Procedures and Principles Regarding Treasury Support to be provided to Credit Guarantee Institutions includes provisions applying positive discrimination to support women entrepreneurs. In Treasury Supported Guarantee System, guarantee rate is maximum 90% for the beneficiaries defined as SME, and 85% for those not defined as SME. Maximum guarantee rate for credits to be granted to women entrepreneurs is 90%.

With the practice entering into force with the Law No. 6111 and still in force, positive discrimination is applied in order to provide new employment opportunities for women. It has been regulated that in case of the employment of women above 18 years, employers' share of social security contribution will be covered by Unemployment Benefit Fund for 24 to 54 months provided that some conditions are fulfilled.

It is envisaged to provide withdrawing tax, stamp tax and social security contribution support for 12 months to private sector employers creating additional employment with workers hired between the dates 1.1.2018 and 31.12.2020. This period is extended to 18 months in case of the employment of women, young people and people with disabilities. Thus, it has been made possible to support employers hiring additional female workers for a longer period.

These arrangements provide equal opportunities for women and men in working life, particularly by enabling women to adapt more easily to professional life and through the share of parents' responsibilities regarding child care and through flexible work.

In addition, concept of “**mobbing**” was introduced to Turkish legislation for the first time with the Law of Obligations No. 6098, dated 2011, and Human Rights and Equality Institution Law of Turkey, No. 6701, dated 2016 defined the concepts “mobbing at work” and “harassment” for the first time, and these concepts were considered as discrimination and forbidden accordingly. Pursuant to Article 4 of the Prime Ministry Circular No. 2011/2, psychologists offer advice and support to workers through Hotline 170 – Labour and Social Security Communication Centre with a view to strengthening the combat against mobbing in workplace. In addition, Guideline on Mobbing was developed with the aim of informing workers.

In addition to legislative regulations protecting women's place in labour market and providing access to equal opportunities for women and men in labour market, the 10th Development Plan of 2014-2018 contains “**Transformation Programme for Increasing the Efficiency of Labour Market**” which is one of the Priority Transformation Programmes. The first component of the Transformation Programme for Increasing the Efficiency of Labour Market is “**Increasing**

Female Labour Force Participation and Employment.” Within the framework of the programme where the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services has been assigned as responsible institution, the action plan developed entails 4 policies and 15 measures related to the remits of different institutions.

Besides, National Employment Strategy (2014-2023) and Action Plans (2017-2019) have been developed. The National Employment Strategy is built on four main policy axes and sectoral policies. There is a policy axis entitled **“Increasing the Employment of Groups Requiring Special Policies”** which aims at removing obstacles to labour force participation and employment of groups requiring special policies, in particular women, people with disabilities, young people and the long-term unemployed. The policy axis includes findings, targets and action plans related to the mentioned groups.

As for women, key objective of the axis is **to increase female labour force participation rate to 41% by 2023**, and its main policy is **to increase female labour force participation and employment rates and to combat informal work**. Within the scope of the strategy, efforts are made with relevant institutions and agencies in order to implement the measures to remove the barriers to women's participation in labour force and employment.

In addition to legislative regulations and policy papers protecting women’s place in labour market and providing access to equal opportunities for women and men in labour market, required works are carried out resolutely to strengthen socioeconomic position of women; to achieve equality of opportunity for women and men in social life; to increase women’s employment with the aim of attaining sustainable economic growth and social development; to provide equal pay for the work of equal value and to protect right of employed women in working life.

Accordingly;

“Active Labour Force Services” delivered by ISKUR in order to help to protect and increase employment, improve the professional qualifications of the unemployed, reduce unemployment and bring the groups requiring special policy to the labour market are of vital importance. ***Vocational training courses, on-the-job training programmes and entrepreneurship training programmes*** are conducted by ISKUR within the scope of active labour force services. ISKUR aims to ensure the participation of women in labour market and increase women’s employment through these programmes. **Women are among the main beneficiaries of active labour force programmes** run by ISKUR. In 2018, in total 498,934 individuals participated in the courses and programmes organised, and women constituted 57% (284,649 individuals) of the participants.

Active Labour Force Programmes 2018

PROGRAMME TYPE	January-December 2018			
	Program	Number of Participants		
		Men	Women	Total
VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSE	5,648	32,173	85,066	117,239

ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING COURSE	3,679	40,806	40,377	81,183
ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAMME	95,445	141,306	159,206	300,512
Total Sum	104,772	214,285	284,649	498,934

- **Vocational Training Courses:** With vocational training courses organised under active labour force programmes, qualified labour force is trained in occupations needed by labour market, and the problem of lack of vocations among the job seekers is tackled. Women stand as the main beneficiaries of vocational training courses. In 2018, courses were organised for 117,239 individuals, and women constituted around 72% (85,066 individuals) of course participants. In addition to this, in 2018 41,302 individuals participated in special courses organised towards groups requiring special policies, and around 83% (34,374 individuals) of the beneficiaries composed of women.
- **On-the-job Training Programmes:** The unemployed gain professional experience with on-the-job training programmes. Women intensively benefit from on-the-job training programmes. In 2018, 300,512 individuals participated in on-the-job training programmes, of which 53% (159,206) were women.
- **Entrepreneurship Training Programmes:** With entrepreneurship training programmes, individuals aspiring to be entrepreneurs receive entrepreneurship training, and they become entitled to apply for “New Entrepreneur Support” of SMIDO granted within the framework of a protocol signed with SMIDO. Women have the opportunity to realise their business idea through entrepreneurship training. The number of women receiving the training is increasing gradually. In 2018, 81,183 individuals participated in entrepreneurship training, and around 50% (40,377) of the participants were women.

Within the scope of “**Counselling Services**” run by ISKUR, individual counselling interviews are conducted with clients, thereby supporting them to get to know themselves, learn about occupations and vocational training programmes available, decide on a suitable job/occupation for themselves in the light of information received and develop employment action plan. Within this scope, individual interviews were conducted with 1,586,835 women in 2018, thereby over achieving the target of 1,500,000 set for 2018; thus the target was attained by 106%. The share of women among the clients of individual interviews continues to increase each year.

Year	Female Clients Interviewed	Male Clients Interviewed	Share of Female Clients Interviewed
2018	1,586,835	2092,280	43%
2017	1,251,236	1,719,828	42%
2016	1,148,882	1,652,067	41%
2015	944,278	1,426,245	40%
2014	696,241	1,158,286	38%

“**Job Clubs Project**” was introduced by ISKUR in 2017, and efforts to disseminate it are ongoing since 2018. The Job Clubs Project offers intensified Job and Vocational Counselling Service to groups requiring special policies such as women, young people, persons with disabilities, Romani citizens, the long-term unemployed, migrants and beneficiaries of unemployment

benefit. In the Job Clubs, every collaboration opportunity with relevant institutions and agencies is considered regarding the employment of young women. Currently Job Clubs are operational in 32 provinces, at 37 units.

With “**My Mother at Work Project (2018)**”, implemented through the collaboration between ISKUR and General Directorate on the Status of Women, support is given so that women gain vocational qualifications and work experience. Primarily women with children in the age group 0-15 and receiving social assistance or social or economic support and women victim of violence receiving services from women shelters affiliated with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, and all other women with children in the age group 0-15 (including 15 years of age) are defined as eligible target group of the project.

Women benefit from the services of Job Clubs where they are available, and from job and vocational counselling services where job clubs are not available; then they are referred to employment guaranteed vocational training courses or on-the-job training programmes organised by ISKUR. In 2018, TRY 70 of daily allowance was paid to women for each day of attendance so that women can meet their basic needs, and the amount was increased to TRY 80 in 2019. Objective of the project is to increase women’s employment, to reduce unemployment and to ensure that more women enter labour market. In 2018, 4,694 women benefitted from the project which was launched in September 2018.

ISKUR offers “**Child Care Support**” to women participating in vocational training courses and on-the-job training programmes via active labour force programmes in industry and manufacturing sectors in order to increase labour force participation of women who are disadvantaged at labour market and to meet qualified labour force need of employers in industry and manufacturing sectors. Accordingly, participants attending vocational training courses organised regarding industry sector related vocations and on-the-job training programmes organised regarding manufacturing sector related vocations and having children who are in the age group 2-5 (including ages 2 and 5) and attend crèche/daily care centre (public or private) are granted maximum TRY 400 per month during the course only for 1 child as of April 1, 2018.

Pursuant to sub paragraph 2 of Article 74 of Labour Act No. 4857, those subjected to the mentioned Law receive **part-time work allowance** after delivery and adoption during unpaid leave given as half of weekly work duration. Duration of the allowance is half of weekly work period stipulated by Article 63 of the Law No. 4857. Part-time work allowance is paid on a monthly basis from Unemployment Fund within two months after the month to which monthly premium and service document of the month worked belongs. Daily part-time work allowance amount after delivery and adoption is the equivalent of gross daily minimum wage.

Part-time Work Allowance*		
	The Number of Applicants	The Number of Eligible Persons
2016	4.467	4.187
2017	7.849	7.456
2018	7.734	7.202

2019*	730	637
TOTAL	20.780	19.482

*ISKUR Data of January 31, 2019

“More and Better Jobs for Women: Women’s Empowerment through Decent Work in Turkey”, implemented jointly by ISKUR and ILO in the period 2013-2016, supported women entrepreneurship, and ISKUR staff who was trained under the project delivered training to job and vocational counsellors in pilot provinces in order to raise awareness of gender.

“Painter Forewomen Project (2016-2017)” was implemented jointly by the General Directorate on the Status of Women, ISKUR and private sector. The Project aimed at equipping women with vocational knowledge and skills in different sectors and ensuring their employment. Under the project, 365 women received painting training regarding construction sector, and 266 women were granted Professional Competence Certificate.

SMIDO runs Applied Entrepreneurship Training in the field of women entrepreneurship. Around 45.5% of the participants of Entrepreneurship Training are women. “New Entrepreneur Support” is granted by SMIDO to new entrepreneurs under Entrepreneurship Support Programme. In the New Entrepreneur Support, support is 20% higher for women entrepreneurs. Around 47.5% of the beneficiaries of the support are composed of women.

“Promoting Registered Employment of Women through Home-Based Child Care Services Project” was implemented by the Social Security Institution (SGK) in the period 2015-2017 in order to increase registered employment of women in child care services where predominantly women are employed. The project was co-financed by the Republic of Turkey and European Union. The aim of the project was to facilitate the participation of women which give birth and are therefore at risk of exclusion from the labour market to labour market, access to employment or return to employment, or their stay in the labour market through childcare services at home.

By providing a financial support of € 320-416 to employed women employing baby-sitter for 26 months in 5 project provinces (Antalya, İzmir, Bursa, Ankara and İstanbul), inclusion of baby-sitters working informally in registered employment was increased by decreasing the cost of employing a baby-sitter. By using a grant of around €39 million, support was provided once directly to 11,360 mothers in total employing a baby-sitter and indirectly to 15,232 baby-sitters. Thus care of 11,360 children was supported. The increase achieved in the rate of those employed as registered at childcare services at home was well beyond the one stipulated under the scope of the project; 2.316% in Antalya, 667,87% in İzmir; 216,80% in Bursa; 365,05% in Ankara and 325,80% in İstanbul.

Numerous programmes were implemented based on **“Active Labour Market Programmes Cooperation Protocol”** concluded between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Union of Turkish Agricultural Chambers and ISKUR.

- **Programme for Strengthening Women Entrepreneurship in Agriculture*:** “Programme for Strengthening Women Entrepreneurship in Agriculture” was initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in 2014 under “Women Farmers

Agricultural Extension Project” with the aim of promoting and supporting women entrepreneurship in rural areas and improving investment opportunities, implementing feasible entrepreneur women farmers projects and increasing women entrepreneurship in rural areas. By the end of 2018, activities were implemented towards young women living in rural areas in 63 provinces and mainly engaged in agriculture. It is planned to complete the programme in all provinces in 2019 (total budget allocated for training and programme activities between 2014- 2018 was 3,840,000 TL /\$1,769,585).

- **Agrarian Population Gets Younger Project***: In rural areas, especially unemployed people who are at least primary school graduates, between 15 and 40 years old, in agricultural production and on a voluntary basis are trained. The project aims at attracting young population to agriculture; training people who are able to comply with the requirements of modern production; preventing migration from rural areas; providing professional training to young farmers engaged in agriculture; positioning young farmers as model farmers in their environment; ensuring that young people follow and implement agricultural innovations; creating networks between sectoral stakeholders and young people in areas where training is delivered and taking initiatives so that trained farmers contact agriculture based industrial plants engaged in production, processing, packaging, marketing etc. for the purposes of cooperation and marketing. Within this scope, in total **30,860 women farmers** were trained between 2014-2018 under the scope of the project.
- **Herd Manager Project***: Individuals who currently work as herd managers or who are qualified to carry out herd management activities, have the qualifications to be covered by the social security, who are illiterate or have at least a primary school degree, who are physically fit and interested in and need the subjects of training and who keep small cattle receive training under the scope of the project. The project aimed at delivering a valid certificate to individuals who currently work as herd managers or who are qualified to carry out herd management activities by the end of the training, giving them priority in some programmes and projects and supporting the enterprises employing the people who have received this training in animal husbandry support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Within this scope, in total 12,992 women farmers were trained between 2014-2018 (*daily allowance of all participants receiving training was provided by ISKUR.)

7. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and promote work-family conciliation?

- Included unpaid care and domestic work in national statistics and accounting (e.g. time-use surveys, valuation exercises, satellite accounts)
- Expanded childcare services or made existing services more affordable
- Expanded support for frail elderly persons and others needing intense forms of care
- Introduced or strengthened maternity/paternity/parental leave or other types of family leave
- Invested in time- and labour-saving infrastructure, such as public transport, electricity, water and sanitation, to reduce the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women
- Promoted decent work for paid care workers, including migrant workers

- Conducted campaigns or awareness raising activities to encourage the participation of men and boys in unpaid care and domestic work
- Introduced legal changes regarding the division of marital assets or pension entitlements after divorce that acknowledge women's unpaid contribution to the family during marriage
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3.

ANSWER 7:

According to Official Statistics Programme, institution in charge of **Time Use Survey** is Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat). It is planned to conduct time use survey every 10 years. Time Use Survey is conducted to show how individuals use their time in various day-to-day activities. Within this scope, Time Use Survey was conducted for the first time in 2006, and the second survey was conducted in the period 2014-2015.

According to the results of survey conducted in the period 2014-2015, when "**average activity time per person by type of activity and sex**" is examined, it is seen that after sleep, most time is allocated for eating and other personal care activities with 2 hours 45 minutes. These activities are followed by household and family care and employment activities with 2 hours 35 minutes and 2 hours 33 minutes respectively. When time used for household and family care is examined by sex, it is seen that while men allocate 51 minutes for household and family care, women allocate 4 hours 17 minutes (see Annex 1: "Average activity time per person by type of activity and sex, 2014-2015").

In order to see how much time individuals allocate per day to which activity by variables such as age, sex, level of education, income, employment status according to the results of the survey implemented in the period 2014-2015, please refer to attached excel sheet entitled "Average activity time per person by type of activity and sex, 2014-2015". The survey of 2006 covered the individuals aged 15 years and above while the survey of 2014-2015 covered the individuals aged 10 years and above.

While unpaid care and household chores are covered by national statistics they are not included in national calculations.

The Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, General Directorate of Services for Persons with Disabilities and Elderly People delivers services to dependant elderly and other individuals in need of care.

Care Services for People with Disabilities

- Care and care support services for persons with severe disabilities who cannot survive on their own are carried out effectively since 2005. In 2005, all persons with disabilities who were in need of care were included in the Social Services Law No. 2828 for the first time, and it was ensured that **cost of care services delivered at home or private care centres is covered**.
- In 2014, in the calculation of income criterion in households where there are more than one dependant person with disability, the Law No. 6518 introduced following

provision: “after one dependant person with disability in the household, each dependant person with disability shall be calculated as two persons.”

- In 2006, a **home care pension** was introduced to enable people with disabilities and senior citizens to live happily and peacefully with their families. Compared to 2007, the number of people with disabilities benefiting from this service increased by 15 times, and the budget earmarked for the service increased by 95 times. As of February 2019; 506,927 people with disabilities benefit from home care support.
- Care services for people with disabilities who cannot be taken care of in their families are delivered by institutions affiliated with the Ministry or by the institutions inspected by the Ministry. Care services for people with disabilities are delivered by **Care and Rehabilitation Centres and Private Care Centres** across the country. Within this scope, in 2002 while services were delivered to 1843 people with disabilities in 21 Care and Rehabilitation Centres, in total 7380 people with disabilities receive services in care, rehabilitation and home houses. As of February 2019, 18,215 people with disabilities benefit from live-in care in 210 Private Care Centres.

Elderly Care Services

- Within the scope of services delivered to the elderly who experience social and economic deprivation; actions are taken to ensure that **elderly residential houses, elderly care and rehabilitation centres, elderly houses and elderly service centres** are established considering their well-balanced distribution across the country; based on needs, measures are taken to protect the elderly in the society and service standards are set for elderly centres to be opened by public institutions, real persons and private legal entities.
- In order to deliver better services to increasing aging population, services are diversified through institutional care centres and day care centres and through practices such as home care and social service support.
- Services are delivered to the elderly at elderly residential houses and elderly care and rehabilitation centres which are institutional care models. As of February 2019, 26,490 old persons receive services at 395 Elderly Residential Houses and Elderly Care and Rehabilitation Centres, of which 146 are affiliated with the Ministry and 249 belong to other institutions and private sector.
- 151 old persons stay together at 41 Elderly Houses, a new human-centered service model, and they have the opportunity to participate in social life actively (February 2019).
- Home care fee, almost equivalent of minimum wage, is provided to the elderly who are dependent and disabled and who do not demand institutional care. As of 2018, 159,705 individuals benefit from home care services targeting the individuals aged 60 and over.
- In 2016, the Elderly Support Program (YADES) was launched, which facilitates the lives of elderly people over 65 years of age in their own home environment, with home care and social work practices.

Social Assistance

- With the Law No. 2022, people with disabilities and elderly people over 65 years of age receive allowance. In 2017, 1.3 million disabled and senior citizens received a support

of 5 billion 282 million Turkish Lira (\$2,434,101,382.5). Since 2012, 28 billion 870 million Turkish Lira (\$13,304,147,465.4) was allocated.

- In order to give support so that gravely disabled individuals can be taken care of in their family, 4.92 billion Turkish Lira (\$2,267,281,106) was provided to 513 thousand gravely disabled individuals as of 2018. Since 2007, total resource used for this support programme is 27 billion 730 million Turkish Lira (\$12,778,801,843.3).

Important legislative regulations were made with the aim of facilitating employees', in particular women's adaptation to professional life, parents' sharing child care responsibilities and providing equal opportunities to women and men at professional life by enabling flexible work. Within this scope:

- With an amendment introduced to Labour Act on April 23, 2015, the employee has been granted the **right to paternity leave for 5 days**.
- On February 10, 2016, below mentioned regulations were made pertaining to **personal rights of women employees and parents**.
 - The time spent by civil servants for unpaid leave due to delivery will be recognised during progress in grade.
 - With the regulation made, it became possible to work part-time in return for wage for 2 months for the first child, 4 months for the second child and up to 6 months for the third child and others after the expiry of maternity leave provided that the child survives. In case of multiple delivery, one month will be added to these periods. If the child is disabled, it is possible work half-time in return for wage for 12 months.
 - Wage and premium payment of workers will be paid by employers for the period worked.
 - As for half-time work allowance for non-worked periods; the daily amount is the gross amount of the daily minimum wage and will be paid from the unemployment fund to the worker.
 - Workers will be able to start using their available unpaid maternity leave upon the completion of paid part-time work period.
 - Part-time work rights of the working parents have been regulated.
 - Civil servant and worker parents have been granted the right to work part-time for each child until the beginning of the compulsory school age of the child. In view of work and human resources planning in public and private sector, one of the parents can use this right once for each child.
 - In case of death of the worker mother at birth or after the birth, as in the civil servants, the father is allowed to exercise the rights of the remaining maternity leave.
 - In case of adoption, it was made possible to benefit from delivery born leaves.

On 10/09/2014, **legislative regulations were made pertaining to domestic workers**. With a regulation made (Law No. 5510, Additional Article 9) concerning domestic workers such as child, sick or elderly care and cleaning or gardening, majority of which are composed of local or migrant women, domestic workers have been included under the coverage of social security.

In this context, if individuals work in domestic services for 10 days or more in a month, they will benefit from all social insurance branches, such as those under other service contracts, and they benefit from disability, old age, death, sickness, maternity and occupational accident and occupational disease insurances and universal health insurance. All premiums of these people are covered by employers compulsorily. As of March 2019, around 46,000 women work under this scope.

If individuals work at domestic services for less than 10 days in a month they benefit from occupational accident and occupational disease insurance. Occupational accident and occupational disease premiums of these individuals are covered by employers compulsorily, and they can benefit from other insurance branches voluntarily provided that they pay the premiums themselves. As of March 2019, around 6000 women work under this scope.

In addition, there are “**easy employer practices**” for employers in order to effectively include employees in the social security system. These employers register employees and pay their premiums via internet or SMS. Again these employers are exempted from various bureaucratic rules applicable to other employers.

“**Promoting Registered Employment of Women through Home-Based Child Care Services Project**” was implemented by the Social Security Institution (SGK) in the period 2015-2017 in order to increase registered employment of women in child care services where predominantly women are employed. The project was co-financed by the Republic of Turkey and European Union. The aim of the project was to facilitate the participation of women which give birth and are therefore at risk of exclusion from the labour market to labour market, access to employment or return to employment, or their stay in the labour market through childcare services at home.

By providing a financial support of € 320-416 to employed women employing baby-sitter for 26 months in 5 project provinces (Antalya, İzmir, Bursa, Ankara and İstanbul), inclusion of baby-sitters working informally in registered employment was increased by decreasing the cost of employing a baby-sitter. By using a grant of around €39 million, support was provided once directly to 11,360 mothers in total employing a baby-sitter and indirectly to 15,232 baby-sitters. Thus care of 11,360 children was supported. The increase achieved in the rate of those employed as registered at childcare services at home was well beyond the one stipulated under the scope of the project; 2.316% in Antalya, 667,87% in İzmir; 216,80% in Bursa; 365,05% in Ankara and 325,80% in İstanbul.

8. Has your country introduced austerity/fiscal consolidation measures, such as cuts in public expenditure or public sector downsizing, over the past five years?

YES/NO

If YES, have assessments on their impact on women and men, respectively, been conducted?

Yes, their impact on women/men was estimated before measures were put in place.

Yes, the impact was assessed after measures were put in place.

No, the impact on women/men has not been assessed.

If YES, please describe the findings (1-2 pages).

ANSWER 8: YES

Poverty eradication, social protection and social services

Critical areas of concern:

- A. Women and poverty
- B. Education and training of women
- C. Women and health
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

9. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls?

- Promoted poor women's access to decent work through active labour market policies (e.g. job training, skills, employment subsidies, etc.) and targeted measures
- Broadened access to land, housing, finance, technology and/or agricultural extension services
- Supported women's entrepreneurship and business development activities
- Introduced or strengthened social protection programmes for women and girls (e.g. cash transfers for women with children, public works/employment guarantee schemes for women of working-age, pensions for older women)
- Introduced/strengthened low-cost legal services for women living in poverty
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 9:

In the 10th Development Plan, constituting main policy paper of Turkey, increasing participation in economic and social life by facilitating access to opportunities for those who are at risk of poverty and social exclusion; increasing their quality of life; improving income distribution and mitigating poverty are listed among main objectives. In addition, in general it is aimed to reduce absolute poverty to negligible levels and to put the focus on relative poverty, as it is the case in developed countries, during the implementation period of the Plan. It is envisaged to further strengthen equality of opportunity in access to basic public services in order to prevent the intergenerational transmission of poverty; to increase the participation of civil society and to strengthen the role of local authorities in the fight against poverty. Furthermore, it is aimed to increase labour force participation and employment rates of women, among the groups most adversely affected from poverty, to 34.9% and 31% respectively during the implementation period of the Plan. Indeed, it is vital that policies towards combating women's poverty are linked to women's employment.

Within this scope:

"Active Labour Force Services" delivered by ISKUR in order to help to protect and increase employment, improve the professional qualifications of the unemployed, reduce unemployment and bring the groups requiring special policy to the labour market are of vital importance. **Vocational training courses, on-the-job training programmes and entrepreneurship training programmes** are conducted by ISKUR within the scope of active labour force services. ISKUR aims to ensure the participation of women in labour market and

increase women’s employment through these programmes. **Women are among the main beneficiaries of active labour force programmes** run by ISKUR. In 2018, in total 498,934 individuals participated in the courses and programmes organised, and women constituted 57% (284,649 individuals) of the participants.

Active Labour Force Programmes 2018

PROGRAMME TYPE	January-December 2018			
	Program	Number of Participants		
		Men	Women	Total
VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSE	5,648	32,173	85,066	117,239
ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING COURSE	3,679	40,806	40,377	81,183
ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAMME	95,445	141,306	159,206	300,512
Total Sum	104,772	214,285	284,649	498,934

- **Vocational Training Courses:** With vocational training courses organised under active labour force programmes, qualified labour force is trained in occupations needed by labour market, and the problem of lack of vocations among the job seekers is tackled. Women stand as the main beneficiaries of vocational training courses. In 2018, courses were organised for 117,239 individuals, and women constituted around 72% (85,066 individuals) of course participants. In addition to this, in 2018 41,302 individuals participated in special courses organised towards groups requiring special policies, and around 83% (34,374 individuals) of the beneficiaries composed of women.
- **On-the-job Training Programmes:** The unemployed gain professional experience with on-the-job training programmes. Women intensively benefit from on-the-job training programmes. In 2018, 300,512 individuals participated in on-the-job training programmes, of which 53% (159,206) were women.
- **Entrepreneurship Training Programmes:** With entrepreneurship training programmes, individuals aspiring to be entrepreneurs receive entrepreneurship training, and they become entitled to apply for “New Entrepreneur Support” of SMIDO granted within the framework of a protocol signed with SMIDO. Women have the opportunity to realise their business idea through entrepreneurship training. The number of women receiving the training is increasing gradually. In 2018, 81,183 individuals participated in entrepreneurship training, and around 50% (40,377) of the participants were women.

With “**Mother at Work Project (2018)**”, implemented through the collaboration between ISKUR and General Directorate on the Status of Women, support is given so that women gain vocational qualifications and work experience. Primarily women with children in the age group 0-15 and receiving social assistance or social or economic support and women victim of violence receiving services from women shelters affiliated with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, and all other women with children in the age group 0-15 (including 15 years of age) are defined as eligible target group of the project.

Women benefit from the services of Job Clubs where they are available, and from job and vocational counselling services where job clubs are not available; then they are referred to employment guaranteed vocational training courses or on-the-job training programmes organised by ISKUR. In 2018, 70 TL of daily allowance was paid to women for each day of attendance so that women can meet their basic needs, and the amount was increased to 80 TL in 2019. Objective of the project is to increase women's employment, to reduce unemployment and to ensure that more women enter labour market. In 2018, 4,694 women benefitted from the project which was launched in September 2018.

ISKUR offers "**Child Care Support**" to women participating in vocational training courses and on-the-job training programmes via active labour force programmes in industry and manufacturing sectors in order to increase labour force participation of women who are disadvantaged at labour market and to meet qualified labour force need of employers in industry and manufacturing sectors. Accordingly, participants attending vocational training courses organised regarding industry sector related vocations and on-the-job training programmes organised regarding manufacturing sector related vocations and having children who are in the age group 2-5 (including ages 2 and 5) and attend crèche/daily care centre (public or private) are granted maximum TRY 400 per month during the course only for 1 child as of April 1, 2018.

"More and Better Jobs for Women: Women's Empowerment through Decent Work in Turkey", implemented jointly by ISKUR and ILO in the period 2013-2016, supported women entrepreneurship, and ISKUR staff who was trained under the project delivered training to job and vocational counsellors in pilot provinces in order to raise awareness of gender.

Finance and Consultancy Support to Women's Enterprises Programme was implemented jointly by ISKUR and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development between 2014-2017. The aim of the Programme is to create new employment areas by supporting sustainable growth of SMEs belonging to or managed by women. The fund allocated by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development was put at the disposal of SMEs belonging to or managed by women as a loan under the scope of the Programme. Furthermore, consultancy, mentoring services and business administration skills training were delivered.

"Painter Forewomen Project (2016-2017)" was implemented jointly by the General Directorate on the Status of Women, ISKUR and private sector. The Project aimed at equipping women with vocational knowledge and skills in different sectors and ensuring their employment. Under the project, 365 women received painting training regarding construction sector, and 266 women were granted Professional Competence Certificate.

Grant scheme entitled "**Promoting Social Integration and Employability of Disadvantaged Individuals Project**" was implemented by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, General Directorate of Labour. The project aimed at integrating individuals requiring special policies into labour market and combating all forms of discrimination in labour market. Target group of the project composed of women victim of violence, drug addicts and other disadvantaged individuals (other groups subjected to discrimination in labour market and

facing widespread prejudice etc.). In addition to women victims of violence, “women” are included in all target groups as a sub category requiring due care.

Promoting Gender Equality in Working Life Project was implemented by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, General Directorate of Labour. Project’s objective was to align Turkish legislation with EU gender equality requirements, to improve the capacity of institutions responsible for their implementation and to increase sensitivity of general public regarding the issue. The most important output of the project is **Gender Equality at Working Life Award** which was given annually to enterprises selected in accordance with the criteria set by the Ministry between 2012- 2017 with the aim of achieving gender equality at enterprises active in Turkey. The award aimed at raising awareness of gender equality and working life in Turkey and drawing more attention to the topic of gender equality.

Programme for Strengthening Women Entrepreneurship in Agriculture was initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in 2014 under “Women Farmers Agricultural Extension Project” with the aim of promoting and supporting women entrepreneurship in rural areas and improving investment opportunities, implementing feasible entrepreneur women farmers’ projects and increasing women entrepreneurship in rural areas. By the end of 2018, activities were implemented towards young women living in rural areas in 63 provinces and mainly engaged in agriculture.

Applied entrepreneurship training under the scope of the programme is delivered based on “Active Labour Market Programmes Cooperation Protocol” signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Union of Agricultural Chambers of Turkey and ISKUR. In 2017, 32 hours of Entrepreneurship Training was delivered to women in 16 provinces. The training was completed, and 1210 women received entrepreneurship training. In 2018, 1656 women benefitted from entrepreneurship training under the scope of the project. In the period 2014-2018, 4211 women farmers received entrepreneurship training in 63 provinces, and developed a project based on a business idea. The women receiving training developed projects pertaining to agriculture and animal husbandry, and participated in contests organised at province level.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry implemented **numerous projects on provincial basis** targeting women farmers in rural areas. Accordingly;

- In 2017, Elazığ Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry implemented “**Female Ostlers Growing in the Rural**” Project. Total budget of the project was 85,000 TL (\$391,70.5). The project aimed to increase the number of women entrepreneurs, to develop new business lines for women, to increase the employment of women in rural areas, to increase labour productivity, to ensure that women contribute to the family economy, to bring women into the registered economy and especially to train licenced female stableboys.

Jockey Club of Turkey, ISKUR (Active Labour Market Programmes Cooperation Protocol), Directorate of Adult Education and Firat University cooperated under the scope of the project. In line with the regulation, 42 stableboy candidates received 360 hours of Licenced Stableboy Training Modular Training and 280 hours of certified Horse Breeding Course supported by ISKUR. In addition, 15 women received training on horse breeding and feeding, horse riding, physical education, appearance information at

Istanbul Veli Efendi Racetrack Ekrem Kurt Apranti Training Centre with the collaboration and support of Jockey Club of Turkey. Graduation ceremony was organised for 36 women, and in total 15 women stableboys were employed; namely 9 in Istanbul, 1 in Ankara, 5 in Elazığ. “Female Ostlers Growing in the Ruralin Rural Areas” Project was disseminated to 8 provinces which have a racetrack (Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Diyarbakır, İstanbul, İzmir, Kocaeli, Şanlıurfa) after Elazığ, and 110 women completed the training successfully and were entitled to “ostler licence” by passing the exams required to get the licence. A new ground was broken in Turkey by training licenced women stableboys in rural areas, and employment was created for 48 female stableboys.

- A project is implemented through a protocol signed among the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Turkish Tractor and Farm Machinery Incorporated Company, Buckwheat Producers, Healthy Life Association and Ankara University Development Studies Application and Research Centre. The project is implemented in Bilecik, and it aims at expanding the production of “buckwheat”, an important product for celiac patients; creating product diversity for patients; increasing the added value of the product; raising sensitivity concerning the issue and contributing to the processing of the product and its introduction to the market. Under the scope of the project, 25 women farmers and their families to make production were identified, and buckwheat was grown on 300 decare of land. Training on 10 different topics including Buckwheat Growing, Cooperatives, Entrepreneurship, Use of Local Products in Rural Development, Beekeeping, Compost and Vermicompost, Non-toxic Pesticides, Good Agricultural and Organic Agriculture, Gender Equality was delivered. “Göflanoz Women Entrepreneur Cooperative” where women constitute the majority of partners was established.

In Turkey, women's cooperatives work was initiated by women entrepreneurs in the early 2000s in order to bring women's labour into the economy; to develop, protect and support women's social and cultural activities and to ensure that women live in a healthy and developed environment. Women's cooperatives, especially those established by women who have no regular income and social security, are of great importance in creating employment and fighting poverty. For this reason, **Women Cooperatives Promotion and Capacity Development Project** (KADIN-KOOP), conducted since 2012, guides women entrepreneurs, introduces model cooperative practices, delivers training on cooperative legislation. Joint activities are organised for women entrepreneurs through projects implemented jointly with various national and international organisations. Furthermore, the Ministry of Trade continues training and promotion activities in accordance with the demands of women entrepreneurs, and legal advice and assistance is provided to women entrepreneurs.

“**Project on Increasing Women’s Access to Economic Opportunities**” is among the recent work on women's cooperatives. The project was implemented by Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency is to provide women with access to economic opportunities through the World Bank and to increase women's access to employment opportunities in more and better conditions. Under the scope of the project, 5 videos on good cooperative practices and points to be considered while establishing a cooperative, 1 public service announcement, 4 books on “Women’s Cooperatives”, “Entrepreneurship”, “Marketing” and “Accounting” and 5 brochures on “General Meetings”, “Establishment

Procedures”, “Rights and Responsibilities of Partners”, “Account Books” and “Management and Inspection Boards” were published.

In addition, **Women and Young Entrepreneurs Department was set up within General Directorate of Export of the Ministry of Trade** to enable women entrepreneurs to benefit more from state support, to identify their new needs within the scope of these supports, to identify the sectors where they can gain competitive advantage, to increase their competitiveness at international level and the share they get from e-export and to train women entrepreneurs for this purpose.

“Cooperation Protocol on Strengthening Women’s Cooperatives” was signed by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Ministry of Trade on October 30, 2018. Under the scope of the Protocol, a workshop entitled **“Strengthening Women’s Cooperatives”** was organised on November 15, 2018 to discuss current situation, problems of women’s cooperatives in Turkey and possible solutions. Actions have been initiated and are ongoing through the collaboration between the Ministry of Trade and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in the light of the liabilities arising from the protocol and proceedings of the workshop.

Within the scope of social protection programmes targeting women and girls, General Directorate of Social Assistance of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services undertakes following activities:

- **Conditional Education and Health Assistance Programme** is run.
- As of 15/05/2015, 300 TL of **maternity benefit** for the first child, 400 TL for the second child and 600 TL for the third and other children is provided to Turkish citizens and holders of blue card for each child born alive.
- **Assistance programme for widows** was initiated in 2012. The women whose husbands passed away, not subjected to any social security institution and not receiving any salary and income from these institutions, who have been identified to be in need receive 275 TL in-cash assistance per month as long as they continue to be in need.
- **Assistance Programme for Soldier Families in Need** was launched in 2013. The programme aims at supporting families of soldiers who serve their military service in case the family does not have social security and is in need. Within this scope, if the person serving military service is married and the spouse does not have social security, the spouse herself; if the soldier is single and parents do not have social security the mother, if she is alive, and if she is not alive, the father benefits from the programme in reference to the decision that the family is in need. Within this scope, 275 TL of assistance is provided per month.
- Households in need where monthly income per person is less than 1/3 of minimum wage in the household can benefit from **multiple delivery assistance** launched in 2019. 150 TL /per month is paid every two months for each child (two and more) in the age group 0-24 months as a result of multiple birth and who is alive.

With the amendment to the Social Security Law dated 10/09/2014, the coverage of maternity debt entitled to insurant women and in order to count the off-times due to childcare as the

premium days for the subsequent two years following the delivery was extended to three children, which had been valid for two children previously. Accordingly, mothers with 3 children whose social security registration started before the delivery can gain premium days for the period they have not worked by paying to Social Security Institution in total for 6 years, namely 2 years for each child.

10. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve access to social protection for women and girls?

- Introduced or strengthened social protection for unemployed women (e.g. unemployment benefits, public works programmes, social assistance)
- Introduced or strengthened conditional cash transfers
- Introduced or strengthened unconditional cash transfers
- Introduced or strengthened non-contributory social pensions
- Reformed contributory social protection schemes to strengthen women's access and benefit levels
- Improved access to the above for specific populations (e.g. women in informal employment, including domestic workers; migrant and refugee women; women in humanitarian settings)
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 10:

Conditional Educational and Health Assistance Programme is delivered provided that families in need send their school age children to school regularly; they have regular health checks for their children in the age group 0-6, and prospective mothers have regular health checks and deliver at hospital.

In addition to health support provided by **General Directorate of Social Assistance** of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, Conditional Health Assistance is provided in order to create a social security network with the aim of ensuring that families in the neediest segment of the society have full access to basic health services. Within the framework of the protocol concluded with the Ministry of Health, **Conditional Health Assistance Pregnancy Assistance** is provided only once to pregnant women in the most needy segment of the society. Within this scope, in case the delivery takes place at hospital 75 TL is provided only once; in case regular health checks are performed; 35 TL per month before the delivery, and 35 TL per month for two months after the delivery is provided. In addition, regular cash assistance is provided to poor families provided that families have regular health checks for their children who are below compulsory school age. **The payment is made to bank accounts opened in the name of mother.** It is aimed that mothers meet care and health needs of their children and also to increase women's status within the family and society with this money which is put into mothers' service.

With **Conditional Educational Assistance**, unconditional education assistance is provided in order to create a social assistance network with the aim of ensuring that children of families in the neediest segment of the society have full access to basic education services across the

country. Amount of assistance provided to girl children and students of secondary education is higher in order to increase schooling rate of girl children and transition rate from primary to secondary school. Payments are made to mothers. 40 TL for girl children and 35 TL for boys continuing primary education, and 60 TL for girl children and 50 TL for boys continuing secondary education are provided per month.

Within the scope of expanding Conditional Educational Assistance Programme to Syrians and other foreigners, Syrians and other refugee children were included in the programme **as well as of May 2017**.

ISKUR organises **Social Utility Programmes** in the periods or places where unemployment is high either by directly or via contractors to integrate difficult-to-employ unemployed into labour market and to provide temporary income support to them so that they are not drift away from working habits and discipline by means of making them perform a job or service for public benefit. Women, individuals above the age of 35, people with disabilities, ex-convicts, those injured slightly in anti-terrorism activities have been identified as priority groups of the programme. Participants receive minimum wage (2,020.90 TL /\$931.3); and tax and social security premiums (1,113.14 TL /\$513) are paid for the participants. The programme covers following activities: environmental cleaning, renewal of public infrastructure, environmental planning at schools affiliated with the Ministry of National Education, repair, maintenance and cleaning at schools affiliated with the Ministry of National Education, restoration, protection of historical and cultural heritage, afforestation, cleaning and maintenance of parks, valley and river rehabilitation, prevention of erosion.

On 10/09/2014, **legislative regulations were made pertaining to domestic workers**. With a regulation made (Law No. 5510, Additional Article 9) concerning domestic workers such as child, sick or elderly care and cleaning or gardening, majority of which are composed of local or migrant women, domestic workers have been included under the coverage of social security.

In this context, if individuals work in domestic services for 10 days or more in a month, they will benefit from all social insurance branches, such as those under other service contracts, and they benefit from disability, old age, death, sickness, maternity and occupational accident and occupational disease insurances and universal health insurance. All premiums of these people are covered by employers compulsorily. As of March 2019, around 46,000 women work under this scope.

If individuals work at domestic services for less than 10 days in a month they benefit from occupational accident and occupational disease insurance. Occupational accident and occupational disease premiums of these individuals are covered by employers compulsorily, and they can benefit from other insurance branches voluntarily provided that they pay the premiums themselves. As of March 2019, around 6000 women work under this scope.

In addition, there are “**easy employer practices**” for employers in order to effectively include employees in the social security system. These employers register employees and pay their premiums via internet or SMS. Again these employers are exempted from various bureaucratic rules applicable to other employers.

With the amendment to the Social Security Law dated 10/09/2014, the coverage of maternity debt entitled to insurant women and in order to count the off-times due to childcare as premium days for the subsequent two years following the delivery was extended to three children, which had been valid for two children previously. Accordingly, mothers with 3 children whose social security registration started before the delivery can gain premium days for the period they have not worked by paying to Social Security Institution in total for 6 years, namely 2 years for each child.

“Promoting Registered Employment of Women through Home-Based Child Care Services Project” was implemented by the Social Security Institution (SGK) in the period 2015-2017 in order to increase registered employment of women in child care services where predominantly women are employed. The project was co-financed by the Republic of Turkey and European Union. The aim of the project was to facilitate the participation of women which give birth and are therefore at risk of exclusion from the labour market to labour market, access to employment or return to employment, or their stay in the labour market through childcare services at home.

By providing a financial support of € 320-416 to employed women employing baby-sitter for 26 months in 5 project provinces (Antalya, İzmir, Bursa, Ankara and İstanbul), inclusion of baby-sitters working informally in registered employment was increased by decreasing the cost of employing a baby-sitter. By using a grant of around €39 million, support was provided once directly to 11,360 mothers in total employing a baby-sitter and indirectly to 15,232 baby-sitters. Thus care of 11,360 children was supported. The increase achieved in the rate of those employed as registered at childcare services at home was well beyond the one stipulated under the scope of the project; 2.316% in Antalya, 667,87% in İzmir; 216,80% in Bursa; 365,05% in Ankara and 325,80% in İstanbul.

11. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve health outcomes for women and girls in your country?

- Promoted women’s access to health services through expansion of universal health coverage or public health services
- Expanded specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental, maternal health and HIV services
- Undertaken gender-specific public awareness/health promotion campaigns
- Provided gender-responsiveness training for health service providers
- Strengthened comprehensive sexuality education in schools or through community programmes
- Provided refugee women and girls as well as women and girls in humanitarian settings with access to sexual and reproductive health services
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 11:

General Health Insurance is implemented in Turkey compulsorily since 2008. Within this framework, all workers (contracted workers, the self-employed and civil servants) are covered by General Health Insurance. People not working can benefit from General Health Insurance provided that they undergo a means test. If the means test reveals that income per person in the household is less than one-third of minimum wage General Health Insurance premiums of these individuals are covered by the state, and they can utilise all healthcare services (physical examination, medication, medical materials etc.) free of charge. However, if income per person in the household is above one-third of minimum wage all family can utilise all healthcare services free of charge provided that these individuals pay a premium equivalent of three percent of minimum wage (76.45 TL for 2019). Women and men are treated equally in the implementation of General Health Insurance.

All boy and girl children under the age of 18 are unconditionally covered by universal health insurance.

Women above the age of 18 years can benefit from general health insurance as dependants if they do not have social security, however, if their spouse or parents have social security or are retired. Again, *unmarried women* whose insured or retired parents or spouse have passed away (single or widow) can receive survivor's pension via their spouse or parents, and they can benefit from general health insurance accordingly.

Affirmative action is applied to women in the definition of dependants. Age was not considered in the definition of women, and only the criteria of not working and being single were imposed. Age limit has been set for men. Men are able to benefit from general health insurance through their parents as dependants until the age of 20 if they continue high school and its equivalent; and until the age of maximum 25 if they continue university and its equivalent, and they can receive survivor's pension as eligible persons.

Through an amendment introduced to social security legislation on 10/09/2014, number of trials to be performed under the scope of general health insurance was increased from 2 to 3 by "partners having general health insurance who are married but cannot have children naturally" by using assisted reproductive techniques (in-vitro fertilisation). In addition, with a regulation made on 15/11/2018, while age interval was 23 to 39 to be able to benefit from such treatment it was increased to 23 to 40.

Programmes are conducted under "Sexual Health and Reproductive Health National Strategic Action Plan for Health Sector 2005-2015" until its replacement by "Reproductive Health Strategy and Action Plan" which is under preparation by the Ministry of Health. The programme was developed in parallel to ICPD Action Programme. These programmes are as follows:

Monitoring Programme for the Women in the Age Group 15-49: Under the scope of the programme, all women in the age group 15-49 are monitored minimum twice by primary healthcare institutions in order to collect information about reproduction behaviour; to identify risky situations; to identify pregnancy at early period; to get information about reproductive health method; to provide counselling about women health and reproductive

health methods and to deliver on-the-spot training. All actions are reported to the Ministry of Health.

Premarriage Counselling Programme: Premarriage Counselling Programme aims at equipping the individuals applying in order to get medical report before marriage with information, attitudes and behaviours about reproductive and sexual health. Objectives of the programme are as follows: providing counselling on healthy family structure, reproductive health, reproductive health methods, sexually transmitted infections, kin marriage and genetically transmitted diseases (genetic blood diseases-hemoglobinopati); informing individuals about possible risks, its results and ways of protection; providing preconception counselling to partners who apply with the intention of conception; to identify situations which might constitute a risk for the purposes of preventing maternal and child mortality and taking measures in advance. Under the scope of the programme; 701,458 individuals received Premarriage Counselling service, and 12,852 healthcare staff received Premarriage Counselling Training in 2018. As of 2018, 2,691,744 individuals received Premarriage Counselling service, and 39,206 healthcare staff received Premarriage Counselling Training (the Ministry of Health).

Prenatal Care Programme: Prenatal care is included among routine services in order to improve maternal health level and decrease maternal mortality, and it is conducted across the country. According to “Prenatal Care Management Guideline”, pregnant women are monitored minimum four times if they do not have risks. In addition, Risky Pregnancy Protocols are prepared.

Information Classes for Pregnant Women: The programme aims at informing all pregnant women about prenatal, natal and postnatal topics, ensuring that they deliver in an informed way and informing prospective mothers and fathers about vaginal delivery, pain management and about their new roles.

As of 2018, there exist 1470 Information Classes for Pregnant Women in total. In total 915,426 pregnant women were trained in these classes in the period 2015-2018 (the Ministry of Health).

Nutritional Support Programme for Pregnant Women and Puerperants: The program is carried out in order to provide iron support by giving 40 - 60 mg elementary iron daily for a total of 9 months, starting from the 16th week of the pregnancy for 6 months and postpartum for 3 months to meet the increased iron need during pregnancy. In addition, as external vitamin D support is needed during pregnancy vitamin D supplementation is provided to every pregnant woman and to the mother after birth, except in cases where vitamin D supplementation is not required.

Emergency Obstetric Care Programme: In order to prevent maternal and neonatal deaths caused by preventable reasons, it is aimed to establish an effective referral system by classifying health institutions as basic and comprehensive; to perform safe blood transfusion; to update the knowledge and skills of personnel; to improve service standards and to establish a secure data and record system. Within this scope, all relevant healthcare staff ranging from support staff to clinicians and to health managers are trained; standard clinical guidelines are

developed by scientific committees; intersectoral cooperation is achieved, and provincial action plans and referral maps are developed. In 2018, 1434 individuals participated in manager training; 8307 individuals participated in Support Staff Training, 554 individuals participated in Clinician Training, 1146 individuals participated in Clinician Training (Emergency Medicine Specialist and Practitioner) and 1493 individuals participated in Clinician Training (Midwives and Nurses).

Monitoring Programme on Delivery at Hospitals: The program is carried out in order to ensure that every pregnant woman gives a healthy and safe birth in the hospital; caesarean operation rates are at reasonable levels and to eliminate inequalities (region, location, age and gender based). Within the scope of the program, distribution of delivery rates according to methods of delivery in public, university and private health institutions, caesarean surgery rates and caesarean operations according to medical reasons (indications) are monitored since 2007. In accordance with the action plan of the Ministry of Health, in-service training is provided to midwives and volunteer obstetricians so that prospective mothers give birth at healthy and safe conditions, midwives assume a more efficient role in delivery, to disseminate vaginal delivery, to strengthen delivery services and to ensure that physicians and midwives work in collaboration.

Maternal Near Miss Programme: Main objective of the programme is to get information about maternal morbidity and develop obstetric surveillance system.

Postpartum Care Programme: It is a program developed to prevent maternal and infant mortality caused by preventable causes in postpartum period. In general, it is ensured that the mother is not discharged after the delivery without full recovery. Puerperants are monitored in accordance with Postpartum Care Management Guideline. According to "Postpartum Care Management Guideline", if puerperant does not have any risks she is checked minimum 3 times at healthcare institution where she has delivered, and after the discharge, minimum 3 times at home/at healthcare institution by family practitioner/family health personnel.

Reproductive Health Services Programme: The purpose of reproductive health services is to enable couples to have children at the time and as many as they want and to enable infertile couples who cannot have children to understand the reasons and get treatment. In Turkey, information and counselling services play a key role in the delivery of reproductive healthcare services. The Ministry of Health delivers reproductive health and family planning services free of charge to all citizens who demand such services, and risky and unwanted pregnancies are prevented. It is a personal reproductive health right to know about reproductive health methods, protection rate of the methods, when fertility will be recovered once an individual stops using the method, how the methods work and their side effects.

Programme for Monitoring and Preventing Maternal Mortality: The program is conducted in order to prevent maternal mortality caused by preventable causes by examining each maternal death by its cause. "Provincial Maternal Mortality Detection and Prevention Unit" and "Provincial Investigation Commission" were established in each province. The "Maternal Mortality Preliminary Investigation Commission" and "Central Investigation Commission" were established within the Ministry of Health.

All pregnancy-related deaths from the provinces are examined by the Ministry of Health, Maternal Mortality Preliminary Examination Commission every month (every week); pregnancy related deaths and maternal mortality are classified by causes and three delay model of deaths; if a death cannot be explained by delay model, then it is discussed at Central Investigation Commission by keeping the name of hospital, physician and mother confidential.

Mother Friendly Hospital Programme: It is aimed to create an environment where the follow-up and delivery of the patients will be carried out taking into account the rights, safety and privacy of the patients during pregnancy, labour and postpartum periods. As of 2018, there are 52 healthcare institutions which have received the title of Mother Friendly Hospital.

In-service Training on Reproductive Health: The training is organised to equip healthcare staff with knowledge and skills regarding changing issues related to health in order to improve the quality of service provision in reproductive health. In the period 2006-2018, around 220,000 staff participated in the training.

In addition to these programmes, “**Guest Mother Practice**” was launched in 2008. The practice involves the determination and monitoring of pregnant women who live in settlements with unfavourable weather and transportation conditions and who may encounter problems in accessing health institutions during birth due to social reasons; they are transferred to safer settlements once possible dates of delivery comes closer; accommodation is provided and the birth takes place at hospital, and the women are sent them back to home once both the mother and baby are in good health.

Mobile health services and home care services are also available to people who have difficulty in accessing the service. In this context, it is foreseen that access of women to health services will increase. In addition, **Family Health Centres** were established in each district based on population, and access to health services was facilitated. The practice of distributing contraceptive materials continues in these centres.

In order to increase the awareness of the physicians and support staff for the early diagnosis of and intervention into the mental disorders and conditions such as depression, suicide, violence, etc. among women who apply to Family Health Centres and Migrant Health Centres, “**Programme for Strengthening Mental Health Services at Primary Care**” is implemented with the support of the World Health Organisation. The programme was originally developed by WHO itself. Family Practitioners and Syrian physicians employed at Migrant Health Centres participate in the training programmes.

In the rural areas, **mobile health services** have been developed in order to bring health services to the most remote areas, and coverage of the population that needs to be served has increased to 99%. In the past 5 years, capacity of emergency patient transport services increased by threefold in terms of both stations and number of ambulances. Furthermore, the number of snow track ambulances serving to regions with heavy winter conditions was increased, 112 emergency services reached 100% of rural population. In addition, air ambulance fleet was established; emergency services delivery capacity was strengthened.

In addition to these:

- As of the end of 2017-2018; in total 3.445 obstetricians and gynaecologists, 1.601 emergency medicine specialists and practitioners and 15.228 midwives/nurses received Emergency Obstetric Care Training. The programme aims at informing all pregnant women about prenatal, natal and postnatal topics, ensuring that they deliver in an informed way and informing prospective mothers and fathers about vaginal delivery, pain management and about their new roles.
- In the field of Mother and Infant Health services; current status of “Labor, Delivery, Postpartum(LDP)” rooms were assessed in order to ensure that prospective mothers deliver the baby in healthy and safe conditions; to create environments that will encourage vaginal delivery and to establish privacy based “Delivery Units” which aim at providing quality services to prospective mothers. Based on the number of required number of LDP rooms given the total number of deliveries per year, transition from delivery unit to single birth units consisting of private rooms was supported. As of 2018, 1046 LDP rooms are available in 299 healthcare institutions.
- “Hydrotherapy for Labour (HET)/Water Birth Pilot Implementation” means that prospective mothers spend initial phase of the delivery in a pool full of water which has a certain depth and temperature. This implementation is carried out by the Ministry of Health. Within public hospitals, pilot implementation has been initiated in 10 healthcare institutions. 2 healthcare institutions with HET unit were identified for the purposes of the delivery of training. 10 pilot healthcare institutions received 1 day of theoretical and 4 days of practical training. In the second phase of pilot implementation, hospitals set up their HET units and commenced monitoring the labour.

In addition to health support provided by General Directorate of Social Assistance of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, **Conditional Health Assistance** is provided in order to create a social security network with the aim of ensuring that families in the most needy segment of the society have full access to basic health services. Within the framework of the protocol concluded with the Ministry of Health, Conditional Health Assistance Pregnancy Assistance is provided only once to pregnant women in the most needy segment of the society. Within this scope, in case the delivery takes place at hospital 75 TL is provided only once; in case regular health checks are performed; 35 TL per month before the delivery, and 35 TL per month for two months after the delivery is provided. In addition, regular cash assistance is provided to poor families provided that families have regular health checks for their children who are below compulsory school age. The payment is made to bank accounts opened in the name of mother.

“Improving the Health Status of the Syrian Population under Temporary Protection and Related Services Provided by Turkish Authorities (SIHHAT) Project” is implemented with the aim of improving primary and secondary health care services delivered by the Ministry of Health to Syrians. The project was launched in December 2016, and will last 36 months. It is planned to establish 178 **Migrant Health Centres**, 790 migrant health units, 26 mobile health units and 5 cancer screening units in 28 provinces densely populated by Syrians. It is planned that 10 community mental health centres will deliver services to 1 million Syrians in 9 provinces. 270,000 infants and pregnant women will receive vitamin D and iron supplements, and support will be given to the prevention of communicable diseases with 6,255,000 doses of vaccine. By the end of 2017, 33 Migrant Health Centres and 199 affiliated Migrant Health Units were

established in 10 provinces. As of 2017, 5 days of theoretical training was delivered to 1076 Syrian physicians and 656 support staff; and 51 specialist physicians, 166 practitioners and 259 support staff were employed at temporary refugee centres and migrant health centres (MoH-2017 Activity Report).

The Ministry of Health has been conducting **Training of Trainers on the Role of Healthcare Staff in Combating Domestic Violence Against Women** since 2008. The objective of the training is to increase the capacity of primary healthcare staff that encounter or are likely to encounter domestic violence cases to combat violence. Participants of the training are composed of physicians, midwives, psychologists, social workers, health officers, child development experts etc. employed at province directorate of health. **In the last 3 years 504,993 individuals** have been trained.

Hacettepe University Women's Research and Implementation Centre (HUKSAM), United Nations Population Fund and Ankara Provincial Directorate of Health jointly implement a project entitled "**Strengthening Access of Syrian and Other Migrant Women to Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence Services by Establishing Safe Areas for Women and Girls and Women's Health Information Centers**" (details of the project are presented under Answer 3).

In addition to these:

- **As of 2018**, according to preliminary analysis results, within this year only, **2,054** people were provided with sexual and reproductive health services, and **2,935** people were provided with gender-based violence service. Hygiene kits of UNFPA were distributed to **1.500** individuals.
- **In 2018**, **2.750** individuals participated in sexual health and reproductive health training (in total 166 sessions), **1.809** individuals participated in gender based violence training (in total 139 sessions); thus in total **4.559** people participated in the training.
- Since the commencement of the project, **28.005** sexual health and reproductive health services and **12.063** gender-based violence services were delivered. **8.884** hygiene kits were distributed.

A quantitative survey entitled "**Survey on the Needs of Syrian Women Referring to Women's Health Information Centres Regarding Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence Services**" has been conducted. Academicians from Hacettepe University, Institute of Population Studies, and Public Health Institute contributed to the survey as well. The aim of the study is to determine the needs of the displaced Syrian women in terms of reproductive health, gender-based violence and other services and to increase the awareness of the relevant units in order to introduce necessary training, support and legal arrangements regarding the issues identified. Comprehensive report of the survey is being prepared. It is planned to disseminate the results of the survey, to print it as an English and Turkish book, to distribute them to the related parties and also make them accessible in electronic environment.

Additionally, studies are conducted by numerous universities on the access of disadvantaged women and girls such as refugees and seasonal agricultural workers to healthcare services.

12. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls?

- Taken measures to increase girls' access to, retention in and completion of education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and skills development programmes
- Strengthened educational curricula to increase gender-responsiveness and eliminate bias, at all levels of education
- Provided gender equality and human rights training for teachers and other education professionals
- Promoted safe, harassment-free and inclusive educational environments for women and girls
- Increased access to skills and training in new and emerging fields, especially STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and digital fluency and literacy
- Ensured access to safe water and sanitation services and facilitated menstrual hygiene management especially in schools and other education/training settings
- Strengthened measures to prevent adolescent pregnancies and to enable adolescent girls to continue their education in the case of pregnancy and/or motherhood
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 12

Starting an educational campaign for equal participation of girls and boys to education, Turkey founded boarding and pension schools in order to provide the children of families with low economic levels and the population of primary school children living in the villages and sub-village communities in the rural areas lacking schools. According to the 2017/18 school year data, the number of boarder students is 364.739; 180.894 of whom are girls (49.5%) (MoNE,2018).

In order to provide better education opportunities to children who live in dispersed settlements with fewer population and lacking school or children who receive education in multigrade classes, and to ensure the equality of opportunities in education, **“Mobile Primary School, Secondary School and Secondary Education Program”** is implemented. The number of students benefiting from the Mobile Primary School, Secondary School and Secondary Education Program in 2017/2018 school year is 810.035 and 397.259 of them (49%) are girls.

Throughout the country, in 81 provinces, a total of 432.751 students; 202.363 girls and 230.388 boys, were served mobility and catering in 2017/18 (MoNE,2018).

In addition to the boarding service provided for the children of poor families, **scholarships are provided for the 6th, 7th and 8th grades of primary education institutions and general and vocational secondary education institutions.** With the scholarship services and the Conditional Cash Transfers program; unrequited assistance is provided all over Turkey in order to create a social aid network aiming at the complete accession to basic education services by the children of the families belonging to the most destitute layer of the population. In order to increase the school enrolment rates and the transfer rates from primary education to secondary education for girls, the amount of the financial aids are kept higher for the girls and

to the students who continue to secondary education; and the aids are paid to the mothers. For the girls and the boys in the primary education, 40 TL and 35 TL a month are paid respectively; for the girls and boys in the secondary education 60TL and 50TL a month are paid respectively.

"The Inclusive Early Childhood Education for Children with Disabilities Project" which is implemented through partnership between the Ministry of National Education and UNICEF, and co-financed by Turkey and European Union was started on 29th May 2017 and will end by May 2020. It will be implemented in 90 pilot schools in the provinces of Antalya, Bursa, Konya, İzmir, Gaziantep and Samsun.

In 2017-2018 academic year, **"Traveling Teacher Pre-Pilot Scheme"** aimed at schooling of children in the settlements where no school exists was implemented in 24 districts with 30 teachers and 120 villages. In 2018-2019 academic year, the traveling teacher pilot scheme is maintained in 23 districts with 37 teachers going to 148 villages. Also, "Mobile Centre Nursery Class Pilot Scheme" has been launched with 367 children in 29 settlements in 10 districts.

In order to meet the needs of classrooms in disadvantaged settlements with high rate of foreign children; 278 portable nursery classrooms were established in 139 settlements in 2017-2018 school year, and 118 portable nursery classrooms are being constructed in 59 settlements in 2018-2019 school year.

"Survey Report on School Dropout in the World and Turkey", preparations for which are continued through the partnership between the Directorate General of Secondary Education and UNICEF, will include preventive, intervening and compensatory work examples implemented in different countries and international policies, models and practices for the students at risk of absenteeism, grade repetition and getting out of formal education. The draft report has been prepared under the study. It is planned that upon completion of the study, the results will be shared with relevant institutions and organisations; and then activities will be carried out in order to prevent absenteeism, grade repetition and early dropout in line with the findings and recommendations.

Through "Engineer Girls of Turkey Project High School Program" which is carried out in cooperation with the Directorate General of Secondary Education, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) , it is aimed to encourage students to choose engineering departments in line with their interests and abilities, regardless of gender difference through awareness-raising among high school students, their parents and teachers about gender equality and professional prejudices and introducing the profession of engineering. In 2017-2018 academic year, the Project was carried out in 50 pilot schools in 10 provinces including Ankara, Antalya, Artvin, Çanakkale, Elazığ, Hatay, İstanbul, Kırklareli, Muğla and Siirt.

Within scope of the in-service trainings organised for teachers by the Ministry of National Education in 2018; 682 persons attended 16 **Gender Equality and Training Courses**; and 9.942 persons participated in 400 in-service training activities within scope of family trainings.

The Project on Developing Professional Qualifications (MESGEP-1) was run in 35 provinces between 2011- 2016. **The Project on Developing Professional Qualifications (MESGEP-2)** was carried out within scope of extension to 2017 Investment Program. As of January-August 2018, **2.696 persons attended a total of 168 vocational courses and 80% (2.211) of the trainees were women. The target group of the project includes women victims of violence and housewives who want to have a profession as well.**

The Circular No. 2010/38 on **“Promotion of School Enrolment in Secondary Education Especially for Girls”** published by the MoNE, to increase the school enrolment rate of girls and the transfer rate from primary to secondary education, and not leave any single girl out of education circle.

The Operation for Promoting School Enrolment Rate Especially for Girls-2 (KEP II) has been completed.

In 2018, preparations are planned for the "Girls' School Enrolment Project", which has a national budget of 3 million 250 thousand TL (1.497.695,85 \$).

Between the Ministry of National Education General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education and;

- Turk Tractor and Agricultural Machinery Corporation, The Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation (TAPV), Turkish Educational Foundation (TEV); a protocol was signed on 14th December 2016 in order to provide qualified female labour force required for automotive and agriculture sectors, to help female students study at the departments which enable them to work in the automotive sector, provide scholarship for the students in need and to raise awareness of students, teachers and families about gender equality.
- and Bursa Technical University, a protocol was signed on 5th December 2017 in order to make contribution to raising qualified female engineer candidates needed in technological fields by ensuring that particularly girls choose the most suitable job for themselves in accordance with their skills and interests.

The 24-month **“Project on Technical Assistance for Promoting Gender Equality”** started in 2014 by MoNE, aims to remove the negative effects of gender stereotypes, contribute to the gender equality, improve gender equality in schools for boys and girls, and to achieve gender mainstreaming in the education system. With the project implemented in 10 pilot provinces (Erzurum, Batman, Samsun, İzmir, Malatya, Şanlıurfa, Karaman, Mardin, Trabzon, Sivas) and 40 pilot schools, 4 schools per province,

- A tool for guidance and evaluation of the instruction and administration staff at the schools for ensuring “Gender Equality in Schools”, and capacity for usage of this tool were developed.
- The capacity of MoNE with regard to gender mainstreaming in the whole education sector was enhanced.
- The awareness of students, parents, education-instruction staff and administrative staff about gender equality in education was promoted with central and local campaigns.

Life-long Learning Strategy, covering the period of 2014-2018 and prepared by the Ministry of National Education in order to increase efficiency and productivity of life-long learning strategy system, aims to promote access to education for women in disadvantaged groups and to increase the opportunities of distance learning and open university within this scope. The MoNE General Directorate of Life-long Learning conducts field studies at the beginning of every school year via the Directorates of Public Education Centers which carry out their activities on the basis of full year and full day operation in education, to identify the illiterate citizens and refer them to literacy courses.

Public Education Centres and Occupational Education Centres try to increase women's employability and their participation in the economic and social life, to ensure that they have income-generating occupations by providing them with occupational training courses.

In 2018, the number of female trainees attending the literacy courses at the institutions affiliated to the Ministry of National Education was 653.379. The number of women who completed the first stage and attended the second stage is 67.860.

It is of great significance that the contents of the curricula, course books and education materials are sensitive to gender equality for not directing the students to traditional gender roles by transferring the gender stereotypes to students via overt or covert messages.

It is paid attention to the fact that the curricula and course books which were prepared in line with the activities to update and improve the curricula of must and elective courses in secondary institutions affiliated to MoNE Directorate General of Secondary Education and have been in force at all classes of secondary schools since 2018-2019 academic year, do not include violation of human rights and discrimination of any kind as to sex, race, religion, language, colour, political or philosophical belief etc. in accordance with the General Aims and Basic Principles of Turkish National Education defined in the National Education Basic Law. In addition, aforementioned curricula include values education (justice, friendship, self-control, affection, respect, responsibility, patriotism, helpfulness etc.), entrepreneurship, finance awareness, cyber security, occupational health and safety, productivity, national intellectual property rights, desertification, design and constructive events.

Within scope of the studies for removing images, statements and all similar elements containing discrimination from the course books; a system that would enable the instructors working in the formal and non-formal education institutions under MoNE to evaluate the course books to be used was developed in 2012. Concordantly, the same year, the Regulation on Course Books and Educational Aids was adopted and it stipulated that the course books should present an approach in support of basic human rights and freedom and rejecting all kinds of discrimination. Accordingly, it is reported that expressions praising or criticising either sex are meticulously avoided in the textbooks and education materials prepared by the Ministry of National Education and special attention is paid not to include such elements. In addition, it was specified that it is intended to use equal numbers of girl and boy students in the texts and visual images in the textbooks, attention is drawn in the parts discussing the attainments relating to the family to the equality of men and women depicting a democratic structure of family and defining the roles of fathers and mothers meticulously. It was also

stated that great care is taken to avoid conceptions neglecting, ignoring or damaging the equality women and women, in the textbooks.

In this respect, one of the evaluation criteria determined by the Board of Education is “to observe a reasonable balance in the examples given and characters used, in terms of gender.”

In addition to this information, the issues such as “women’s rights”, “the roles of women in the Turkish society”, “gender equality” etc. are included in the curriculums and it is considered that these curriculums will contribute to the solution of problems such as violence against women and gender inequality which are among the greatest problems in the society.

As per General Assembly Resolution dated 28.05.2015 published by the Council of Higher Education in 2005 at the level of Higher Education, it was decided that “gender equality” course must be added as compulsory or elective course in accordance with the decisions taken by the authorised councils of universities or that scientific activities must be carried out every semester. In addition to this, established by the mentioned General Assembly Resolution, “the Commission of Women Studies in Academy” created “Higher Education Institutions Gender Equality Attitude Certificate” in order to provide an attitude which is sensitive to gender equality within the frame of higher education institutions. In this scope, as it is accepted by the Council of Higher Education that gender inequality is an existing fundamental problem, it has been decided that courses, seminars and conferences, and contact meetings about gender equality shall be carried out; that this issue is generally accepted; that activities and regulations enabling administrators, administrative and academic personnel, and students to gain the attitude of gender equality shall be carried out; and that studies shall be carried out in order to create a safe environment of life and not to tolerate any type of abuse and violence including sexual harassment and sexual assault. Within this scope, “*Gender Equality*” course was added into the curriculum of relevant departments in order to increase sensitivity towards gender, to eliminate prejudices, and to create awareness about gender equality and human rights.

At universities, the **Support Units against sexual assault and harassment** have been increasingly extending since 2015. As of 2019, the total number of these units is 20. In addition to establishment of the units, the universities also adopt policy papers with regard to prevention of sexual assault and harassment. Ankara University, METU and Boğaziçi University can be regarded as examples of good practices in this field. In addition, communication network among universities against sexual assault and harassment nationwide are also efficient in the creation of safe educational environment.

Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes

Critical areas of concern:

- D. Violence against women
- I. Human rights of women
- J. Women and the media
- L. The girl child

13. In the last five years, which forms of violence against women and girls, and in which specific contexts or settings, have you prioritized for action?

- Intimate partner violence/domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape
- Sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and in Employment
- Violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (e.g. cyberviolence, online stalking)
- Femicide/Feminicide
- Violence against women in politics
- Child, early and forced marriages
- Female genital mutilation
- Other harmful practices
- Trafficking in women and girls
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 13:

Purpose of the **Law No. 6284 on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence Against Women** is to protect the women, the children, the family members and the victims of stalking, who have been subjected to the violence or at the risk of violence regardless of family bond or relationship among them and to regulate procedures and principles with regard to the measures of preventing violence against those people.

In addition, with the amendment introduced into the **Turkish Criminal Code** in 2014, penalties for sexual crimes were increased. Aggravated cases of sexual harassment were identified; sexual abuse against individual by abusing power stemming from hierarchy and service relationship or opportunity coming from working in the same workplace is punished with a heavier penalty than the basic form of the crime. This regulation regulates sexual harassment crime not only by managers but also among peers. With the amendments introduced in 2016, the penalties for Sexual Abuse of Children have been increased, and it has been stipulated that an arrest warrant can be issued for deliberate offences against physical integrity of the individual.

“The 3rd National Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women 2016-2020” was put into force with the aim of adopting and implementing required measures in collaboration with all relevant parties to prevent all forms of violence against women and domestic violence and to provide effective protection to victims of violence in Turkey. The National Action Plan aims at achieving progress in 5 main fields, namely “Legislative Regulations”, “Awareness Raising and Transformation of Social Attitudes”, “Delivery of Protective and Preventive Services and Empowerment of Victims of Violence”, “Organisation and Delivery of Healthcare Services” and “Inter-institutional Cooperation and Policy Development” and through 31 activities. Implementation of the Action Plan is conducted by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, General Directorate on the Status of Women.

Provincial Action Plans for Combating Violence Against Women are prepared in order to ensure the effective implementation of the National Action Plan in 81 provinces. In this

context, as of March 2019, 79 provinces have the Provincial Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women. Activities undertaken within the scope of the action plans are monitored on a 6-monthly basis.

Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres (VPMC) are established pursuant to the Articles 14 and 15 of the Law No. 6284. VPMC delivers services such as housing service, temporary financial assistance, guidance and counselling services for the victim of violence, follow-up and monitoring of putting the victim under temporary protection in case of life-threatening danger, crèche support, legal support, medical support, employment related support, support for children such as scholarship and education and training. VPMCs are operational since 2012. As of March 2019, VPMCs deliver services in 79 provinces, and initiatives are ongoing to open VPMC in the remaining 2 provinces. Budget earmarked for VPMCs is as follows: 81,371,000.00 TL /\$37,498,156.7 in 2014; 51,122,000.00 TL /\$23,558,525.3 in 2015; 58,572,000.00 TL /\$26,991,705.1 in 2016; 44,112,000.00 TL /\$20,328,110.6 in 2017; 41,236,000.00 TL /\$19,002,765 in 2018.

3rd National Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women includes an activity related to *dissemination of technical methods for effective protection of victims of violence under the objective "Provision of Protective Preventive Services and Empowerment of Victims of Violence"*. Furthermore, Article 12 of the Law stipulates that *technical tools and methods can be used* for the implementation of measures issued under the Law. **"The Pilot Scheme of Applicability of Audio Surveillance Systems for Combating Violence against Women"** has been ongoing since 2015 through the collaboration among the Ministry of Family, Labour, Social Services, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice. Through the system established within the Ministry of Justice, General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses, Department of Probation;, perpetrators of violence and victims of violence are monitored together using electronic monitoring system infrastructure and electronic bracelet. During the pilot implementation conducted in Ankara, İzmir, İstanbul, Bursa, Antalya and Gaziantep, Technical Monitoring Procedures and Operations Directive and other documents and documents to be used in the implementation were developed. Initiatives are ongoing in order to disseminate the pilot implementation across the country, and to develop implementation procedure.

Women's Support System (KADES) which can be used in smart phones in order to provide effective and fast intervention by benefiting from the opportunities offered by communication technology for women who are victims of violence or who are at risk of violence was put into service on March 24, 2018 in cooperation with Ministry of Interior and MoFLSS. Women's Support System (KADES) is an application downloaded to smart phones. It can be used only by women. Thanks to "Ask for Help" button, law enforcement agencies are able to provide effective and fast intervention 24/7.

3rd National Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women 2016-2020 stated that *"Investigation will be conducted in order to analyse in-depth the cases of violence against women resulting in death."* Under the scope of the activity, **"Working Group on the Analysis of Acts of Violence against Women Resulting in Death"** was established in 2018 under the coordination of GDSW, and the working group convened periodically. The Analysis of Acts of Violence against Women Resulting in Death aims at contributing to the policy making process

by analysing the current situation related to the acts of violence against women, data analysis and analysis of the causes and results.

In order to fight early and forced marriages and to develop and implement policies in cooperation with all parties to empower girls in Turkey, “**Action Plan on Combating Early and Forced Marriages (2019-2023)**” has been developed with the contribution and participation of public institutions, universities and nongovernmental organizations, and the Action Plan is ready for approval. The Action Plan encompasses 5 key objectives, namely Development of Legislation, Research and Data Collection, Empowerment of Girls, Delivery of Protective and Preventive Services, Awareness Raising and Transformation of Social Attitudes, Inter-institutional Cooperation and Policy Development.

In 2017 and 2018, specific actions were taken for the provinces where early marriage and forced marriage rates were high. Within this scope, MoFLSS visited 19 provinces (Diyarbakır, Şanlıurfa, Mardin, İzmir, Antalya, Kars, Ağrı, Iğdır, Van, Muş, Bitlis, Gaziantep, Kilis, Nevşehir, Yozgat, Aksaray, Niğde, Hatay and Kahramanmaraş). In the provinces visited, integrated policies were formulated in 2018 led by civilian authority and under the coordination of the MoFLSS in cooperation with Provincial Directorate of National Education, Provincial Directorate of Health, Provincial Directorate of Security and Mufti Office; provincial action plans were developed and put into force.

“**2018-2020 Joint Work Plan**” was signed on April 25, 2018 by the MoFLSS and United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to protect disadvantaged children and to strengthen the exercise of development and participation rights. The work plan entails also activities towards prevention of early marriages with a budget of \$865,000. Accordingly, workshops, seminars and training are organised for service providers (law enforcement officials, healthcare staff, social workers, judicial personnel, civil administration personnel etc.) employed at public and nongovernmental organisations working for the prevention of early and forced marriage. Under the scope of “**Training of Trainers on Combating Early and Forced Marriages**”, the training of trainer programme was organised between November 2018-January 2019 with the participation of 300 professional staff from 81 provinces. The participants were composed of professional staff employed at Province Directorate of Family, Labour and Social Services, VPMC and Social Service Centres. In addition, seminar on combating early and forced marriages was organised for 250 managers.

On January 22, 2019, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and the Ministry of National Defence signed a “**Protocol on the Empowerment of Women and Institutional Capacity Building and Increasing Cooperation and Coordination for Combating Violence against Women.**” Under the scope of the protocol, “training of trainers” was organised on 04-15 February 2019 for 101 staff of Turkish Armed Forces on “early and forced marriages” and “combating against violence against women”. Trained trainers started training of trainers for leader staff on March 1, 2019. Training towards non-commissioned officers/private soldiers of Turkish Armed Forces will commence on April 1, 2019.

Ministry of National Education has launched **FATİH Project**. The Project aims at effective use of information technology tools in learning-teaching process address more sensory organs in order to ensure equality of opportunity in education and to improve the technology at schools.

Within the scope of Fatih Project, **the Course on Conscious and Safe Use of IT and Internet** was organized for managers and teachers who work in the Ministry of National Education. It is aimed that each trainee who successfully completes this course:

- Shall use IT consciously and effectively,
- Shall use internet consciously and effectively,
- Shall use technology effectively and safe in education,
- Shall be aware of risks to be encountered during the use of internet,
- Shall know aspects of health, and technical, educational, psychosocial, and legal aspects of the use of IT and Internet.

Following subjects are given in **the aforementioned course**;

- *In the technical aspect*; Conscious use, Share, Safe Use, Ethical Use
- *In the educational aspect*; The concept of digital citizenship, first encounter of children and teenagers with internet, the use of internet at schools, social networks, role-modeling and wannabe in internet, Internet games, Addiction, Aggression/indocibility, and Cyber bullying
- *In the aspect of health*; Physical conditions, Time and frequency of use, electromagnetic effects, Internet addiction, accessing to health information in cyber environment, protection from risks
- *In psychosocial aspect*: Its effect on communication levels, its relation with some personal traits such as self-confidence levels, Internet addiction, and addictive personality
- *In legal aspect*; What are the crimes which can be committed in the internet environment, regulations in this field (World-Turkey), and sanctions, Procedure to follow when a problem is encountered, measures to be taken.

An exam was made under the scope of assessment and evaluation.

4 spot films were broadcasted over Information Technologies Network of the MoNE (EBA) about informed internet use.

Hacettepe University Women's Research and Implementation Centre (HÜKSAM), United Nations Population Fund and Ankara Provincial Directorate of Health jointly implement a project entitled "**Strengthening Access of Syrian and Other Migrant Women to Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence Services by Establishing Safe Areas for Women and Girls and Women's Health Information Centers**" (details of the project are presented under Answer 3). In addition, two panels were organised for female and male refugees on "Early Marriage". A panel was organised on April 27, 2017 towards refugee women to raise awareness of early marriage. 350 women from centres affiliated with the project beneficiaries in Ankara participated in the panel. Speakers addressed early marriage and its legal implications and health and religion related dimensions in the panel. In addition, 2 refugee women talked about the trauma triggered by early marriage and their experience related to the issue. The panel targeting refugee men was organised on September 24, 2017 at Ulucanlar Prison, Culture and Congress Centre. Besides HUKSAM, Education Volunteers Foundation (TOG), Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants and other partners of the project were present in the panel. Presentations on Physical, Psychological and Social Dimensions of Early Marriages, Legal Status and Liabilities in Early Marriages in Turkey, and

Early Marriages from Islamic Perspective were made. 2 refugee men talked about their experience of early marriage. More than 250 refugee men participated in the panel.

In addition, **the Regulation on Combating Human Trafficking and the Protection of Victims**, which came into force on 16/03/2016, introduces comprehensive regulations on principles and procedures regarding identification procedures regardless of foreigner or Turkish citizen; period of time to think to be given to the victim of trafficking in foreigners; conditions of residence permit; procedures and principles regarding the operation of the national commission authorised to set the policy in the fight against human trafficking; rights and services to be offered to victims; voluntary and safe return procedures; training and awareness activities in this area; health services to victims and access of the victims to labour market with the aim of preventing and fighting against the crime of human trafficking.

Foreigner women victims of human trafficking are referred to shelters directly/indirectly operated by Province Directorate of Migration Management. Under the coordination of the Directorate General for Migration Management, several training programmes are organised by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Migration Policy Development Centre (ICMPD) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to provide information on and raise awareness of human trafficking. Staff of the MoFLSS in charge of services for women participates in the training.

Furthermore, led by Women's Research and Implementation Centre, various activities are organised for students, academic and administrative staff and citizens in order to raise awareness on all kinds of contexts and environments in which violence and violence against women and girls occur as stated in the question. These issues are covered in the curricula of the relevant departments of the universities; surveys are carried out; administrative arrangements are made regarding sexual harassment and sexual assaults in universities, and action plans are developed at university level.

14. What actions has your country prioritized in the last five years to address violence against women and girls?

Introduced or strengthened violence against women laws, and their enforcement and implementation

Introduced, updated or expanded national action plans on ending violence against women and girls

Introduced or strengthened measures to increase women's access to justice (e.g. establishment of specialist courts, training for the judiciary and police, protection orders, redress and reparations, including for femicide cases)

Introduced or strengthened services for survivors of violence (e.g. shelters, help lines, dedicated health services, legal, justice service, counselling, housing)

Introduced or strengthened strategies to prevent violence against women and girls (e.g. in the education sector, in the media, community mobilization, work with men and boys)

Monitoring and evaluation of impact, including evidence generation and data collection, including regarding particular groups of women and girls

Introduced or strengthened measures for improving the understanding of causes and consequences of violence against women among those responsible for implementing measures on ending violence against women and girls

Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 14:

In order to eliminate violence against women and girls with the principle of **zero tolerance** for violence against women, Turkey has taken many reform-like steps both in terms of law and in practice, and has taken actions in order to implement all the measures mentioned above. Within this scope;

Turkey is among the first signatories of **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)**. The Convention was endorsed in the parliament on November 24, 2011 before other countries. Turkey was the **first country** to send endorsement document to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe on March 14, 2012 following its publication in the official gazette. Upon the signing of Istanbul Convention, preparations started immediately to implement the provisions of the Convention. Within this scope, due attention was paid to ensure that the commitments stemming from the Convention were fulfilled in the preparation of the Law No. 6284 on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence Against Women. The preparation and enactment of the Law No. 6284 in accordance with the provisions of the Convention is the most important indicator that the legal infrastructure has been strengthened and that the fight against violence against women has been taken to a higher level. In addition, 3rd National Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women was put into force in 2016, and one of the five key objectives of the Action Plan is about “Legislative Regulations”. Under this scope, activities are ongoing “*to amend the Constitution and the relevant basic laws in the light of international conventions and documents on women's human rights, in particular Istanbul Convention; to introduce necessary amendments and to draft secondary legislation in order to increase the efficiency of the Law No. 6284 and its implementing regulation*”.

3rd National Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women has been developed on the basis of international conventions and legislation of Turkey in particular Istanbul Convention. The National Action Plan aims at achieving progress in **5 main fields**, namely *Legislative Regulations, Awareness Raising and Transformation of Social Attitudes, Delivery of Protective and Preventive Services and Empowerment of Victims of Violence, Organisation and Delivery of Healthcare Services and Inter-institutional Cooperation and Policy Development* and through **31 activities**. Coordination and monitoring of the Action Plan is undertaken by the General Directorate on the Status of Women (GDSW).

Efforts to develop “**Action Plan on Combating Early and Forced Marriages (2019-2023)**” have been completed by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services with the contribution and participation of public institutions, local authorities, universities and nongovernmental organisations in the light of international conventions, national legislation, 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

“Combating Domestic Violence Project”, one of the joint projects of the European Union with highest budget (€10,150,000) in the fight against violence against women, and funded under IPA-2009 program, was implemented by the General Directorate on the Status of Women, Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services in the period 2014-2016 in 26 provinces. Within the scope of the project, through the improvement of support services to be provided to victims of violence, it was aimed to strengthen actions towards combating violence against women in 26 provinces. The project was composed of 2 components; namely “technical assistance” and “grant”. Under the scope of technical assistance component, training modules were developed for **police, healthcare staff, judges and prosecutors, chief clerks, experts of family courts and staff of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services**. Training of trainers were delivered to 506 police, 22 judges and prosecutors, 125 chief clerks and 147 family court experts, and three-day in-service and prevocational training was delivered to 107 judges and prosecutors. Although the contents of the training vary according to the target group, in general following topics were covered: Violence Against Women; Definition, Types, Affects and Causes of Violence Against Women; The Effects of Violence Against Women on Women and Children; Interviewing Women Exposed to Violence; National and International Regulations on Violence against Women; Service Providers and Organisations on Violence against Women; Roles and Responsibilities of Relevant Workers in the Prevention Violence against Women; Trainer Guide; Training Methods and Techniques; Techniques Facilitating Training, Basic Principles of Adult Training.

With the cooperation made with the Ministry of National Defence, 8730 Turkish Armed Forces staff and 637,818 ranks and files were reached between 2014- 2016.

Within the Presidency of Religious Affairs in 2018, 459 personnel received training of trainers, and a total of 996 trainers were trained, and **86.786** staff were trained in total.

There are “592 trainer” staff employed at 81 Province Directorate of Security. “592 trainer” staff employed at 81 Provincial Directorate of Security delivered training to 47.084 staff working at Police Stations, Public Order Teams, 155 Hotline, Community Policing and Protection Units throughout 2018, and the training is still ongoing.

Within the scope of the Project for Increasing the Institutional Capacity of the General Command of Gendarmerie , Children and Women's Departments, 200 gendarmerie staff was trained within Gendarmerie and Coast Guard Academy for the development of communication and advocacy strategy to combat domestic violence. Preventive activities are conducted by gendarmerie units to raise awareness on domestic violence and violence against women, to support the victims and to protect children in rural areas in cooperation with the Provincial Directorates of Family, Labour and Social Services and in coordination with district governorates and governorates. Within this scope, information activities are carried out on the relevant legislation, 156 gendarmerie hotline and 183 hotline, support mechanisms for women victims of violence. Posters, brochures and promotional materials are utilised to this end. 147,867 citizens were reached in the period 2017-2018.

Within the scope of “3rd National Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women 2016-2020”, there is an activity related to **“producing and distributing television, radio programs and visual, audio and printed materials to raise awareness among policy makers, decision-**

makers, service providers and general public". Numerous actions are carried out under the scope of the activity:

- Within the scope of social media activities, activities such as sharing the activities carried out by MoFLSS and related institutions on social media accounts and showing the banner on the website of all Ministries as pop-ups were carried out.
- Within the scope of communication activities on the occasion of 25 November International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women; public service announcements were produced in cooperation with the Presidency and MoFLSS, and they were shown on all national and local channels during the week of November 25.
- Thematic meetings were organised to increase awareness of the violence against women among different target groups at local level, and posters, brochures and visuals regarding the combat against violence against women were exhibited and distributed in 81 provinces.

Within the scope of "3rd National Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women 2016-2020", there is an activity related to **"implementing activities to raise awareness and achieve mental transformation among men within the scope of fight against violence against women."** Within this scope, awareness seminars on "Combating Violence Against Women" are organised under the scope of 21-day basic military training to be realized towards the beneficiaries of paid military service with the cooperation of Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and Ministry of National Defence. The training covers topics such as the fight against domestic violence and violence against women, the combat against early and forced marriages, national legislation and support mechanisms. It is believed that the training will raise considerable awareness among men. Within this scope, 98,700 ranks and files at paid military service were reached in 2018.

The **existence of the support services offered to victims and institutional structures** is of vital importance in combating domestic violence against women. In combating violence against women; **institutional services are provided** primarily by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice and other relevant ministries, municipalities, bars and NGOs. Details of service providers and the services delivered are presented below:

Women's shelters are affiliated with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. The women's shelters are boarding social service institutions where women subjected to physical, emotional, economic and verbal harassment or violence can stay together with their children, if any, and where they are protected from violence, their psychosocial and economic problems are solved and they are empowered.

The purpose of women's shelters is to enable women who are admitted to the institution to cope with the trauma they have experienced in a non-violent environment and by conducting activities to support the women to develop healthy relations again to enable the women to continue their lives in accordance with their demands once they leave the women's shelters. There exist in total **144 women's shelters with a capacity of 3454 across the country; 110**

women's shelters are affiliated with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services; 1 affiliated with the Ministry of Interior, Directorate General of Migration Management; 1 affiliated with nongovernmental organisations and 32 affiliated with local authorities. The number and capacity of women's shelters were increased, and they were disseminated across the country so that women and their accompanying children can access a safe shelter in a fast and easy manner.

Activities are carried out in order to examine and solve the problems of women staying at women's shelters and their accompanying children. The women and children are supported directly or by referring them to relevant institutions in terms of safety, counselling, psychological support, legal support, healthcare support, training support, temporary financial assistance, allowance, crèche, vocational training course, group work, scholarship, social, art and sports activities for children etc.

Specialisation activities are carried out for the purpose of providing more effective service to different groups receiving services of women's shelters. With the specialisation activities, it is aimed to improve the institutional capacity of women's shelters, to increase the efficiency of the services offered, to improve the quality of the staff providing services and to ensure the efficient and effective use of public resources.

In addition, **Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres (VPMC)** offer services as another institutional service unit the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. Pursuant to the Law No. 6284, VPMC delivers services such as housing service, temporary financial assistance, guidance and counselling services for the victim of violence, follow-up and monitoring of putting the victim under temporary protection in case of life-threatening danger, crèche support, legal support, medical support, employment related support, support for children such as scholarship and education and training. **Currently VPMCs are operational in 79 provinces.** Efforts are ongoing to disseminate them to 81 provinces across Turkey. In the absence of VPMC, Provincial Directorate of Family, Labour and Social Services and Social Service Centres deliver services.

"183 Social Support Line" established within the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services operates as a psychological, legal and economic hotline for women and children who are subjected to violence or at risk of being subjected to violence and who need support and help. Women are informed about their rights and relevant mechanisms through the hotline. Cases of negligence, abuse and violence can be reported to the hotline, or notices can be received by the hotline as a kind of measure for the prevention of custom and honour killings. Taking into account the urgency of the situation, the emergency team and / or the law enforcement officers of the province where the case occurs is informed and action is taken. The hotline operates **24/7 and is free of charge.** The hotline delivers services also in **Arabic and Kurdish,** and it supports **short messages** and has **3G for persons having impaired hearing.**

In accordance with the Law No. 6284, victims of violence may apply to the **governorates and district governorates** where they are located and demand protection measures. **Police or gendarmerie** is among the first institutions women apply in case they are subjected to violence.

At central level, **Combating Domestic Violence Branch under Public Order Department of the General Directorate of Security** is responsible for improving existing services in combating domestic violence across the country, cooperation with relevant institutions and agencies and coordination of security services for the implementation of measures for persons subjected to violence. At local level, police stations exist in city and district centres. In order to improve the services carried out by the police on domestic violence against women and violence against women and to ensure coordination between institutions, **Bureau of Combating Domestic Violence and Violence against Women** was established on November 11, 2015 within **Public Order Branch of 81 Provincial Directorates of Security**. Furthermore, women subjected to violence and people witnessing violence or the danger of use of violence can call toll-free **Hotline 155 Policy 24/7**.

At central level, **Combat Against Violence Against Women and Children's Department of Gendarmerie General Command** is responsible for coordination of existing services in its remit and cooperation with relevant institutions and agencies. As of January 2019, **“Children and Women’s Section”** were created within **(81) Provincial Gendarmerie Commands** and **“Non-commissioned Officer for Crimes Against Children and Women”** within **(33) Provincial Gendarmerie Commands**. In other district and gendarmerie stations, staff assigned with **double functions** can work as **“Non-commissioned Officer for Crimes Against Children and Women”**. Furthermore, women subjected to violence and people witnessing violence or the danger of use of violence can call toll-free **Hotline 156 Gendarmerie** for 24/7.

Women's Support System (KADES) which can be used in smart phones in order to provide effective and fast intervention by benefiting from the opportunities offered by communication technology for women who are victims of violence or who are at risk of violence was put into service on March 24, 2018 in cooperation with Ministry of Interior and MoFLSS. Women’s Support System (KADES) is an application downloaded to smart phones. It can be used only by women. Thanks to **“Ask for Help”** button, law enforcement agencies are able to provide effective and fast intervention 24/7.

Under the Law No. 6284, people who are subjected to violence can directly apply to the **Public Prosecutor’s Office**. In addition, **“Domestic Violence Crimes Investigation Offices”** have started to be established within the body of public prosecutor’s office especially in metropolitan cities. These offices are in charge of monitoring and concluding the investigations of crimes against women, carrying out work and operations within the scope of the Law No. 6284, supervising and following up the effective implementation of preventive and protective measures. As of January 2019, there exist **57 Domestic Violence Crimes Investigation Offices** within Public Prosecutor’s Office. Applications under the Law No. 6284 are processed by **Family Courts**. Victims of violence can apply to Family Courts with a petition to benefit from the Law. If there exists no Family Court in the territory then Court of First Instance has jurisdiction. As of January 2019, there are **273 active Family Courts** in Turkey.

The Institute of Forensic Medicine is the institution where women who are subjected to violence are referred to receive medical reports when they apply to law enforcement agencies or to the Public Prosecutor's Office. Forensic medicine has an important role in detecting violence in women and the damage it has made to women in violence cases. As of January 2019, there are **16 forensic medicine departments** and **67 forensic medicine units**.

In the central administration of the Ministry of Health, **Public Health Agency of Turkey, Public Hospitals Agency and General Directorate of Emergency Health Services – Hotline 112 Department of Emergency Healthcare Services** are the units which are relevant units regarding violence against women. At local level, **Provincial Directorate of Public Health and Public Hospitals Union are operational. Family Health Centres, Community Health Centres and hospitals** are institutions and agencies in provinces delivering services regarding violence against women. At hospitals, Emergency, Crisis Intervention Unit and Medical Social Service Unit are especially important. Last but not least, **Hotline 112** delivers services 24/7 in cases where emergency medical intervention is needed.

Furthermore, in order to prevent that children victims of sexual abuse in the age group 0-18 suffer again by talking about the abuse again and again, Child Monitoring Centres are established within the body of hospitals affiliated with the Ministry of Health. Relevant institutions work in coordination at Child Monitoring Centres. The centres have such physical features that they cannot be distinguished from other clinics of the hospital from outside; all forensic and medical procedures can be carried out from a single centre at once, and a child-friendly environment is offered. Currently there are 38 **Child Monitoring Centres** in 35 provinces.

Women's counselling centres under the name of women's rights / law commission / board, affiliated with bars, work on the achievement of equality between women and men under basic laws, in particular Civil Code, and provide free advice about women's rights and where and how to apply to women who do not have sufficient knowledge. **Union of Turkish Bar Association, Women's Rights Commission (TÜBAKKOM)**, set up with the participation of the representatives of bars having women's rights commission, work in order to devise solutions to problems deriving from all forms of discrimination including domestic violence.

Nongovernmental organisations also carry out numerous services for women subjected to violence. These organisations provide legal and psychological support to women in counselling centres and provide shelter in shelters where necessary.

Multi-Purpose Community Centres (ÇATOM) affiliated with the Ministry of Development, Southeastern Anatolia Project Regional Development Administration offer services to women in the region in areas such as education, guidance, vocational training etc.

One of the important issues in the field of combating violence against women is **data collection, evidence-based policy making and effective monitoring and evaluation**. In this context, to monitor domestic violence against women and to determine indicators in order to combat domestic violence, a large-scale research was conducted across the country for the first time in 2008 to answer the question "What are the sources and types of violence against women?". The title of the research was "**Domestic Violence Against Women in Turkey.**" The second survey, as a follow-up study of the research of **2008**, was conducted in **2014** through the cooperation between the General Directorate on the Status of Women and Hacettepe University, Institute of Population Studies.

Some findings of 2008 and 2014 Domestic Violence Against Women Research are presented below:

- According to 2014 research, throughout the country, the proportion of ever-married women who reported having been subjected to physical violence is 36% (8% in the last 12 months). It is seen that this rate was 39% in the research of 2008.
- Throughout Turkey, the proportion of lifetime emotional violence/abuse that women have been subjected to is 44%. It is observed that this rate remain unchanged in the research of 2014 and 2008.
- According to 2014 research, throughout Turkey, 12% of ever-married women reported having been subjected to lifetime sexual violence (5% in the last 12 months). It is seen that this rate was 15% in the research of 2008. According to 2014 research, throughout Turkey, 38% of ever-married women have been subjected to lifetime physical and/or sexual violence. It is seen that this rate was 42% in the research of 2008.
- Around 4% reduction in the rate of violence in 2014 research is considered as a product of decisive steps taken in Turkey towards combating violence against women, and of the policies formulated and practices introduced.

Final report of the research was printed in Turkish and English, and disseminated among relevant stakeholders. Results of the research are recognised as official statistic by Turkish Statistical Institute, and it constitutes the basis for measures adopted and policies formulated to combat violence against women.

Within the scope of “3rd National Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women, there is an activity related to **“establishing an inter-agency common database for effective monitoring of data on violence against women.”** Within this framework, MoFLSS continues its efforts to register the measures issued pursuant to the Law No. 6284 into a common data system via interagency integration. Accordingly;

- MoFLSS continues its efforts to create “Family Information System Women Module” to monitor the social service activities of Provincial Directorate of Family, Labour and Social Services, social service centres, VPMC and women’s shelters ; to update them; to assess the activities to be carried out and to share information.
- Actions towards developing a data system for recording the protective and preventive measures issued in accordance with the Law No. 6284 in a data system, and to ensure the connection of this system to UYAP (Ministry of Justice - National Judiciary Information System) have been completed. The integration activity of the injunction orders issued under the Law No.6284 on UYAP system between the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and the Ministry of Justice has been completed. “6284 Order Follow-up System” which will contribute to the efficiency of tracking and monitoring of the decisions has been put into service of 81 Provincial Directorates of Family, Labour and Social Services and Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres (VPMC).
- With the Information Sharing Protocol signed with the Ministry of Interior in September 2017, actions have been completed for the sharing of “Registration Form for Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence under the Law No. 6284” and “Data on measures issued under the Law No. 6284” with the MoFLSS

electronically. Data integration shortened the period of reaching women victims of violence and increased the efficiency of protection.

- Integration has been completed for electronic sharing of “privacy” decisions made in favour of the victim of violence pursuant to relevant article of the Law No. 6284 with relevant institutions and agencies such as Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Interior, General Directorate of Population and Citizenship Affairs, Social Security Institution, Banks Union of Turkey.

Under the Temporary Protection Regulation, Syrian refugees in Turkey have the right to receive social services including VAW protection services.

15. What strategies has your country used in the last five years to prevent violence against women and girls?

- Public awareness raising and changing of attitudes and behaviours
- Work in primary and secondary education, including comprehensive sexuality education
- Grassroots and community-level mobilization
- Shifting the representation of women and girls in the media
- Working with men and boys
- Perpetrator programmes
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 15:

Within the scope of “3rd National Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women 2016-2020”, there is an activity related to **Awareness-raising and Transformation of Social Attitudes**. Following actions are foreseen accordingly:

- Organisation of events such as seminars, workshops etc. in cooperation towards the representatives of all institutions and agencies that provide services for violence against women.
- Organisation of training of trainers, creation of trainers’ pool and ensuring the continuity of training in order to build institutional capacity of all institutions and agencies involved in the combat against violence against women.
- Production and distribution/broadcasting of television and radio programmes, visual, audio and printed materials in collaboration to raise sensitivity among policy makers, decision makers, service providers and general public.
- Organisation of activities to raise awareness and achieve transformation of social attitudes among men in the fight against violence against women.
- Starting from pre-primary education, examination of all present curricula/programmes in terms of violence against women and gender equality at all levels of formal and informal education; their revision, if necessary, and effective implementation.
- Organisation of activities at national and local level to prevent early and/or forced marriage.

- Conducting impact analysis of training programmes on violence against women, and updating existing programmes and materials in the light of the findings.

Within this scope, activities were carried out to raise awareness and sensitivity in the society and to achieve mental transformation about gender equality, violence against women and domestic violence to eliminate all negative attitudes and behaviours giving rise to and reinforcing violence against women.

Within this scope, awareness seminars on “**Combating Violence Against Women**” are organised under the scope of 21-day basic military training to be realized towards the beneficiaries of paid military service with the cooperation of Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and Ministry of National Defence. The training covers topics such as the fight against domestic violence and violence against women, the combat against early and forced marriages, national legislation and support mechanisms. It is believed that the training will raise considerable awareness among men. Within this scope, **98,700** ranks and files at paid military service were reached in 2018. It is planned to reach around 645,000 people until 2020 under the scope of paid military services to be implemented in 40 provinces across the country. On January 22, 2019, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and the Ministry of National Defence signed a “Protocol on the Empowerment of Women and Institutional Capacity Building and Increasing Cooperation and Coordination for Combating Violence against Women.” Under the scope of the protocol, “training of trainers” was organised on 04-15 February 2019 for 101 staff of Turkish Armed Forces on “early and forced marriages” and “the combat against violence against women”. Trained trainers started training of trainers for leader staff on March 1, 2019. Training towards non-commissioned officers/private soldiers of Turkish Armed Forces will commence on April 1, 2019.

The Presidency of Religious Affairs implemented a project entitled “**Contribution of Religious Officials to Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence Against Women.**”

Under the scope of the project, in-service training activities focusing on topics such as violence against women, violence against children, approach to the victims of violence, family protection, and the protection of the family, implementation of the Law No. 6284 on the Protection of Family and other relevant laws were organised towards the staff of the Presidency of Religious Affairs, having a pivotal role in the society and in continuous dialogue with citizens, were organised with the aim of raising awareness and sensitivity by underlining the positive role of the religion in preventing violence. It was aimed that religious officials (vaiz, imam, muezzin and instructors of Quran course) reach people in mosques and outside mosques. Since the inception of the project, **996** trainers were trained, and **86,786** people were trained.

The training delivered under the scope of the project covered following topics: violence against women and domestic violence; approach of the Presidency of Religious Affairs to violence, violence against women, violence against children and domestic violence; the Law No. 6284 and its implementation; implementation of other relevant laws, national and international legislation and circulars; how to approach to victims of violence; referral to relevant public institutions and agencies; communication skills; cooperation with other

institutions, agencies and non-governmental organisations working on these issues or having various activities and duties.

Family Training Programme (AEP) is an important initiative of the General Directorate of Family and Community Services of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. The programme is based on the principle of “Education starts at family”, and aims to inform families and to increase the quality of life. The programme aims to ensure that families benefit from services in education, law, economics, media and health; manage all kinds of resources effectively and take measures for various risks they may face with a view to creating healthy, happy and prosperous families in Turkey.

In order to equip family members with comprehensive knowledge, skills and attitudes related to the basic family life skills required by the family members, AEP is composed of 5 fields, namely “**Education-Communication**”, “**Law**”, “**Economics**”, “**Media**” and “**Health**” and 28 modules. As of February 2019, **1,422,843** people have participated in AEP training delivered by 8898 trainers across the country.

AEP website where training data is monitored was renewed in July 2018. As of this date, number of male and female participants of the training can be reported separately.

AEP is an adult training program that focuses on encouraging individuals to adapt to their life-changing roles, interests, tasks; to support and strengthen their psychological health and to encourage individuals, spouses and families to use their existing potentials. The programme is sensitive to equality between women and men. It has a dynamic structure and is enriched in line with evolving needs of families.

Family Training Programme- Education-Communication -Single Parent Families Module: As in the rest of the world, rapid social and economic changes in Turkey have affected the family structure and caused an increase in the number of single parent families. Today, these families try to survive as a single parent and struggle with economic, social, psychological and legal problems. From this point of view, “Single Parent Families Module” was added to AEP to support the solution of economic, social, psychological and legal problems of families who live as a single parent family because of divorce, abandonment or loss of spouse (death).

According to TurkStat data, 8.5% of the total households in Turkey were composed of single-parent and children households in 2017. A closer look reveals that 1.8% of the total households are made up of fathers and children, while 6.7% are households consist of mothers and children. This finding suggests that it is of great importance to support and strengthen women especially in the process of being a single parent.

Family Training Programme- Media: This field is composed of 4 modules; namely **Getting to Know Media, Understanding Media, Informed Use of Media, and Family and Internet**. The training organised under this field aims at equipping family members with knowledge and skills required to make best use of the media and to minimise the possible negative effects of the media. Under this scope, **59,197** individuals have been trained since 2013.

Understanding the media with family members of the module; it is aimed to contribute to the awareness of how the media works, the process of the formation of media content, the language of the media and the effects of the media on the individual, family and society. In the **Media, Violence and Sexuality unit in the module**, the issues of violence, sexuality and gender are discussed. In almost all types of media content, there are different qualities and levels of violence and sexuality. In this chapter; why violence is included in the media; effects of violence in the media on family members are discussed.

Family Training Program-Law: There are a total of 5 modules in the field of Law: Legal Literacy, Individual Rights, Family Law, Business and Law, and Special Needs Groups. In **Domestic Violence** unit in the Family Law module, the scope of the concept of domestic violence, physical, psychological, sexual, economic, and social violence are discussed. The scope of the concept of domestic violence (physical, psychological, sexual, economic, social, etc.), the places that can be applied in the presence of violence and contact information are explained.

The "**Protection of Family Life**" unit in the module entitled as "Protection of Family Life" deals with behaviours that interfere with family life, places to complain, and measures to protect the family. The unit is informed about the Law No. 6284 on Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women, Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers, Hotline 183 Line and Family Courts.

Family Training Programme-Health: Through the module of "**Acute and Chronic Health Problems Caused by Domestic Violence**" in healthcare field, information about the health problems emerging in people who experience violence and about how healthcare professionals can help to those who experience violence is provided.

Premarriage Training Programme: Through the Premarriage Training Programme, it is aimed to provide support to couples who come together to start a family and help them to prepare for married life. It is considered that when couples know each other well, create realistic expectations about marriage, and know the ways of effective communication and of dealing with problems, it enables them, especially young couples, to make a good start for marriage. Composed of different topics under Family Training Programme units, trainings within the frame of "**Premarriage Training Programme**" have still continued.

Premarriage training programme aiming at young people has been disseminated throughout the country through municipalities, universities, army, police schools, and Provincial Directorates of the Family, Labour and Social Services. This training has been provided to **996,960 people through 4,001 instructors** by February, 2019.

Family Training Programme Aimed at Syrians: With the collaboration of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, and UNICEF Representative in Turkey, and Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), carried out by Directorate General of Family and Community Services, PEP was started to be applied aiming at Syrians in temporary refugee centres in 2015. 31 units of Family Training Programme units were translated into Arabic. Within the scope of this programme, Syrian parents are informed about problems they might experience in child development, school life, domestic communication, marriage conflicts, and health by Syrian instructors through public education; and it is aimed to make them have

awareness for solutions of these problems. In other words, the programme aims to enable Syrian parents to create positive relations with the society by becoming stronger and to easily harmonize with the society.

Created as a result of the studies carried out in collaboration with Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) and Association of Television Broadcast (TVYD) and signed by broadcasting organizations on 3rd July, 2007, **Principles of Ethical Broadcasting were updated in 2018 as Principles of Ethical Audio-Visual Broadcasting**. One of the principles is;

- **To be sensitive about women’s problems and to avoid objectification.**

After these studies, prepared in collaboration with RTUK and TVYD and with the support of MATRA Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, the booklet called “Guidebook for Television Newsmen” was shared with service providers and relevant shareholders in 2009. In this booklet, these principles are given under the title of “**Women and objectification**”:

- Statements and images which support or reproduce prejudice and stereotypes about women must not be used
- Images and statements which objectify woman body must be avoided
- It must be paid attention not to represent women in the position of victim or as desperate individuals
- News that can change the negative perception about the social status of woman should be broadcasted
- While news about issues such as abduction of girls, honour killings, and women suicides are prepared, opinions of experts and lawyers should also be added

In 2014, RTÜK published the “**Guidebook of Broadcasting Principles**” for media service providers. In the Guidebook of Broadcasting Principles, the following principles are given:

- Programs about the exclusion of people based on their gender, nationality, ethnicity, colour, language, religion, sect, philosophical belief, political ideas, and physical or mental disability, and the adoption and normalization of behaviours such as avoiding having interaction with these people must not be broadcasted.
- In broadcasting services;
- Sexist approach must be avoided by attributing certain secondary jobs to only one gender.
 - Women must not be constantly represented as victims or as helpless individuals.

(For further information on the relevant regulations and activities, please check the answer to question 17)

In 2016, within the body of RTUK, “**Commission of Gender and Human Rights**” was created. Commission completed the report including the short term and long term action advice aiming at increasing the awareness about gender equality broadcasting principles and the issue in December, 2017.

In cooperation with General Directorate of Security, Department of Public Order, Information Technologies Department, and Communication Department; “**Women's Support Application**” (KADES), which can be downloaded from Google Play and Apple store to smartphones, was opened for use on 24th March 2018 in order to ensure that women who are

victims of domestic violence and violence against women can access Hotline 155 Police Emergency and get help. A public service announcement was produced to raise awareness about KADES application and it was allowed to be broadcasted by RTÜK as “Public Service Ad for Public Benefit” on 06.09.2018. It was ensured that KADES public service announcement has also been broadcasted on the website and social media accounts of General Directorate of Security and on national television channels.

“**Elimination of Violence Against Women and Child Rights**” topic was added to the curriculum of the lecture of Human Rights of the staff who receive training in Gendarmerie and Coast Guard Academy as a separate unit. Within the scope of Professional Development Plan, vocational retraining about “**Prevention of Crimes Against Children and Elimination of Violence Against Women**” is organized in two periods of a year (January-September) for two weeks. Training staff for the trainings is provided by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. In the training provided to the staff who shall take charge as Gendarme Commander/Deputy Commander of Province, Manager of the Public Security Branch Office, District Gendarme Commander and Commander of Police Office, **Gender Equality and Elimination of Violence Against Women** topics were added into the curriculum and the scope of the course. In Provincial Gendarmerie Commands, Public Order Team Commander/Deputy Commander/Twin Officer are provided on-site training by the personnel participating in vocational trainings and trainer education in previous periods. **Women Rights and Gender Equality module** is among the 8 main training topics in Civic Education for Mehmetçik (Soldiers) programme which is carried out in order to enable ranks and files to be responsible and sensitive individuals in the society. In the period of 2014-2018, **298.076 members of the personnel** were trained.

One of the main objectives under 14 main objectives mentioned in **the Action Plan on the Prevention of European Convention on Human Rights** covering the period from 1st March 2014 to 1st March 2019 is “to Take Necessary Measures to Prevent Domestic Violence, Violence Against Women, and Especially Homicide Targeting Women as a Requirement of the Positive Liability Principle of the State”. Within the scope of this objective;

- Taking necessary measures for the effective implementation of the Law No. 6284 “on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence Against Women”,
- Effective implementation of necessary actions for women who state their lives are in danger by evaluating concrete cases and severity of the danger studiously,
- Establishment of special offices in the Public Prosecutor's Office in provinces with a population over a certain density, with the aim of investigating the crimes of domestic violence effectively and taking measures in a short time,
- Maintaining prevocational and vocational trainings about domestic violence and violence against women aiming at judges, public prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and qualified personnel

The abovementioned actions have been taken.

The aim of **the Protocol on Cooperation in Elimination of Violence against Women** signed between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services is to increase the efficiency of the health services to be provided under the Law on the Protection of the Family and Prevention of Violence against Women and the implementing regulation of the Law determining the framework, conditions and obligations of the parties. In this context,

within the scope of the Law No. 6284, the Ministry of Health strengthened the services related to the implementation of preventive precautionary measures against the perpetrators and created individual and group training programs for rehabilitation.

Recommendations have been made to include gender equality in education under the title of “What to do to achieve gender equality” given in the Higher Education Council's Gender Equality Attitude Document. In order to actualize the article given in these recommendations stating that “Higher Education Institutions can add the Gender Equality course as compulsory/elective course in accordance with the decisions taken by their authorized boards”, “Gender Equality” course is given as elective course in upper secondary education and undergraduate programs of universities.

In addition, various activities were organized for students, academic and administrative staff and citizens on the subject under the leadership of the Women’s Research and Implementation Centres of the universities.

16. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (online sexual harassment, online stalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images)?

- Introduced or strengthened legislation and regulatory provisions
- Implemented awareness raising initiatives targeting the general public and young women and men in educational settings
- Worked with technology providers to set and adhere to good business practices
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 16:

In the last 5 years, some regulations were established in order to prevent and intervene in the violence against women and girls through technology. Within this scope,

The followings were regulated through the Law No. 5651 and Dated 4/5/2007 on Regulation of Publications on the Internet and Combating Crimes Committed by Means of Such Publications:

- In the Article No. 8 which is “A Decision to block to access to internet publications shall be issued”, blocking the access with the decision of the Public Prosecutor can be arranged in cases where the delay in the investigation phase is inconvenient and have enough reason to doubt that it constitutes the crimes for providing the place and the opportunity to gamble and the content including committing suicide, sexual abuse of children, facilitating the use of drugs and stimulants, provision of dangerous substances for health, obscenity, prostitution. In the second paragraph of the article, if the content or place provider of the publications constituting the offenses is abroad or even if the content or location of the provider is in the country, the decision to prevent access to the articles that constitute the content of sexual abuse, obscenity and prostitution crimes towards children will be given by Information and Communication Technologies Authority Chief officer.

- In the Article No. 8/A which is "A decision to block access may also be taken at the investigation stage by a public prosecutor in circumstances where a delay would present a risk", in cases such as the protection of life and property of persons, protection of national security and public order, prevention of crime or protection of general health where a delay by the judge can constitute inconvenience, chief officer can decide at the request of the ministries concerned with the protection of the presidential or national security and public order, prevention of crime or protection of general health. It will be communicated by the chief officer immediately to the access providers of related content and location providers; the chief officer shall present it to the judge for approval in twenty-four hours; the judge shall announce his decision within forty-eight hours; otherwise, the decision will be rescinded, however, in cases where access to content related to the infringement cannot be prevented or the violation cannot be prevented by preventing access to the content, the decision to block access to the entire web site may be given.

- In the Article No.9 which is "Removal of content from publication, and blocking of access", real and legal persons, institutions and organizations claiming that their personal rights have been violated due to the content of publication on the internet can ask the content provider to remove the content from the publication by using the method of warning as well as directly preventing access to the content by applying to the Criminal Court of Peace.

- In the Article No. 9/A "Blocking access to content on grounds of the confidentiality of private life", it is decided that the persons who claim that the privacy of his/her private life has been violated due to the content broadcasted can directly apply to Authority to take measure on blocking the access to the content. Also access to the content can directly be blocked by the Authority with the order of the chief officer in cases where delay regarding the violation of private life can constitute inconveniency.

In the Paragraph 3 of Article 227 varied with Article 18 of Law No. 6763 dated 24/11/2016 with title line of "Prostitution" in No. 5237 Turkish Penal Law, it is decreed that the person who gives, distributes or propagates products which includes images, texts and statements organized with the aim of making prostitution easier or of mediating prostitution shall be punished with a prison sentence from one year to three years, and with a judicial fine from two hundred days to two thousand days.

Within the scope of Article No. 8 of "the Law No. 5651 on Regulation of Publications on the Internet and Combating Crimes Committed by Means of Such Publications " established by Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK), there is an effective fight against "**Sexual abuse of children**", "**Vulgarity**" and "**Prostitution**" crimes. Citizens can complain about illegal and explicit content that they encounter in the internet environment to **BTK Internet Information and Notice Centre**" through the website "ihbarweb.org.tr". Information and Notice Centre is a member of the Union of International Internet Notice Centres, INHOPE which was established with the aim of improving international cooperation for the fight against illegal content of the internet including sexual abuse of children. In this scope, notices about sexual abuse of children are shared among INHOPE members and an effective fight against the removal of these contents from the internet environment has been carried out.

Similarly the Articles 9 and 9/A of the Law No. 5651 allow effective fight against internet content related to violation of personal rights and confidentiality of private life.

In addition, Information Technologies and Communication carries out **awareness raising activities** for informed and safe use of the internet. Within this scope, in 2018 face-to-face training/seminars were organised for **65,000 students, teachers and parents** via 300 training activities, and **more than 200,000 brochures, books** etc. were distributed.

Safe Internet Day events celebrated every year in around 130 countries across the world, is celebrated in Turkey under the coordination of Information and Communication Technologies Authority with the participation of relevant public institutions and agencies, nongovernmental organisations, academicians, sector representatives and students (<https://www.saferinternetday.org/web/turkey/sid>).

In order to ensure informed and safe use of the internet, books, guidelines, presentations, news, visuals, videos, brochures etc. were developed and they were published from the websites (guvenliweb.org.tr, guvenlicocuk.org.tr) and social media accounts called “guvenlinet”.

Safe Internet Service is offered by Information and Communication Technologies Authority since 2011. It is a public service aiming to protect the individuals against harmful content of the internet. It is optional, transparent and easy to use; it does not require to download any programmes; it is interactive and based on customer satisfaction. Safe Internet Service is provided free of charge to subscribers by internet service providers who wish to use it. Under the Safe Internet Service, providers provide safe search option of Google, Yandex, Bing and Yaani search engines as already defined in the system. Thus, the search of subscribers on search engine is filtered and subscribers receive extra protection against harmful content.

Article 34 of the Council of Europe Convention On Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) on “Stalking” states that “***Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the intentional conduct of repeatedly engaging in threatening conduct directed at another person, causing her or him to fear for her or his safety, is criminalised***”.

Upon the ratification of the Convention by Turkey in March 2012, preparatory works were carried out for the fulfilment of the provisions of the Convention, and during the preparation process of the Law No. 6284 on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women, coming into force in March 2012, special attention was paid to fulfil the liabilities stemming from the Convention.

Accordingly, Article 1 of the Law No. 6284 prepared on the basis of the Convention states that “***The aim of this law is to protect the women, the children, the family members and the victims of stalking, who have been subject to the violence or at the risk of violence, and to regulate procedures and principles with regard to the measures of preventing the violence against those people.***” Thus, the Law covers the victims of stalking as well.

Furthermore, Implementing Regulation on the Law No. 6284 on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence Against Women, entering into force in January 18, 2013 includes following articles:

- Article 1 states that “This regulation contains to protect the women, the children, the family members and ***the victims of stalking***, who have been subjected to violence or at the risk of violence, to prevent the violence against those people and procedures and principles with regard to taking and implementing measures of preventing the violence about the perpetrator of violence and the persons that are likely to perpetrate violence.” Thus, the victims of stalking are covered by the Regulation as well.
- In Article 3, it is stated that “*Protected Person: Victims of violence and their children, family members and **victims of stalking** that are protected within the scope of the cautionary decision*”
- “Stalking: Regardless of the family connection or relation, it means all attitudes and behaviours actually, verbally, in writing or using every kinds of communication instruments and restraining the protected person in a way to worry about the security of the protected person and cause fear and despair physically and psychologically”

Thus, the victims of stalking have been included among protected persons, and the term stalking has been defined.

Videos with sexually explicit content were banned and access to those videos was blocked in school computers by the Ministry of National Education. In addition to this, public service ads were prepared to encourage parents to use protective and safe internet packages.

Being carried out by the Ministry of National Education, **FATİH Project** was established with the aim of providing equality of opportunity in education and improving technology in our schools in a way that information technology tools shall address more sense organs in the process of education and shall be used more effectively.

Within the scope of Fatih Project, **the Course on Conscious and Safe Use of IT and Internet** was organized for managers and teachers who work in the Ministry of National Education. It is aimed that each trainee who successfully completes this course:

- Shall use IT consciously and effectively,
- Shall use internet consciously and effectively,
- Shall use technology effectively and safe in education,
- Shall be aware of risks to be encountered during the use of internet,
- Shall know aspects of health, and technical, educational, psychosocial, and legal aspects of the use of IT and Internet.

Following subjects are given in **the mentioned course**;

- *In the technical aspect*; Conscious use, Share, Safe Use, Ethical Use
- *In the educational aspect*; The concept of digital citizenship, first encounter of children and teenagers with internet, the use of internet at schools, social networks, role-modeling and wannabe in internet, Internet games, Addiction, Aggression/indocibility, and Cyber bullying
- *In the aspect of health*; Physical conditions, Time and frequency of use, electromagnetic effects, Internet addiction, accessing to health information in cyber environment, protection from risks

- *In psychosocial aspect:* Its effect on communication levels, its relation with some personal traits such as self-confidence levels, internet addiction, and addictive personality
- *In legal aspect;* What are the crimes which can be committed in the internet environment, regulations in this field (World-Turkey), and sanctions, Procedure to follow when a problem is encountered, Precautions to be taken

The exam was carried out within the scope of assessment and evaluation.

4 public service ads about conscious use of internet were broadcasted in MoNE Education Information Network and shared with all shareholders.

In addition to this, various activities were organized for students, university academic and administrative staff and citizens on the subject under the leadership of Women’s Research and Implementation Centers of Universities.

17. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to address the portrayal of women and girls, discrimination and/or gender bias in the media?

Enacted, strengthened and enforced legal reforms to combat discrimination and/or gender bias in the media

Introduced binding regulation for the media, including for advertising

Supported the media industry to develop voluntary codes of conduct

Provided training to media professionals to encourage the creation and use of nonstereotypical,

balanced and diverse images of women and girls in the media

Promoted the participation and leadership of women in the media

Established or strengthened consumer protection services to receive and review complaints about media content or gender-based discrimination/bias in the media

Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 17:

Created as a result of the studies carried out in collaboration with Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTUK) and Association of Television Broadcast (TVYD) and signed by broadcasting organizations in 2007, the following principles are presented in **Principles of Ethical Broadcasting;**

- Not to include race, colour, language, religion and gender discrimination, humiliation and prejudices in our broadcasts,
- To be sensitive about women’s problems and to avoid objectification

With this initiative, it is aimed to encourage the media service providers to serve voluntarily and to implement self-regulation practices in accordance with the determined principles.

Within this scope, in 2004, RTUK prepared “**Guidebook of Broadcasting Principles**” with the aim of developing concrete guidance approaches aiming at RTUK personnel and other media personnel in order to increase self-control practices, and presented it to the attention of relevant persons and public. In the Guidebook of Broadcasting Principles, the following principles are presented;

- Programs about the exclusion of people based on their gender, nationality, ethnicity, colour, language, religion, sect, philosophical belief, political ideas, and physical or mental disability, and the adoption and normalization of behaviours such as avoiding having interaction with these people must not be broadcasted.
In broadcasting services;
- Sexist approach must be avoided by attributing certain secondary jobs to only one gender.
- Women must not be constantly represented as victims or as helpless individuals.
In commercial communication;
- Programs must not include or encourage any kind of discrimination such as gender, ethnicity, colour or ethnic origin, nationality, religion, sect, language, philosophical belief or political idea, disability, age, social background, wealth, place of birth etc.

Updated on 11th December 2018 by Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTUK) the title of these principles was changed to **the Principles of Ethical Audio-Visual Broadcasting** and accepted and signed by media service providers. The principle that

- Not to include contents which abuse women was added to these principles.

In addition to this, according to the **first paragraph of article 8 of Law No. 6112 on Establishment and Broadcasting Services of Radio and Television**, broadcast services;

- b) Cannot provoke the society to hatred and enmity or create hatred in society by considering the difference of race, language, religion, sex, class, region and sect.
- e) Cannot contain and promote broadcasts that humiliate individuals or discriminate for any reason such as race, colour, language, religion, nationality, gender, disability, political and philosophical thinking, sect etc.
- s) Cannot contain programs that violate gender equality, encourage women's oppression, and abuse women."

According to **the sixth paragraph of the Article 9**, commercial communication must;

- b) Not contain or encourage any discrimination such as gender, race, colour or ethnicity, nationality, religion, philosophical belief or political ideas, disability, age etc.
- d) Not include any content related to the abuse of women."

The contents of the broadcasts provided by the media service providers are audited by the experts in the Monitoring and Evaluation Office in accordance with the above mentioned broadcasting principles. In addition to this, the likes, suggestions, expectations and complaints from the 444 11 78 Call Line, RTUK Web, RTUK Mobile and RTUK E-mail communication channels related to the media content and gender discrimination and bias in the media are also instantly available to the RTUK Communication Center. These notifications are periodically analysed and communicated to the relevant stakeholders. All complaints received by RTUK are shared with the relevant media service providers. Media service providers can self-control in the context of the principles of the publishing agency and the publishing ethics. After the monitoring and evaluation on the complaint or ex officio, administrative service is applied to media service providers by the Supreme Board decision on broadcast services which are against the provisions above.

By the Supreme Board; between the years 2014-2018 to the publications that are contrary to gender equality and women's abuse;

- For the violation of the first paragraph of Article 8 (s), a total of 36 sanctions were imposed, 2 of which were intercepted and 34 of which were administrative fines.
- A total of 112 warning sanctions were applied due to the violation of sub-paragraph (d) of the sixth paragraph of article 9.

Young Communicators Meeting and International Young Communicators Meetings in corporation with the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) are held for students from the faculties of communication from different parts of our country and foreign students studying with scholarships in communication faculties in our country. Students are encouraged to visit leading institutions in the field of communication such as Anatolian Agency, the Radio and Television Supreme Council, Turkey Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) and Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB), Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), and Yunus Emre Institute in order to gain professional vision. In addition, seminars were organized to provide professional experience with the participation of experienced professionals in the field of media. Within this scope, five Young Communicators and two International Young Communicators Meetings have been held so far.

The programmes held in this framework are as follows;

- **Young Communicators Meeting-I** (Karadeniz Technical University, Giresun University and Gümüşhane University / 25-26 November 2015)
- **Young Communicators Meeting-II** (Kayseri Erciyes, Niğde, Sivas Cumhuriyet Universities / 24 - 26 February 2016)
- **Young Communicators Meeting-III** (Ege University and Kâtip Çelebi University / 16-18 May 2016)
- **Young Communicators Meeting-IV** (Selçuk University / 24-25 May 2017)
- **Young Communicators Meeting-V** (Akdeniz University / 4-6 July 2017)
- **1. International Young Communicators Meeting** (18-20 April 2016)
- **2. International Young Communicators Meeting** (23-24 November 2016)
- Almost half of the students participating in the Programmes in question **(45%) are chosen from female students.**

The Project on Combating Domestic Violence , which is one of the highest budget projects of the European Union (€ 10.150.000) was carried out in 26 provinces in 2014-2016 by the General Directorate on the Status of Women, Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. Within the scope of the Project's **Visibility Meetings**, meetings were held with representatives of local media organizations in Antalya, Konya and Trabzon provinces to share the ethics of violence and media usage. A total of **103 people** attended to the meetings.

In 2017, **Women's Representation Project** was conducted by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services in order to determine the impact of women's representation on the social and cultural structure of women and society. The role of discrimination of Media against women on the reproduction of women's inequality is discussed.

The project consists of three components:

1. Women's Representation in Media
2. Media Professionals' Perception of Women's Representation in Media

3. The General Perception of the Society on the Representation of Women in the Media
As a result of the project, a comprehensive report and a woman representation guide were prepared for media professionals. In addition, the findings will provide input in the works to increase the awareness and awareness of media managers, media professionals, students of communication faculties of the universities and the public.

"The Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment", covering the years 2018-2023 was prepared by the General Directorate on the Status of Women by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services with the participation of public institutions, universities and non-governmental organizations. In the action plan comprehensively prepared with the purpose of women's empowerment in Turkey (2018-2013), one of the five main policy areas has been considered as Media. The primary objective is determined as **Strengthening Women's Representation in the Media and Ensuring Women's Efficient-Critical Use of Media**. With the Action Plan, various duties and responsibilities are provided to public institutions, local governments, universities, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

In addition, a variety of activities were organized for students, university employees and citizens on the issues of violence in the media, media literacy, and gender equality in the media under the leadership of the Women's Research and Implementation Centers of Universities, and these issues were included in the related courses.

18. Has your country taken any action in the last five years specifically tailored to address violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination?

YES/NO

If YES, please list them and provide up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 18: YES

"Combating Gender Based Violence and Interventions Humanitarian Assistance Programme" developed for the purpose of increasing awareness of the violence among the Syrians coming to Turkey due to the ongoing conflict in Syria, increasing the capacity of the staff providing services to Syrians regarding the intervention in the cases of violence against women and for providing support to Turkey on this issue was carried out in Gaziantep Nizip-1 camp which was selected as a pilot camp in the period of April 2013-June 2015 in cooperation with the General Directorate on the Status of Women, Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Moreover, leaflets including the information on human trafficking, early and forced marriages, violence etc. as well as the referral mechanisms when there is any exposure of violence or when a person witnesses violence were prepared in Arabic and Turkish. These leaflets are updated and republished every year, and are delivered to all the public institutions, nongovernmental organisations, international organisations and camps in order to ensure that more Syrians benefit from them.

The Ministry of Health developed programs on prevention of gender based discrimination against the women in the host country as well as the refugee women and provision of rehabilitation services, the fundamental needs of the women affected from the trauma and

disasters and defined as the disadvantaged group and on the provision of psychosocial support to them. These programs are “Combating Domestic Violence against Women”, “Training for Midwives and Nurses Working in the Migrant Health Centers on Strengthening Children and Women Mental Health Services” and “Program on Social Traumas and Psychological Support in Disaster”.

In Turkey, services provided for women in the reproductive age are also provided for Syrian women under temporary protection in the same way.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Health and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on the following issues:

- Access to the reproductive health services
- Maternal and infant mortality and diseases
- HIV infection
- Unintended or risky pregnancy
- Sexual violence and gender based violence, and decreasing the risks in other cases of reproduction.

The aim of the cooperation established with the Memorandum of Understanding is to support all the vulnerable groups including the refugees with respect to decreasing the differences on access to reproductive health and gender equality in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The leaflets on Prenatal Care, Postnatal Care, Reproductive Health Methods, Reproductive Health Methods, and Pregnant Nourishment, Sexually Transmitted Infections, prepared in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Ministry of Health and translated to Arabic, were printed and distributed.

Consultancy Training on Reproductive Health was delivered to 571 Syrian health staff working in the Migrant Health Centers. The objective of this training was to provide standard services by means of increasing awareness of the women and reproductive health and to prevent the maternal and infant mortality.

“Training on Minimum Beginning Service Provision Package in Disasters and Emergencies” was delivered to 688 health staff in the densely migrant populated areas.

Specialization of Women's Shelters is carried out in order to eliminate the problems stemming from different characteristics and sensitivities of women and children, with different needs and demands, benefiting from the shelter service of Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, General Directorate on the Status of Women, to increase the quality and effectiveness of services provided, to determine the professional standards for the personnel working in the shelters and the physical structure of the buildings.

Hacettepe University Women’s Research and Implementation Centre (HÜKSAM), United Nations Population Fund and Ankara Provincial Directorate of Health jointly implement a project entitled “**Strengthening Access of Syrian and Other Migrant Women to Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence Services by Establishing Safe Areas for Women and Girls**”

and Women's Health Information Centers” (details of the project are presented under the Answer 3).

The “Strategy Paper and Action Plan on **Women's Empowerment** ”, covering the years 2018-2023, was developed by the General Directorate on the Status of Women with the contribution of Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services with the participation of public institutions, universities, and nongovernmental organisations.

The preparatory work of the Strategy Paper and Action Plan was carried out in cooperation with all stakeholders through workshops. Written opinions of the institutions were also taken during the process. In the Strategy Paper and Action Plan, the main objective, targets, strategies, and activities related to the **education, health, economy, participation in decision-making mechanisms and the media** have been organized in five main policy axes.

Cross-cutting policy areas have been identified to address under the policy axes in the Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment, and these have been taken into account in the formulation of objectives, strategies and activities. Cross-cutting policy areas are; legislative amendments changes, the existence of gender-disaggregated data, equality between man and women, monitoring evaluation and impact analysis studies, gender-responsive budgeting studies, cooperation with local authorities, cooperation with non-governmental organizations, cooperation with universities, cooperation with the private sector, disability, seniority, rural women, women under temporary protection/who have applied for international protection or international protection status, girl children, involvement of men including boy children in the empowerment of women.

Efforts are underway to ensure that women and girls, who may be exposed to intersectional discrimination, are especially taken into account in the combat against violence against women. Policy documents such as the Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women’s Empowerment, the Provincial Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women, the Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Early and Forced Marriages, and especially 3rd Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women were prepared in this perspective. As a result of the work carried out within the scope of the implementation of these policy papers, it will be possible to collect data on women and girls who may be exposed to intersectional discrimination.

Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions

- Critical areas of concern:**
- G. Women in power and decision-making
 - H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
 - I. Human rights of women
 - J. Women and the media
 - L. The girl child

19. What actions and measures has your country taken in the last five years to promote women’s participation in public life and decision-making?

- Reformed constitution, laws and regulations that promote women’s participation in politics, especially at decision-making level, including electoral system reform, adoption of temporary special measures, such as quotas, reserved seats, benchmarks and targets
- Implemented capacity building, skills development and other measures
- Encouraged the participation of minority and young women, including through sensitization and mentorship programmes
- Provided opportunities for mentorship, training in leadership, decision-making, public speaking, self-assertion, political campaigning
- Taken measures to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish violence against women in politics
- Collected and analyzed data on women’s political participation, including in appointed and elected positions
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 19:

Women's active participation in decision-making at all levels; the fact that they are actively involved in the social and public life to devise solutions for their problems are extremely important in terms of achieving the development goals of the countries. Women in Turkey, before many countries in the world, obtained the right to vote and to be voted in the local elections in the 1930s and in the parliamentary elections in 1934.

When considered alongside the Constitution and the Law on Political Parties in Turkey, it is seen that men and women have equal rights. In addition, amendments made in 2004 and 2010 in Article 10 of the Constitution have led to positive discrimination practices, including the equal participation of men and women in decision-making mechanisms.

In the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018), it was emphasised that the effectiveness of women increased in decision-making processes in the past period; however, it was determined that studies should be continued to ensure equality of opportunity between men and women, including more active participation in decision-making mechanisms. In this context; under the “Policies” title, the measure “Increasing women's involvement in decision-making mechanisms” is included.

In 2002 General Elections, the number of women deputies in the parliament was 24, while the rate of female representation was 4.4; in 2007, this number increased to 50 and the representation rate rose to 9.1. During June 12, 2011 General Elections, the number of female MPs in the parliament increased to 79. This figure is proportional to 14.4%. In November 1, 2015 General Elections, the number of female deputies was 81 and the rate of women's representation in the Parliament was 14.73%. **Finally, in June 24, 2018 General Elections, the number of female MPs in the parliament was 104 and the representation rate was 17.45%. In the Presidential Government system, which was implemented with the election of June 24, 2018, there are 2 women ministers (12.5%) in the cabinet. In addition, 4 of the deputy ministers serving in the Ministries are women.**

According to the local election results on 30 March 2014, 3 of the 30 metropolitan mayors and 40 of the 1,381 municipality mayors were women. Female candidates were elected in Aydın, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep and Hakkari as mayors at provincial level (there has been a change in duty due to the ongoing judicial process in Hakkari and Diyarbakır). Of the 20,498 municipal councilors, 2,198 (10.7%) were women. When we look at the number of members of the Provincial Assembly, the situation does not look very different. Of the 1,251 Provincial Council members, 60 (4,8%) were women.

In addition to this, **the ratio of women in professions requiring expertise** in Turkey is quite high. The ratio of female lecturers in universities is 50,08%. In this context, the rate of women among the professors is 31.4%, the rate of women among associate professors is 39.3%, and the rate of women among Dr. Instructors is 43.1%. The percentage of women faculty members is 43,11% and the rate of women among the research assistants is 50,6% (Council of Higher Education, January 2019)⁴. In addition, 17 of the 200 university rectors are female (8.5%) and the rate of female deans is 17.5% (Council of Higher Education, January 2019). 26.327 of 58 641 architects are women (44.8%) (Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects, February 2019), 51.356 of 116 779 the registered lawyers in bar associations are women (44%), 6 of the 79 heads of bar associations are women (7.5%) (Turkey Bar Communities, in January 2018), 51% of bankers (the Banks Association of Turkey, December 2018), are women. According to the January 2019 data of the judges and prosecutors, 6.052 out of 13.344 judges (45.3%) in the judicial and administrative judiciary and 782 (12.8%) out of 6.065 prosecutors are women.

In 2014 and 2015, "**Women's Leadership Development and Empowerment Training and Mentoring Program**" was held in cooperation with the General Directorate on the Status of Women and Düzce University. Within the scope of the program; benefiting more from the advantages of personality and transformational leadership qualities of women for leadership concept development of Turkish universities, increasing the rate of female academics in management positions, involving female academics in authority and decision-making processes are aimed.

In order to ensure equal opportunities for women and men in decision-making mechanisms, awareness has been increased especially in recent years, and national and international initiatives have been carried out in this area.

Promising new initiatives have been undertaken in recent years including cooperation between UN Women and the Turkish Grand National Assembly's Committee on Equality of Opportunity for Women and Men (EOC) to strengthen capacities of Parliamentary staff and members of Parliament on gender responsive legislation and budgeting. GRB is now incorporated into the administrative budget of the Parliament. It has also been witnessed that there is a positive tendency among signatories of Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) from private sector to empower women at work place and in decision making.

"The Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment ", covering the years 2018-2023 was prepared by the General Directorate on the Status of Women by the Ministry of

⁴ State, Foundation, Foundation Occupation High School and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are included.

Family, Labour and Social Services with the participation of public institutions, universities and non-governmental organizations.

In Turkey, the action plan comprehensively prepared with the purpose of women's empowerment, (2018-2013) one of the five main policy areas has been considered as participation in decision-making mechanisms. The objective was determined as; "**increasing the representation of women in decision-making at local and national levels to ensure their effective participation in the decision-making process**". With the Action Plan, various duties and responsibilities have been assigned to public institutions, local authorities, universities, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

In the Decision Making Mechanisms of the Action Plan, following strategies have been set:

“Strategy 1: Monitoring women's representation in decision-making mechanisms better and introducing legislative and administrative arrangements in support of women “

“Strategy 2: Conducting awareness-raising activities to promote social support in order to increase women's representation in decision-making mechanisms “

“Strategy 3: Conducting activities which encourage and empower women with the aim of enhancing women's representation in decision-making mechanisms.”

20. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase women’s access to expression and participation in decision-making in the media, including through information and communication technologies (ICT)?

Strengthened the provision of formal and technical vocational education and training (TVET) in media and ICTs, including in areas of management and leadership

Taken measures to enhance access, affordability and use of ICTs for women and girls (e.g. free wifi hubs, community technology centers)

Introduced regulations to advance equal pay, retention and career advancement of women within the media and ICT field

Collaborated with employers in the media and ICT field to improve internal policies and hiring practices on a voluntary basis

Provided support to women’s media networks and organizations

Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 20:

Safe Internet Truck activities have been provided by Information Technologies and Communication Authority by the Presidency in Turkey in order to create a platform for children and young people, who have limited access to technology, to experience technology, and raise awareness about the informed and safe use of the internet for children who are already familiar with technology.

International Girls in ICT Day, an initiative of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a specialist body of the UN, aims to ensure that young girls and young women have an existing career opportunity in information and communication technologies. It also aims to ensure that they are able to benefit from career opportunities to raise awareness on this issue

and achieve gender equality in this field. In order to raise awareness about these targets, it was planned to celebrate this day in our country and in this context, on 18 April 2018, various activities were organized for the children of different age and education groups in cooperation with Information and Communications Technologies Authority and Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services.

After the Experience Center and Safe Internet Center Technology Experience Trips, the Trainings on **Conscious Use of Information Technologies and Internet** were provided to girls and their accompanying trainers in order to raise awareness for the conscious, safe and effective use of the internet. Within the scope of this training, it was emphasized that the accuracy of the information they encounter on the internet is questionable and information was provided about effective and efficient use of time on the internet, personal data and password security.

In Turkey, the action plan comprehensively prepared with the purpose of women's empowerment, (2018-2013) one of the five main policy areas has been considered as Media. The primary objective was determined as **Strengthening Women's Representation in the Media and Ensuring Women's Effective-Critical Use of Media**. With the Action Plan, various duties and responsibilities have been assigned to public institutions, local authorities, universities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

In the Media section of the Action Plan;

“Activity 3.2: Quantitative and qualitative research will be conducted to determine the situation of obstacles to the use and access to new communication technologies for women and girls. “

“Activity 3.3: The participation of women in 'Digital Literacy Trainings' will be increased.”

“Activity 3.4: Vocational qualification certificate for women and girls will be supported in the occupations in Media, Communication, Publication and Information Technologies sector”.

On the other hand, in the Economy section of the Action Plan;

Strategy 2: Strengthening the opportunities for vocational training and skills development to increase employment of women in the labour market. (Activity 2.2: Actions will be increased for the purpose of training women labour force in IT sector.)

Strategy 5: Developing women's entrepreneurship, and particularly ensuring the strengthening women's economic positions by expanding the use of information and communication”.

However, **"Women's Activities in Science and Technology"**, is organized by General Directorate on the Status of Women in the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services.

- Within the scope of **" International Day of Women and Girls in Science"** on February 11th, various activities were organized with the aim of encouraging female students to carry out studies in the field of science by enabling them to meet with role model women scientists. Within this scope, studies were carried out in Ankara in 2018 and in Kocaeli in 2019.
- "International Girls in ICT Day" was organized in Ankara on April 18th, 2018 and in İstanbul on 24th-26th April 2018. A total of **900 people** participated in the Programme,

which was conducted in cooperation with the Information and Communication Technologies Authority.

- In the scope of "**Digital Literacy Seminars**" held regarding the effective use of opportunities provided by Digital technologies in cooperation with Google Turkey, in May 3rd, 2018, a seminar was held for Ministry of Family, Labour, and Social Services staff with the participation of **103 people**. In May 10th, 2018, "**Women and Technology İstanbul Gathering**" was held with the participation of around **800 people consisting mostly of local authorities, members and MoFLSS staff**.

In addition, a number of activities were organized by the Women's Research and Implementation Centres of universities on issues such as the benefits and risks of **safe internet, social media for students and the public**.

21. Do you track the proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?

YES/NO

If YES, what is the approximate proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women?

Please provide information on the specific areas in which these resources have been invested as well as reflections on achievements and challenges encountered in making budgets genderresponsive.

ANSWER 21: NO

In addition, Project entitled "**Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting in Turkey**" is planned to create political and bureaucratic awareness and ownership about gender responsive planning and budgeting; to develop institutional capacity related to gender responsive public policies, plans, programs and budget processes in central and local governments; to ensure sustainability and to increase monitoring capacity on gender responsive planning and budgeting studies. While the main beneficiary of the project is the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, co-beneficiaries will be Strategy and Budget Department of the Presidency and Ministry of Finance and Treasury. With a budget of 3.3 million Euros, the project is included in EU Fundamental Rights Subfield 2016 Programming. The project will be implemented through technical assistance of UN Women. The work on detailed project text is ongoing. It is aimed to launch this 3-year project in 2019.

22. As a donor country, does your country track the proportion of official development assistance (ODA) that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?

YES/NO

Not applicable

If YES, please provide further information on the methodology, the scope of tracking, past trends and current proportion of investments.

ANSWER 22: NO

Total amount of official development assistance provided by Turkey as donor country has increased by over eight times during the period 2010-2017, and reached **8.121 million US dollars in 2017**. While the share of official development assistance in GDP was **0.13% in 2010**, it increased to **0.95% in 2017**.

23. Does your country have a valid national strategy or action plan for gender equality?

YES/NO

If YES, please list the name of the plan and the period it covers, its priorities, funding and alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the targets under SDG 5.

If YES, has the national action plan been costed and have sufficient resources been allocated to its achievement in the current budget?

ANSWER 23: YES

"The Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment 2018-2023" was prepared under the coordination of General Directorate on the Status of Women of Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. The Plan aims at strengthening women in economic and social aspects; ensuring that they benefit from rights, opportunities and facilities on an equal basis and mainstreaming gender.

The Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment 2018-2023 was prepared with the opinions and contributions of all relevant stakeholders in order to ensure the cooperation and coordination of all public institutions and organizations working in this field, taking the multidimensional aspect of the issue into consideration to mobilize the institutions.

Measures to empower women have been included in many policy documents such as development plans, government programs, and strategic plans of the relevant Ministries. However, the compilation of the actions carried out by many different institutions on women's empowerment in a systematic document provides a thematic upper policy text. It also constitutes a basic framework for the monitoring of the studies. For this reason, "The Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment 2018-2023" is important in the sense that it brings all ongoing or planned actions of relevant stakeholders towards empowering women in a single policy paper. The document will ensure collaboration and coordination among stakeholders.

"The Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment 2018-2023" encompasses **5 main policy pillars** for the empowerment of women:

- **Education,**
- **Economy,**
- **Health,**
- **Participation in Decision Making Mechanisms,**
- **Media.**

The Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment 2018-2023 is composed of two sections; namely "Strategy Paper" and "Action Plan".

In the "**Strategy Paper**", current situation is presented for each main axis. The current situation provides an overview of issues such as international and national legislation, basic indicators, actions taken, key problems.

The "**Action Plan**" entails "main objective", "targets", "strategies" and "activities" under the strategies for each axis.

The Strategy Paper sets “**Cross-cutting Policy Areas**” to be reflected to all Action Plan, to be taken into consideration in all policy axes and to be considered while identifying main objective, target, strategy, activity and indicator. Cross-cutting Policy Areas are as follows:

- Legislative amendments,
- Existence of gender disaggregated data,
- Training on equality of opportunity for women and men,
- Monitoring and evaluation and impact assessment studies,
- Gender sensitive budgeting,
- Collaboration with local authorities,
- Collaboration with nongovernmental organisations,
- Collaboration with universities,
- Collaboration with private sector,
- Disability,
- Old age ,
- Rural women,
- Women under temporary protection/who have applied for international protection or international protection status,
- Girls,
- Involvement of men including boys in the empowerment of women.

These areas are taken into account in all policy axes.

In the **Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women’s Empowerment**, “main objectives” have been identified for each of 5 main policy pillars:

Education: To ensure full access and effective participation of girls and women in all levels of education.

Economy: To ensure that women participate in working life fully and effectively and that they have a voice in economic life in line with changing labour market dynamics.

Health: To ensure that women lead a healthy life by improving health services offered to women and by raising awareness of health.

Participation in Decision-making Mechanisms: To increase women’s representation at local and national level in decision-making mechanisms and to ensure their effective participation in decision-making processes.

Media: To ensure that women’s representation is improved and strengthened in media and that women make effective-critical use of media.

In the **Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women’s Empowerment**, targets have been formulated in order to attain the main objective set under each main policy axis; strategies have been developed to be able to reach these targets, and it has been presented briefly what will be done and which activities will be carried out by formulating activities under the strategies. "Responsible Institution" that will be responsible for conducting the activities itself finalizing them on time, and reporting them; "related institutions" that will cooperate with the responsible institutions in activities to be carried out, "timeline" that that will define the duration of the activity, "performance indicator" that will include basic indicators regarding the activity, "explanation" part that will include the details of works conducted during the activity have separately determined for each activity.

The monitoring and evaluation process of the Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment 2018-2023 will be carried out under the coordination of the General Directorate on the Status of Women, Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. Within this framework "**Monitoring Meeting**" is held every year under the coordination of the General Directorate on the Status of Women with the participation of the representatives of the relevant institutions in order to make evaluations regarding the Action Plan. In this context, the first monitoring meeting convened **on December 11, 2018** at the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services with the participation of institutions identified as responsible institutions in the Action Plan. Reporting activities are carried out in accordance with the information received from the institutions and agencies related to the activities carried out.

- In addition, at the end of the Plan implementation period, whether the targets determined specifically for each policy axis are reached will be evaluated through an impact analysis study.

- Suggestions resulting from the impact analysis study can be used as input for the update of the Strategy Paper and Action Plan after 2023.

24. Does your country have an action plan and timeline for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (if a State party), or of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review or other United Nations human rights mechanisms that address gender inequality/discrimination against women?

YES/NO

If YES, please provide some highlights of the action plans and timeline for implementation.

ANSWER 24: NO

The Periodic Country Reports of the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** to which Turkey is a party are prepared under the coordination of the General Directorate on Status of Women/Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and, the report is presented by a committee composing the representatives of the General Directorate and the relevant institutions and organisations. Turkey lastly submitted its 7th Periodic Country Report to the Committee in 2014 and made the presentation of the report in Geneva on 13 July 2016. The Interim Report was delivered to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be submitted to the CEDAW Committee in the first week of the July, 2018, and the 8th Periodic Country Report will be presented in 2020. In the national reporting activities, the focus is on the legal and practical developments carried out in Turkey and the activities towards realisation of the recommendations adopted by CEDAW. There is not a separate action plan for the implementation of the mentioned recommendations, and the suggestions of the relevant mechanisms are taken into consideration in the strategy documents and action plans prepared by the relevant parties as well as the studies carried out.

In addition, the Universal Periodic Review activities are conducted under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the national reporting studies, the focus is on the legal and practical developments carried out in Turkey, and the activities targeting the realisation of the recommendations adopted by the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPM). There is not a

separate action plan for the implementation of the mentioned recommendations, and the suggestions of the relevant mechanisms are taken into consideration in the strategy documents and action plans prepared by the relevant parties as well as the studies carried out.

25. Is there a national human rights institution in your country?

YES/ NO

If YES, does it have a specific mandate to focus on gender equality or discrimination based on sex/gender?

If YES, please provide up to three examples of how the NHRI has promoted gender equality. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 25: YES

Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey was established as the national institution of human rights and equality with the Law on Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey No. 6701 that entered into force following its publication in the Official Gazette No. 29690 on 20/04/2016.

Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey (TIHEK) was established in order to protect and improve human rights on the basis of human dignity, **guarantee the right to equal treatment, function in line with the principles of prevention of discrimination while enjoying the legally guaranteed rights and freedoms**, effectively fight against torture and ill treatment and to fulfil its duty of serving as a national prevention mechanism on this issue. As stated in the justification of the Law of Establishment, the Institution functions at national level in the area of protection and improvement of the human rights in line with its nature of establishment within the framework of the Paris Principles adopted in the UN General Assembly on 20 December 1993. On the other hand, Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey was also put charge of **equality** for fulfilling the criteria indicated in the Council Directive no 2000/78/EC and the Council Directive No. 2000/43/EC within the framework of the ongoing negotiation process with the European Union (EU).

As per the Article 9 of the Law No. 6701, Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey was charged with the tasks of following up the legislative studies regarding the prevention of discrimination, informing the relevant authorities on its opinions and recommendations regarding these studies, following up the judicial decisions, raising awareness of the fight against discrimination among the public by means of performing information activities and delivering training as well as using the mass media tools and contributing to the preparation of relevant parts in the law of prohibition of discrimination in the curriculum of national education.

One of the most significant tasks of Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey which is operating for prevention of any kinds of discrimination is to examine the violation of the prohibition of discrimination ex officio or upon application, conduct investigation about them and give a relevant final decision, follow up the results of the decision, guide those applying to the Institution by claiming that they are victims due to the violation of the prohibition of discrimination about the administrative and legal means they can use and help them follow up their applications.

Every real and legal person claiming that they suffered from the violation of the prohibition of discrimination is able to recourse to Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey if they cannot receive a positive reply after making a request to the relevant party regarding the correction of the practice which is claimed to violate the Law.

Within the framework of its task of fighting against discrimination, a limine examination was launched on the applications submitted to Human Rights and Equality Institution Body of Turkey in person and via mail, fax, phone and other means and referred to the Unit of Fighting against Discrimination and Equality. Half of the applications made to the Institution and on which a limine examine was initiated were made by women, and the topic of the majority of the applications is mobbing and there are also applications including the claims of discrimination based on marital status, gender, age, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief and sect. The examined applications were delivered to the relevant persons and organisations to ensure that the claims are examined and responded and the information and documents on the issue are submitted to Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey. Moreover, on-the-spot examinations were carried out on the cases deemed necessary by the examination officials, and the witnesses were listened to.

For instance, the Decision no 2018/69 given by Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey as the decision organ of the Institution is related to the claim of a female applicant that she was exposed to discrimination while trying to rent a house in Eskişehir due to her marital status. In this application, the female applicant who is divorced and living with her child claims that she was exposed to discrimination due to her marital status. The addressee of the claim of violation stated that he/she has seven flats in the same apartment and gave an instruction to the estate agent for not renting the house to someone single in order not to disturb the family environment in the apartment. Following the examinations made by the institution, it was concluded in this event that the applicant was treated with a discriminative manner just because of being a divorced/single woman without demonstration of any other justification and, the assumption of the addressee that a family would be more caring while using the house compared to a single person during the rental period and they would not disturb the other families in the apartment in terms of the generally recognised ethic values lies behind the instruction of him/her on not renting any of his/her house to a single person and, this assumption does not serve to any legal, logical and objective reason.

For the home owner, it was unanimously decided by the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey that the “prohibition of discrimination” guaranteed under the Article 3 of the Law No. 6701 was violated, and an administrative fine of 2,000 TL would be imposed and, for the real estate as the addressee, it was ruled that the prohibition of discrimination was violated due to the practice of the instruction containing discrimination, and an administrative fine of 1,000 TL would be imposed on the real estate.

Another significant task of TİHEK in the area of fighting against discrimination is to carry out information activities about human rights and the fight against discrimination by using the mass media tools as well and to cooperate with the public institutions and agencies, nongovernmental organisations, professional organisations and universities that conduct activities in the area of protection of human rights and the fight against discrimination.

Within this framework, the Advisory Committee was formed as per the Article 22 of the Law on TİHEK No. 6701 to discuss the problems and solution suggestions regarding the prohibition of discrimination and to exchange information and opinions on these issues. In the composition of the Commission, the participation of the public institutions and agencies, nongovernmental organisations, trade unions, social and professional organisations, higher education institutions, press and publication organisations, researchers and other individuals as well as the other institutions and organisations was taken into consideration, and a particular importance was attached to the inclusion of women members and nongovernmental organisations active in the area of women's rights.

Within this scope, the first meeting of the Advisory Commission on Fighting against Discrimination was held in Ankara on 22 October 2018. The problems and solution suggestions were discussed on the issues related to the prohibition of discrimination including the discrimination against women, and exchange of information and opinions were realised in the meetings organised also with the participation of the representatives of the nongovernmental organisations active in the area of women's rights. In addition, the aim of the "Conference on Fight Against Discrimination in Professional Life" to be organised on 17/04/2019 by the MoFLSS is to address the discrimination against people with disabilities, women and foreigners in the professional life with the social parties and scientists, and to discuss the different aspects of discrimination in professional life, especially the trade unions and the fight against discrimination. In addition, TİHEK participated as a project stakeholder in the Project on Increasing Participatory Democracy in Turkey: Monitoring of Gender Equality where Gender Equality Monitoring Association is the implementing body and the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate for EU Affairs is the beneficiary and followed up the project activities.

Moreover, TİHEK is also responsible for increasing awareness of human rights and the fight against discrimination through training among the public and to identify the preprofessional and in-service programs on human rights and equality of the public institutions and agencies and also to contribute to the implementation of these programs.

Within the framework of this responsibility, training on history of human rights, the general theory of human rights and equality principle and human rights and human rights protection mechanisms and the fight against discrimination was delivered by the experts of the institution within the scope of the training of the Candidates of Civil Servant.

Peaceful and inclusive societies

Critical areas of concern:

- E. Women and armed conflict
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

26. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to build and sustain peace, promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and implement the women, peace and security agenda?

- Adopted and/or implemented a National Action Plan on women, peace and security
- Integrated women, peace and security commitments into key national and inter-ministerial policy, planning and monitoring frameworks
- Used communication strategies, including social media, to increase awareness of the women, peace and security agenda
- Increased budgetary allocations for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda
- Taken steps to reduce excessive military expenditures and/or control the availability of armaments
- Re-allocated funds from military spending to social and economic development, including for gender equality and the empowerment of women
- Supported inclusive and gender-sensitive conflict analysis, early warning and prevention mechanisms
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 26:

The “Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security” for the implementation of the recommendations offered to the states in the decision of the UN Security Council (UNSC) no 1325 does not exist yet. In addition, the studies on the decision of UN Security Council No.1325 carried out by the UN and OSCE are supported by our country.

27. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase the leadership, representation and participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, peacebuilding, humanitarian action and crisis response, at decision-making levels in situations of armed and other conflicts, and in fragile or crisis settings?

- Promoted and supported women’s meaningful participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements
- Promoted equal participation of women in humanitarian and crisis response activities at all levels, particularly at the decision-making level
- Integrated a gender perspective in the prevention and resolution of armed or other conflict
- Integrated a gender perspective in humanitarian action and crisis response
- Protected civil society spaces and women’s human rights defenders
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 27:

“Combating Gender Based Violence and Interventions Humanitarian Assistance Programme” developed for the purpose of increasing awareness of the violence among the Syrians coming to Turkey due to the ongoing conflict in Syria, increasing the capacity of the staff providing services to Syrians regarding the intervention in the cases of violence against women and for providing support to Turkey on this issue was carried out in Gaziantep Nizip-1 camp which was selected as a pilot camp in the period of April 2013-June 2015 in cooperation

with the General Directorate on the Status of Women, Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Moreover, leaflets including the information on human trafficking, early and forced marriages, violence etc. as well as the referral mechanisms when there is any exposure of violence or when a person witnesses violence were prepared in Arabic and Turkish. These leaflets are updated and republished every year, and are delivered to all the public institutions, nongovernmental organisations, international organisations and camps in order to ensure that more Syrians benefit from them.

Psychosocial support services like psychosocial needs assessment, individual interview and psychological information are provided to the individuals, families and communities who are affected from such disasters and emergencies as earthquake, flood, terror attacks, major accidents and mass migration by the General Directorate of Family and Community Services within the body of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. In the period of February 2016- February 2018, **377,374 individuals were provided with psychosocial support service in 64.611 households in 77 cases.**

Within the scope of the obligation of providing psychosocial support services to the foreigners under temporary protection as per the Regulation on Temporary Protection; **381,939** Syrians benefited from psychosocial support services in the period of **2014-2018** and **56,236** Syrians benefited from the services offered by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services for the women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly people. In total, **438,175** individuals benefited from the service models of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services to date.

In 2018, 93 personnel were trained on “Working with Vulnerable Groups (Children, Women, Elderly People and People with Disabilities)”, and 258 personnel were trained on “Gender Awareness (Discrimination, Human Rights, Gender Based Violence)” within the scope of the Basic Level In-Service Training on Psychosocial Support in Disasters and Emergencies. The training was launched within this scope, and 951 individuals were trained.

28. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to enhance judicial and nonjudicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed and other conflicts or humanitarian action and crisis response?

- Implemented legal and policy reform to redress and prevent violations of the rights of women and girls
- Strengthened institutional capacities, including of the justice system and transitional justice mechanisms as applicable, during conflict and crisis response
- Strengthened capacity of security sector institutions on human rights and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse
- Increased access of conflict-affected, refugee or displaced women to violence prevention and protection services
- Taken measures to combat illicit arms trafficking
- Taken measures to combat the production, use of and trafficking in illicit drugs
- Taken measures to combat trafficking in women and children
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 28:

“The Law No. 6545 on Amending the Turkish Penal Code and Some Laws” dated 18/06/2014 and prepared by the Ministry of Justice entered into force following its publication in the Official Gazette dated 28/06/2014, and “The Law Amending the Code of Criminal Procedure and Some Laws” dated 24/11/2016 and No. 6763 entered into force following its publication in the Official Gazette dated 02/12/2016.

As per the mentioned laws:

A) For sexual crimes, any kind of sexual behaviour to children who has not turned 15 yet or already turned but has the limited capacity to understand the legal meaning and results of an act is included within the meaning of sexual abuse and the concept of “consent” is not used for the children under fifteen years old.

The regulation on aggravation of the punishment in case of deterioration of physical and mental health was abolished, and the punishment of the fundamental crime was increased. Therefore, it is avoided that the victims and especially children suffer again.

B) The punishment when the crime of sexual abuse (verbal abuse) is committed against children is doubled, and the lower limit of the crime was increased to 6 months from 3 months.

C) If the victim of the crime against sexual integrity is an adult, the perpetrator is charged with 2-5 years of imprisonment if the act is only at the level of molestation, 5-10 years if the crime is committed with attack and 12-20 years if the crime is committed by putting an organ or other object in the body.

Ç) The first and second paragraphs of Article 103 entitled “sexual abuse of children” in the Turkish Penal Code were reregulated due to the cancellation decision of the Constitutional Court Decision dated 12/11/2015 No. 2015/26, and the Decision dated 26/05/2016, No. 2015/108 were rearranged and the existing provisions which do not discriminate the committal of the crime against victims at different ages and a level is foreseen for the determination of the crime. According to this arrangement, a gradual punishment will be imposed according to the age of the victim.

According to this regulation:

1- It is determined that the perpetrator of the crime of sexual abuse against children is charged with 3-8 years of imprisonment if the act is only at the level of molestation, 8-10 years if the crime is committed with attack, the punishment to be imposed shall not be less than 10 years if the victim has not turned 12 and shall not be less than 5 years in cases of molestation.

2- If the crime is committed by means of putting an organ or other object in the body, the perpetrator shall be charged with at least 16 years of imprisonment if the victim turned 12 and with at least 18 years and at most 20 years of imprisonment if the victim has not turned 12.

D) It is foreseen that if the perpetrator of the crime of sexual abuse of children at the level of molestation is a child, the complaint of the victim, his/her parent or trustee is sought.

E) Such factors as tutelage, public service, foster family, kinship by marriage, step father, step mother, step child and adopted child relationship that foster the committal of the crime and

some factors like the committal of the crime in such places of cohabitation as dormitory and boarding house are foreseen as reason for aggravation, and it is stipulated that the punishment to be imposed in these cases will be increased by half.

F) While the imprisonment punishment to be imposed on the defendant is 6 months-2 years if children under 15 years old engage in a sexual intercourse, this imprisonment period has been increased to 2-5 years.

G) While the punishment to be imposed for the incest relationship with a child at the age of 15 is imprisonment for 6 months-2 years, this has been reregulated as imprisonment for 10-15 years without seeking for complaints.

H) Deprivation of some rights and obligation of treatment which will push the perpetrators of the children or victims have been introduced.

Those charged with imprisonment due to sex crime shall be subjected to one or some of the measures of medical treatment, staying away from the places where the victim lives or not residing in these places, not working in environments that require to be together with children and not performing a job relating with children. Within this scope, they shall not work in places like crèche, canteen and they shall not run school bus.

I) The duration of the release on probation of those sentenced to imprisonment due to crime of sexual assault defined in the second paragraph of Article 102 of the Turkish Penal Code, the crime of sexual abuse of children defined in Article 103 and the crime of engaging in sexual intercourse with the minors defined in the second and third paragraph of Article 104 has been increased from the ratio of 2/3 to 3/4.

l) Those charged with aggravated life imprisonment due to a crime committed against children shall stay in penal institutions for 39 years instead of 30 years while those charged with life imprisonment shall stay in penal institutions for 33 years instead of 24 years.

The purpose of all the regulations stated above is to fight against the crimes more effectively as a result of the increase in punishment, and the acts targeting children is determined as a new justification for the increase. The necessary arrangements were made in order to ensure that the children are effectively protected from these crimes.

Moreover, it is ensured in the third paragraph of Article 226 entitled "Obscenity" of the Turkish Penal Code amended with Article 30 of the Law dated 24/03/2016 and No. 6698 that those using children in the production of materials including obscene images, writings or words, representative child images or those appear like child are charged with imprisonment for five to ten years and with judicial fine up to five thousand days, and those smuggling, reproducing, offering for sale, selling, transferring, storing, exporting, keeping these materials or offering them for the use of others are charged with imprisonment for two to five years and with judicial fine up to five thousand days. With the amendment, the expression of "children" stated in this paragraph was amended as "children, representative child images or those appearing like child" and therefore was guaranteed within a broader scope.

"Combating Gender Based Violence and Intervention Humanitarian Assistance Program" developed for the purpose of increasing awareness of the violence among the Syrians coming to Turkey due to the ongoing conflict in Syria, increasing the capacity of the staff providing services to Syrians regarding the intervention in the cases of violence against women and for providing support to Turkey on this issue was carried out in Gaziantep Nizip-1 camp which was

selected as a pilot camp in the period of April 2013-June 2015 in cooperation with the General Directorate on the Status of Women, Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Moreover, leaflets including the information on human trafficking, early and forced marriages, violence etc. as well as the referral mechanisms when there is any exposure of violence or when a person witnesses violence were prepared in Arabic and Turkish. These leaflets are updated and republished every year, and are delivered to all the public institutions, nongovernmental organisations, international organisations and camps in order to ensure that more Syrians benefit from them.

The Ministry of Health developed programs on prevention of gender based discrimination against the women in the host country as well as the refugee women and provision of rehabilitation services, the fundamental needs of the women affected from the trauma and disasters and defined as the disadvantaged group and on the provision of psychosocial support to them. These programs are “Combating Domestic Violence against Women”, “Training for Midwives and Nurses Working in the Migrant Health Centers on Strengthening Children and Women Mental Health Services” and “Program on Social Traumas and Psychological Support in Disaster”.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Health and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on the following issues:

- Access to the reproductive health services
- Maternal and infant mortality and diseases
- HIV infection
- Unintended or risky pregnancy
- Sexual violence and gender based violence, and decreasing the risks in other cases of reproduction.

The aim of the cooperation established with the Memorandum of Understanding is to support all the vulnerable groups including the refugees with respect to decreasing the differences on access to reproductive health and gender equality in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The leaflets on Prenatal Care, Postnatal Care, Reproductive Health Methods, Reproductive Health Methods, and Pregnant Nourishment, Sexually Transmitted Infections, prepared in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Ministry of Health and translated to Arabic, were printed and distributed.

Consultancy Training on Reproductive Health was delivered to 571 Syrian health staff working in the Migrant Health Centers. The objective of this training was to provide standard services by means of increasing awareness of the women and reproductive health and to prevent the maternal and infant mortality.

“Training on Minimum Beginning Service Provision Package in Disasters and Emergencies” was delivered to 688 health staff in the densely migrant populated areas.

The procedures to be implemented for the foreigners displaced and coming to Turkey to find temporary protection are explained in detail in **the Law No. 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection**; the access of the foreigners suffered from the armed and other types of conflicts and in crisis and vulnerable environments was increased, and the internationally recognised principles was regulated in Turkish legislation. The foreigners are able to access to the international protection procedures without any discrimination or limitation, and there is a set of special regulations for those having special needs and for unaccompanied children. Within this scope, priority is given to individuals with special needs and the unaccompanied children in the procedures; they are accompanied by a psychologist specialized in his/her area, sociologist and social workers throughout the whole procedure and special shelter opportunities are offered to them when necessary.

The Project on Economic and Social Integration of Internally Displaced Persons in Van Province, cofinanced by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey, and where the beneficiary is the General Directorate of Provincial Administrations of the Ministry of Interior was launched on 9 October 2014 and implemented for two years. The purpose of the project was to ensure that the internally displaced persons have equal opportunities in accessing the basic services and to ensure their economic integrations by means of improving their socio-economic conditions and increasing socio-economic capacities (Detailed information on the project is presented in Answer 3).

Hacettepe University Women's Research and Implementation Centre (HÜKSAM), United Nations Population Fund and Ankara Province Directorate of Health jointly implement a project entitled "**Strengthening Access of Syrian and Other Migrant Women to Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence Services by Establishing Safe Areas for Women and Girls and Women's Health Information Centers**" (details of the project are presented under Answer 3).

In Turkey, legal amendments have been made in the field of combatting illegal drug production, use and trafficking; in the field of women and children in the last 5 years within the scope of fighting against drug. It was regulated with the legislative amendment introduced with the Law No. 6545 dated 18/6/2014 that the prison sentence cannot be less than 15 years if drug and stimulant are given or sold to a child, and the punishment of the crime of facilitating and encouraging the use of drug and stimulant was increased from 2-5 years of imprisonment to 5-10 years of imprisonment. With the legislative amendments introduced with the Law No. 6638 dated 27/03/2015 and the amendment on the fourth paragraph of Article 188 of the Turkish Penal Code, synthetic cannabinoid and its variations are included in the items which will bring about penalty increase. In addition, the trafficking of any kind of drug or stimulant in such places as school, dormitory, hospital, barracks or house of worship is also acknowledged as a justification for an increase in the penalty to be determined. With the last paragraph added to Article 191 of the Turkish Penal Code, it is regulated that the trafficking of any kind of drug or stimulant in such places as school, dormitory, hospital, barracks or house of worship is acknowledged as a justification for increase in the penalty to be determined.

29. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to eliminate discrimination against and violations of the rights of the girl child?

- Taken measures to combat negative social norms and practices and increased awareness of the needs and potential of girl children
- Strengthened girls' access to quality education, skills development and training
- Tackled disadvantages in health outcomes due to malnutrition, early childbearing (e.g. anemia) and exposure to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases
- Implemented policies and programmes to reduce and eradicate child, early and forced marriage
- Implemented policies and programmes to eliminate violence against girls, including physical and sexual violence and harmful practices
- Implemented policies and programmes to eradicate child labour and excessive levels of unpaid care and domestic work undertaken by girl children
- Promoted girls' awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 29:

Turkey initiating the mobilisation of education in order to reach the goal of ensuring the equal participation of boys and girls in education opened boarding primary schools in order to allow the primary school age population living in the villages and smaller administrative units and the children of the families with low income to access to primary school services. According to the data of 2017-2018 school year, the number of boarders is 364.739 and 180.894 (49,5%) of them are girls.

“Mobile Primary School, Secondary School and Secondary Education Practice” is carried out in order to allow the girls and boys at primary school age living in the dwelling units without schools and with small population and dispersed dwellings and the students in the schools with multigrade classes to access to more qualified education opportunities. Within the school year of 2017/2018, the number of students benefiting from “Mobile Primary and Secondary School Practice” is 810,035 and 397,259 (49%) are composed of girl students.

Transportation and food service has been provided to 432,751 students in total (202,363 girls and **230,388** boys) in 81 provinces within the scope of the mobile secondary education practice throughout the country.

In addition to the boarding education service provided to the children of the poor families; scholarships are granted to the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students of the primary education institutions as well as the students of general and vocational technical secondary education institutions. With the scholarship services and Conditional Educational Assistance practice, free of charge educational assistances are offered in every corner of Turkey in order to create a social assistance network aiming full access of the children of the families included in the most needy segments of the population to the basic education services. In order to increase the schooling rates and the rates of the transition from the primary education to secondary education, the amount of the assistances offered to the girl students and the students continuing to secondary education is determined much higher and the payments are made to the mothers. 40 TL for girl students in primary education, 35 TL for the boy students in primary

education, 60 TL for the girl students in secondary education and 50 TL for the boy students in secondary education are paid monthly.

“Inclusive Early Childhood Project for Children with Disabilities” which is co-financed by the Ministry of National Education and Turkey-European Union and implemented in cooperation with UNICEF was launched on 29 May 2017 and will be finalized in May, 2020. The project will be implemented in 90 schools in total in the provinces of Antalya, Bursa, Konya, İzmir, Gaziantep and Samsun.

In the school year of 2017-2018, **“Mobile Teacher Pre-Pilot Implementation”** was implemented for the schooling of the children in the dwellings without schools in 24 districts with the visits of 30 teachers in 120 villages. In the school year of 2018-2019, 37 teachers in 23 districts are visiting 148 villages for 680 students and continuing mobile teacher class pilot implementation.

In the disadvantaged dwellings where the population of the foreign students is high, 278 mobile pre classes were formed in 139 locations in order to cover the need for classes, and the formation of 118 mobile pre classes are continuing in 59 locations in the school year of 2018-2019.

“Survey Report on Drop-outs in Turkey and in the World” which is currently being prepared in cooperation with the General Directorate of Secondary Education and UNICEF will include examples of preventive, intervening and compensatory studies carried out in different countries for the students under the risk of absenteeism, grade repetition and going out of formal education as well as the international policies, models and practices. Draft report was prepared within the scope of this study and the results will be shared with the relevant institutions and organisations and it is planned to carry out studies in accordance with the findings and recommendations in order to prevent absenteeism, class repetition and early school leaving.

“Engineer Girls of Turkey” has been launched in cooperation with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, Ministry of National Education (MoNE), United Nations Development Plan (UNDP) and Limak Foundation. The project aims to support the girl students who aspire to be engineer in every aspect of their life and to allow them to be the examples of their profession. Starting from March 2016, the project is foreseen to be implemented for 5 years and the budget of the project which is 600 thousand dollars is allocated by Limak.

Within this scope, 111 girl students are provided with scholarship support in 2018-2019 academic year. In addition, internship and employment opportunities are offered to the university students as well as the English language education. **“Social engineering”** certificate programs are implemented and different activities are organized within the scope of the mentor-mentee network that has been formed. Within the scope of the awareness raising activities at high school level which is another aim of the purpose, 21,400 individuals were reached in total with the activities implemented for teachers, parents and students in 50 schools 10 pilot provinces. Within the scope of the mentioned project, a report titled **‘Equality in Engineering: Engineer Girls Experience of Turkey’** was prepared in order to create a

reference paper for the activities to be conducted in 2018 and transfer the experience gained within the scope of the project.

In 2019, internship and employment opportunities, English language education and “Leadership in Engineering” certificate program activities will be maintained for the university students within the scope of the project activities. In addition, leader teacher presentations to be determined within the scope of high school program will be made and the mentioned awareness raising activities will be carried out in 10 provinces.

Within the scope of the in-service training organized for the teachers by the Ministry of National Education, 682 individuals participated in 16 “Gender Equality and Training Course” organized in 2018 and 9.942 individuals participated in 400 in-service training activities organized within the scope of family training.

“**Vocational Skills Development Project (MESGEP-1)**” implemented in 35 provinces in the period of 2011-2016 and finalized was proposed in 2017 Investment Program with the title of “**Vocational Skills Development Project (MESGEP-2)**” to be implemented in 81 provinces for the dissemination and was approved to be implemented in the period of 2017-2019. The target group of the project includes the women victims of domestic violence and housewives who aspire to have a job.

The preparations of the project entitled “**Girls’ Schooling Project**” which has a national budget of 3 million 250 thousand TL (1.497.696 \$) in 2018 continue.

- Between the Directorate General for Vocational and Technical Education and Turk Tractor and Agricultural Machinery Corporation, Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation (TAPV), Turkish Educational Foundation (TEV), a protocol was signed on 14.12.2016 for the purpose of providing qualified women labour force, which is demanded in automotive and agriculture sector, assisting the girls to allow them receive education in the areas which they can work in automotive sector, supporting those in need with scholarships and increasing awareness of gender equality among students, teachers and families.
- Between the Directorate General for Vocational and Technical Education and Bursa Technical University, a protocol was signed on 05.12.2017 in order to contribute to the training of qualified women engineer candidates demanded in technological fields by means of helping them choose the most appropriate job for them according to their interests and skills.

Life Long Learning Strategy prepared by the Ministry of National Education in order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the lifelong learning system for the period of 2014-2018 aims to support the access of the women in the disadvantaged groups to education and increasing distance education and open learning opportunities.

Ministry of National Education General Directorate for Life Long Learning conducts field studies at the beginning of each academic year via the **Directorate of Public Training Centers**

which operates on the basis of full year and full day principle in education, and identifies the illiterate citizens and ensures their participation in literacy courses.

In the public training and vocational training centers, increasing the employability of women is aimed through allowing them to benefit from the vocational education courses, increasing their participation in economic and social life and ensuring that they get income generated occupations.

The number of female attendees to the literacy courses delivered by the Ministry of National Education is 653,379 in 2018. The number of those completing the Level I and continuing to Level II literacy course is 67,860.

The measures within the scope of the policies and programs aiming to eliminate the violence against girls including the physical and sexual violence and harmful practices are explained in detail in Answer 14.

Turkey has been actively working in the area of child labour since the beginning of 1990s. In our country, the activities are maintained by means of ensuring coordination and cooperation between the public institutions and organisations, social parties, professional organisations and nongovernmental organisations which are operating in the area of child labour. Several regulations regarding the child labour are included in our legislation. Moreover, within the scope of the fight against child labour, “National Program on the Elimination of Child Labour” (2017-2023) has been implemented under the coordination of our Ministry. With the main purpose of preventing child labour with its worst forms in particular, the activities are ongoing without any discrimination based on gender, race, language and religion.

Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation

Critical areas of concern:

- I. Human rights of women
- K. Women and the environment
- L. The girl child

30. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies?

- Supported women’s participation and leadership in environmental and natural resource management and governance
- Strengthened evidence and/or raised awareness about gender-specific environmental and health hazards (e.g. consumer products, technologies, industrial pollution)
- Increased women’s access to and control over land, water, energy, and other natural resources
- Promoted the education of women and girls in science, engineering, technology and other disciplines relating to the natural environment

- Enhanced women's access to sustainable time- and labour-saving infrastructure (e.g. Access to clean water and energy) and climate-smart agricultural technology
- Taken measures to protect and preserve the knowledge and practices of women in indigenous and local communities related to traditional medicines, biodiversity and conservation techniques
- Taken steps to ensure that women benefit equally from decent jobs in the green economy
- Monitored and evaluated the impact of environmental policies and sustainable infrastructure projects on women and girls
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 30:

In Turkey, the issue of environment management is addressed with an integrated approach including environmental, economic and social factors by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation. With the understanding of sustainable environment and sustainable development, activities for 2023 targets are realized in many areas. Within this scope, the vision project of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation which is called **Zero Waste Project** was initiated under the auspices and with the discretion of the First Lady Emine Erdoğan, the spouse of H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of Turkey with the introductory meeting, and this project is aimed to be implemented throughout the country. It is foreseen that women will be the main driving forces in the mentioned project.

Within the scope of the Project, training and awareness raising activities in order to increase awareness of zero waste is maintained intensively. Training programs and projects for many different segments of the society and the educational institutions in particular are carried out. In the last 1 year, approximately 300,000 individuals were trained. The number of the institutions initiating the practice of zero waste reached 13,357 across the country.

One of the important practices within the scope of the Zero Waste Project is the issue of decreasing the plastic wastes. The plastic wastes constitute the most problematic waste group in the world. By their nature, only 1% of the plastic (nylon) bags whose average expected life is 15 minutes; however, it takes 1.000 year for their dissolution in nature.

In order to prevent all the negative consequences of the use of plastic bags, a legal regulation stipulating that the plastic bags used for carriage in such selling spaces as markets and shops will be given for a certain fee was introduced on 01.01.2019. With this regulation, plastic use value per person which is currently 400 is aimed to decrease to a value around 90 until the end of the next year. In 2025, the decrease of this value at the ratio of 90% is targeted.

“Engineer Girls of Turkey” has been launched in cooperation with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, Ministry of National Education (MoNE), United Nations Development Plan (UNDP) and Limak Foundation. The project aims to support the girl students who aspire to be engineer in every aspect of their life and to allow them to be the examples of their profession. Starting from March 2016, the project is foreseen to be

implemented for 5 years and the budget of the project which is 600 thousand dollars is allocated by Limak Foundation.

Within this scope, 111 girl students are provided with scholarship support in 2018-2019 academic year. In addition, internship and employment opportunities are offered to the university students as well as the English language education. "Social engineering" certificate programs are implemented and different activities are organized within the scope of the mentor-mentee network that has been formed. Within the scope of the awareness raising activities at high school level which is another aim of the purpose, 21,400 individuals were reached in total with the activities implemented for teachers, parents and students in 50 schools 10 pilot provinces. Within the scope of the mentioned project, a report titled 'Equality in Engineering: Engineer Girls Experience of Turkey' was prepared in order to create a reference paper for the activities to be conducted and transfer the experience gained within the scope of the project.

In 2019, internship and employment opportunities, English language education and "Leadership in Engineering" certificate program activities will be maintained for the university students within the scope of the project activities. In addition, leader teacher presentations to be determined within the scope of high school program will be made and the mentioned awareness raising activities will be carried out in 10 provinces.

31. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation?

- Supported women's participation and leadership, including those affected by disasters, in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation policies, programmes and projects
- Strengthened the evidence base and raised awareness about the disproportionate vulnerability of women and girls to the impact of environmental degradation and disasters
- Promoted access of women in situations of disaster to services such as relief payments, disaster insurance and compensation
- Introduced or strengthened and implemented gender-responsive laws and policies related to disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation (e.g. disaster laws addressing vulnerability of women in disaster)

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 31:

The climate change caused by the accumulation of the greenhouse gas emissions originating from human activities negatively impact the lives of all the living creatures. Among the human society, those most affected from the negative consequences of climate change are elders, people with disabilities, women and migrants. Therefore, women are among the most basic target groups in the processes of combatting and adaptation to climate change.

Human rights, right to health, the rights of the local people, local communities, migrants, children, people with disabilities and sensitive people, right to development as well as showing respect to the gender equality, women's empowerment and obligations regarding the

principle of intergenerational justice and their improvement are emphasized on the basis of the idea that climate change is the common concern of the humanity in the introductory provisions of Paris Agreement adopted In December 2015 by the parties of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Turkey is a party).

The negative consequences of the climate change affect all the countries and our country as well disregarding the borders or regions. Turkey is located in the Mediterranean Basin which is going to be most affected from the negative impacts of the climate change according to the evaluation reports prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In this context, the negative impacts of climate change are considerably experienced in our country too, and the extreme weather events seen in the last years cause major economic losses besides the damages on human health and environment.

In order to facilitate the activities targeting the formation of a society resistant to climate change and to minimize the negative impacts of climate change, the efforts for designing the projects implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation in a way to target women as well are ongoing.

Within this scope, the following activities have been carried out in the last five years and have been still ongoing:

Importance is attached to participation of women in the activities on climate change carried out in the last five years by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation to increase knowledge and awareness. The participation of women in the training programs, seminars, panels and workshops organized at local level in 26 provinces (Antalya, Bursa, Çorum, Denizli, Edirne, Erzincan, Erzurum, Eskişehir, Gaziantep, İzmir, Kahramanmaraş, Kastamonu, Kayseri, Kayseri, Konya, Malatya, Manisa, Mersin, Muğla, Niğde, Rize, Samsun, Sivas, Şanlıurfa, Trabzon and Van) is promoted.

At local level, 37 grant projects have been implemented in order to strengthen the act of climate change and to increase awareness within the scope of **Enhancing Required Joint Efforts on Climate Action Project** which is currently implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation. These grant projects implemented with the support of such local actors as municipalities, universities, provincial directorates of the ministries and nongovernmental organisations provide major contribution to the increasing awareness of climate change, and some of these projects are particularly important in terms of targeting the sensitive segments of the society like women, young people, elders and people with disabilities. It is necessary to strengthen the climate change adaptation efforts at local level with respect to decreasing their vulnerabilities to climate change. Therefore, complementing the efforts for climate with the award of grants is one of the priorities of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation, and dissemination and improvement of these efforts are planned in the upcoming period.

Planned activities:

Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation also aims to increase the resistance of each individual, vulnerable communities in particular, to climate change as well as both the natural

systems and economic and social sectors at national, regional and provincial scale in the long term.

Accordingly, the current **Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan** is planned to be updated **at national level** in short-medium term (3-5 years) in line with the up-to-date data and information in a way to include scientific studies in the following areas:

- Management of water resources
- Ecosystem services, biological variety and forestry
- Natural disaster risk management
- Sectors of energy, industry, transportation, tourism and agriculture
- Human health
- Settlements, coastal areas, urban infrastructure

Within the scope of the activities initiated accordingly, the affectability of women from climate change will be analysed and consequently, the policies to allow women to adapt both to climate change and to participate effectively in the adaptation processes will be developed and implemented.

At regional scale, when the importance and urgency of the adaptation to climate change is understood once again as a result of the flood disaster happened in Black Sea Region in 2018, firstly the efforts for preparation of the Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation in Black Sea Region was started. Within this scope, the following activities are planned to be conducted within the framework of scientific information.

Within this scope and the framework of scientific data and information, the following activities are planned:

- Identification of current impacts of climate change and possible risks that can arise depending on climate change
- Identification of the affectability of economic sectors particularly agriculture (hazelnut, tea), honey production, forestry and fisheries from the climate change
- Identification and prioritization of the adaptation options depending on the results of the impact and affectability studies
- Putting forth the finance opportunities in the context of adaptation to climate change
- Preparation of Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan to include short, medium and long term actions for the Black Sea Region
- Making monitoring and evaluation planning (at regional and provincial level)

Women who are the main stakeholders in the production of hazelnut and tea in the Black Sea Region are the target group of this study. The regional adaptation planning activities will all be carried out for the six regions. The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plans of all the regions are planned to be finalized until 2023.

The similar studies to these ones that will be conducted at national and regional level will also be implemented at provincial level. As stated above, one of the most effective methods to decrease the vulnerabilities of the sensitive groups to climate change is to strengthen the activities of adaptation to the climate change at local level. Within this framework, in four metropol to be selected within the scope of the activities of updating Turkey's National

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, activities at national level as well as the parallel activities to those conducted in the Black Sea Region, and adaptation strategy and action plans will be prepared and put into practice at provincial level. Dissemination of these activities as soon as possible in 81 provinces is aimed.

Improvement of the aforementioned national, regional and local level adaptation strategies and action plans will be able to be finalized in short-medium term. However, decreasing the vulnerabilities of the sensitive groups by means of ensuring adaptation to climate change and in parallel creating societies that are resistant to climate will only be achieved in the long term by means of implementation of this strategy and action plan with the effective participation of all the stakeholders of this strategy and action plan.

It is considered that the activities implemented and planned within this scope will directly or indirectly contribute to the implementation of the four of the measures stated below the concerned question.

SECTION THREE: NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES

32. What is your country's current national machinery for gender equality and the empowerment of women? Please name it and describe its location within Government.

ANSWER 32:

General Directorate on the Status of Women (GDSW) established in 1990 as a **national mechanism** in order to prevent discrimination against women, to protect and improve women's rights and to ensure the equal access of women to the rights and opportunities in all fields of social life was restructured with the Presidential Decree No.1 dated 10 July 2018 and the Presidential Decree No.15 and dated 4 August 2018 as a main service departments within the body of **the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services**.

The tasks of the general directorate are as follows:

- Implementing and coordinating the protective, preventive, instructive, constructive social service activities which are also ensure guidance and rehabilitation.
- Preventing discrimination against women, protection and improvement of women's human rights and their social status, coordinating the activities for determining all the national policy and strategies for allowing women to be active in all fields of social life, implementing the determined policy and strategies, monitoring and assessing the implementation,
- Identifying the principles, procedures and standards regarding the social services carried out for women by the public institutions and organisations, voluntary organisations and real and legal persons and ensuring the compliance with these principles, procedures and standards,
- Preventing any and all kinds of discrimination against women and implementing activities and projects in order to improve women's human rights, supporting the studies carried out in this field,
- Increasing public awareness by means of disseminating information to the public on women's human rights and enlightening the public,

- Taking actions to prevent any and all kinds of violence against women, honour killings, harassment and abuse and to give support for the solving the problems of women resulting from the family and social life,
- Taking actions that will allow women to succeed in all areas and in particular in the areas of health, education, culture and social security and to increase their participation in decision making mechanisms.

The GDSW has been maintaining its activities with determination in order to fulfil its duties of coordinating the determination of the national policies and strategies, carrying out social service and assistance services for women and ensuring cooperation and coordination between the public institutions and organisations and voluntary organisations in order to prevent discrimination against women, to protect and improve women's human rights and to allow women to enjoy equally all the rights, opportunities and facilities in all the fields of social life.

The women shelters as well as the Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers (VPMC) established within the scope of the Law No. 6284 have been operating within the body of the General Directorate.

33. Is the head of the national machinery a member of the institutional process for SDG implementation (e.g. inter-ministerial coordinating office, commission or committees)?

YES/NO

There is no national process for SDG implementation

If YES, please provide further information

ANSWER 33: YES

Presidency of Republic of Turkey Department of Strategy and Budget which is the focal point of the sustainable development in Turkey is coordinating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at national level. The National Sustainable Development Commission which was established in 2004 for the national coordination of sustainable development in the previous period and to which the then-State Planning Organisation of the Prime Ministry, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry are parties was repealed with the legal regulations introduced for the transmission to the Executive Presidential System realized in 2018.

The efforts are ongoing to form an institutional body to monitor and evaluate the roles and functions of the mentioned commission in the context of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals within the Executive Presidential System in an effective and participatory manner.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services holding the Presidency of the National Mechanism as well as all the relevant ministries are participating in and contributing to all the activities including the SDG Current Situation Analysis, First and Second SDG National Review Process carried out with respect to the implementation of the SDGs by the Presidency of Republic of Turkey Department of Strategy and Budget.

34. Are there formal mechanisms in place for different stakeholders to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

YES/NO

If YES,

a) Which of the following stakeholders participate formally in national coordination mechanisms established to contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

Beijing Declaration and PfA	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
<input type="checkbox"/> Civil society organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Civil society organizations
<input type="checkbox"/> Women’s rights organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Women’s rights organizations
<input type="checkbox"/> Academia and think tanks	<input type="checkbox"/> Academia and think tanks
<input type="checkbox"/> Faith-based organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Faith-based organizations
<input type="checkbox"/> Parliaments/parliamentary committees	<input type="checkbox"/> Parliaments/parliamentary committees
<input type="checkbox"/> Private sector	<input type="checkbox"/> Private sector
<input type="checkbox"/> United Nations system	<input type="checkbox"/> United Nations system
<input type="checkbox"/> Other actors, please specify.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Other actors, please specify.....

b) Do you have mechanisms in place to ensure that women and girls from marginalized groups can participate and that their concerns are reflected in these processes?

YES/NO

Please provide further details about the mechanisms used. (2 pages max.)

c) Please describe how stakeholders have contributed to the preparation of the present national report.

ANSWER 34: YES

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Yes

The implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have been carried out by the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Department of Strategy and Budget, and the monitoring on the basis of the indicators is conducted under the responsibility of the TurkStat.

A broad participation of the public institutions, local governments, private sector, civil society and universities in such studies on the SDGs as the Current Situation Analysis and First and Second Review Process is ensured. Also, the officially designated representatives from the stakeholder institutions and organisations participate in these studies. Regarding the monitoring, SDG indicators are included in the Official Statistics Program and the institutions to be responsible for the follow-up of the indicators are determined. The efforts are ongoing to form an institutional body for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at national level.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; Yes

The implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is managed by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services General Directorate on the Status of Women. There is not a mechanism to allow different stakeholders to take part in the implementation and monitoring of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. However, “the Strategy Paper and Action Plan on **Women’s Empowerment 2018-2023**”, “**National Action Plans on Combating Violence Against Women**” and “**Action Plan on Combating Early and Forced Marriages (2019-2023)**” serving to the implementation of Beijing Declaration and the

Platform for Action in some way and prepared by the General Directorate with the participation of all the relevant parties (public institutions, universities, NGOs, private sector, UN organisations, local administrations etc.) and their participation in monitoring processes is also ensured. Their participation is ensured and their contributions are received both via official letter and the monitoring/evaluation meetings.

On the other hand, the contribution and participation of the relevant public institutions and organisations, NGOs, universities and United Nations system in the surveys and reporting studies conducted within the scope of the Beijing Declaration and the National Review on the Platform for Action (BEIJING+25) have been ensured at the highest possible level.

35. Is gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls included as a key priority in the national plan/strategy for SDG implementation?

Yes

No

There is no national plan/strategy for SDG implementation

Please explain.

ANSWER 35:

Since the 90s when the concept of sustainable development was put on the international agenda, this concept has been included in the national development plans. The development plans approved by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) also serve as the national development strategy and plan of Turkey due to having nature of a high level policy document guiding the country's development process. Within this framework, Turkey has not opted for a preparation of a separate national plan/strategy on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. According to the analysis included in Turkey's Voluntary National Review Report presented to the UN High Level Political Forum in 2016, it has been concluded that the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018) though published prior to the SDGs are substantially in compliance with them.

The policies and measures on gender equality and empowerment of all the women and girls are included in the high level policy documents since the 5th Five Year Development Plan (1985-1989) and the 1985 Program. Moreover, national reports were prepared in 2019 with respect to "SGD 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" and "Leave No One Behind"

SECTION FOUR: DATA AND STATISTICS

36. What are the top three areas in which your country has made most progress over the past five years when it comes to gender statistics at the national level?

Promulgated laws, regulations, or statistical programme/strategy setting out the development of gender statistics

Established an inter-agency coordination mechanism on gender statistics (e.g., technical working group, inter-agency committee)

Used more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects

Re-processed existing data (e.g., censuses and surveys) to produce more disaggregated and/or new gender statistics

- Conducted new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics (e.g., time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, disability)
- Improved administrative-based or alternative data sources to address gender data gaps
- Produced knowledge products on gender statistics (e.g., user-friendly reports, policy briefs, research papers)
- Developed a centralized web-based database and/or dashboard on gender statistics
- Engaged in capacity building to strengthen the use of gender statistics (e.g., trainings, statistical appreciation seminars)
- Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

ANSWER 36:

Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) responsible for the production, publication and coordination of the official statistics created several working groups that gather each year within the scope of the Official Statistics Program.

One of these working group is “**Social Structure and Gender Statistics Working Group**”.

The objective of this working group is to achieve the following in Turkey:

- Determination of women’s status in the society
- Strengthening the women’s participation in the socio-economic development
- Improving the cooperation between the institutions, organisations and universities, evaluating the current studies and planning the future studies in order to produce the necessary reliable and up-to-date statistics for
 - formulation
 - development and
 - assessment of national and international policies.

TurkStat has been producing gender statistics within the scope of the official statistics in order to fulfil the national and international needs. TurkStat initiated its studies on Gender Statistics in 2007. During the formulation of the Gender Statistics, the database “United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) was used. Cooperation with the relevant institutions, organisations and universities was ensured. Gender Statistics was disclosed for the use of public in the official website of TurkStat in 2008. UN Statistical Commission decided to formulate and publish indicators for gender statistics that can be produced at national level and are comparable at international level in 2013. The efforts have been initiated for obtaining these indicators at national level and presenting them on the website of TurkStat. Since 2017, “UN’s Minimum Set of Gender Indicators” has been published. Moreover, the news bulletin titled “**Women in Statistics**” is published every year privately on International Women’s Day (8 March).

37. Out of the following which are your country’s top three priorities for strengthening national gender statistics over the next five years?

- Design of laws, regulations, or statistical programme/strategy promoting the development of gender statistics

- Establishment of an inter-agency coordination mechanism on gender statistics (e.g., technical working group, inter-agency committee)
- Use more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects
- Re-processing of existing data (e.g., censuses and surveys) to produce more disaggregated and/or new gender statistics
- Conduct of new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics (e.g., time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, disability)
- Greater utilization and/or improvement of administrative-based or alternative data sources to address gender data gaps
- Production of knowledge products on gender statistics (e.g., user-friendly reports, policy briefs, research papers)
- Development of a centralized web-based database and/or dashboard on gender statistics
- Institutionalization of users-producers' dialogues mechanisms
- Statistical capacity building of users to increase statistical appreciation on and use of gender statistics (e.g., trainings, statistical appreciation seminars)
- Other

Please provide a brief explanation and examples of your plans (2 pages max.).

ANSWER 37:

One of the cross-cutting policy areas of the Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment 2018-2023 is **"the existence of gender disaggregated data"**. Within this scope, there are such measures as separation of the existing data based on gender, developing new data resources, increasing the use of gender sensitive data in the strategy and activities identified based on the aspects of participation in education, health, decision making mechanisms and economy (For example; *"A system will be developed to collect and publish the comprehensive labour market data separated on the basis of gender."*)

On the other hand, the activity called "A joint interinstitutional database will be created in order to effectively monitor the data on violence against women" is included in the National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women (2016-2020) too.

In addition, the following activities of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) are ongoing:

- The studies on producing new indicators sensitive to gender within the scope of official statistics,
- The studies on producing new indicators sensitive to gender, which can be obtained from the administrative records within the scope of official statistics (for example; the ratio of population based on getting credit),
- Data visualization studies for presentation of the gender statistics which are presented in static tables, in the form of dynamic tables.

38. Have you defined a national set of indicators for monitoring progress on the SDGs?

- Yes
- No

If YES, how many indicators does it include and how many of those are gender-specific?

If YES, how many of the gender-specific indicators are additional country indicators (i.e., not part of the global SDG monitoring and indicator framework)?

Please provide the indicators in an annex

If NO, how many global gender-specific SDG indicators (list provided in Annex 1) are available in your country?

Please provide the indicators in an annex

ANSWER 38:

Activities are carried out in order to collect and produce indicators at global level. Among the 14 SDG global gender indicators, 6 are present in Turkey (SDG: 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.3.1, 5.4.1, 5.5.1, 5.5.2) (See, Annex-2: Sustainable Development Indicators, 2010-2017)

39. Has data collection and compilation on SDG 5 indicators and on gender-specific indicators under other SDGs begun?

Yes

No

If YES, please describe which indicators have been prioritized

If NO, explain the main challenges for collecting and compiling data on these indicators

ANSWER 39:

Data collection activities both on the indicators within the scope of SDG 5 and gender within the scope of other SDGs are carried out. These data can be found in Annex-1: Sustainable Development Indicators, 2010-2017. When the indicators are examined, a set of gender based data can be found within the scope of other SDGs.

40. Which of the following disaggregations is routinely provided by major surveys in your country?

Geographic location

Income

sex

Age

Education

Marital status

Race/ethnicity

Migratory status

Disability

Other characteristics relevant in national contexts

ANSWER 40:

The household researches which are periodically carried out by TurkStat and are included in the scope of the Official Statistics Program are presented below:

- Life Satisfaction Research
- Time Use Survey
- Family Structure Research
- Household Labour Research
- Household Budget Research
- Income and Living Conditions Research
- Turkey Health Research
- Household Use of Information Technologies Research
- Household National and International Tourism Research

In all the household researches concerned, the information of **age, gender, education** and **marital status** are certainly sought.