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paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council  
resolution 16/21**

## **Turkmenistan**

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner due to word-limit constraints. For the full text, please refer to the document referenced. This report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of OHCHR other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review and developments during that period

## I. Background and framework

### A. Scope of international obligations<sup>1</sup>

#### International human rights treaties<sup>2</sup>

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified/not accepted</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	ICERD (1994)		OP-CAT
	ICESCR (1997)		ICRMW
	ICCPR (1997)		CPED
	ICCPR-OP 2 (2000)		
	CEDAW (1997)		
	CAT (1999)		
	CRC (1993)		
	OP-CRC-AC (2005)		
	OP-CRC-SC (2005)		
	CRPD (2008)		
<i>Reservations, declarations and/or understandings</i>			
<i>Complaint procedures, inquiry and urgent action<sup>3</sup></i>	ICCPR-OP 1 (1997)	OP-CEDAW, art. 8 (2009)	ICERD, art. 14
	CAT, art. 20 (1999)	OP-CRPD, art. 6 (2010)	OP-ICESCR ICCPR, art. 41 CAT, arts. 21 and 22 OP-CRC-IC ICRMW CPED

**Other main relevant international instruments**

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	Palermo Protocol <sup>4</sup> Conventions on refugees <sup>5</sup> Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II <sup>6</sup> ILO fundamental conventions except Convention Nos. 138 and 182 <sup>7</sup>	1954 and 1961 Conventions on stateless persons <sup>8</sup> ILO Convention: No. 182 <sup>9</sup>	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions <sup>10</sup> ILO Convention No. 138 <sup>11</sup> ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189 <sup>12</sup> UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education

1. One or more treaty bodies encouraged Turkmenistan to ratify OP-ICESCR, ICRMW, CPED as well the Rome Statute.<sup>13</sup> The Committee against Torture (CAT) invited Turkmenistan to consider ratifying OP-CAT and to establish a national preventive mechanism.<sup>14</sup> Additionally, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)<sup>15</sup> and CAT<sup>16</sup> recommended that Turkmenistan make the declarations under article 14 of ICERD and articles 21 and 22 of CAT, respectively.

2. UNESCO stated that Turkmenistan should be encouraged to ratify the 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education.<sup>17</sup>

**B. Constitutional and legislative framework**

3. Four treaty bodies welcomed the adoption of new Laws.<sup>18</sup> United Nations Country Team (UNCT) provided information on efforts made to bring Turkmenistan's legislation in line with its international treaty obligations. In August 2012, the Criminal Code was reportedly amended, following the dialogue with the Committee against Torture, to give a definition of torture in line with article 1 of CAT.<sup>19</sup>

4. In 2009, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief indicated that several provisions of the amended Religious Organizations Law were incompatible with international human rights standards and contradicted the Constitution of Turkmenistan in some instances. She recommended review of the Religious Organizations Law, and that the prohibition on unregistered religious activities; and undue restrictions on religious material, education and attire be removed from the Religious Organizations Law.<sup>20</sup>

**C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures**

5. CAT regretted that the existing national protection mechanisms within the Office of the President, including the National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights and the

State Commission to Review Citizens' Complaints on the Activities of Law Enforcement Agencies, do not comply with the Paris Principles.<sup>21</sup> While noting Turkmenistan's response to the universal periodic review (UPR) recommendation to establish an independent national human rights institute,<sup>22</sup> CAT, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Human Rights Committee (HR Committee) and CERD recommended the establishment of an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles, with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) adding that it be mandated to monitor compliance with the rights under ICESCR.<sup>23</sup> UNCT noted that the discussion on establishing such a body had begun.<sup>24</sup>

6. UNCT noted the first step towards developing a national human rights action plan, beginning with a workshop in June 2012, and that national counterparts have expressed a wish to continue that work.<sup>25</sup> CEDAW also recommended that Turkmenistan adopt a national action plan to implement the Convention and the Committee's concluding observations.<sup>26</sup>

7. In 2012, the HR Committee was concerned that none of the provisions of ICCPR had been invoked before national courts, urging Turkmenistan to raise awareness of the Covenant among judges, lawyers and prosecutors.<sup>27</sup> Similar observations were made by CEDAW<sup>28</sup> with CAT also noting the comments made by the Turkmenistan delegation that the direct applicability of the Convention by courts was envisaged shortly.<sup>29</sup>

## II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

8. In 2012, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations noted with serious concern that the Government has not provided information on the submission to the competent authorities of the instruments adopted by the Conference at 16 sessions held between 1994 and 2011. Technical assistance could be provided to overcome the serious delay.<sup>30</sup>

### A. Cooperation with treaty bodies<sup>31</sup>

9. UNCT indicated that Turkmenistan started to engage in a constructive dialogue with United Nations human rights monitoring bodies and submitted its reports to all treaty bodies. Some of these reports were critically overdue.<sup>32</sup>

#### 1. Reporting status

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
CERD	Aug. 2005	2011	March 2012	Eighth to eleventh reports due in 2015
CESCR	–	2009/2010	Dec. 2011	Second report due in 2016
HR Committee	–	2010	March 2012	Second report due in 2015
CEDAW	May 2006	2011	Oct. 2012	Fifth report due in 2016.
CAT	–	2009	May 2011	Second report due in 2015

CRC	June 2006	2011 2012	–	Second to fourth reports pending consideration. Initial OPCRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC pending consideration.
CRPD	–	2011	–	Initial report pending consideration

## 2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

### Concluding observations

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Due in</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>	<i>Submitted in</i>
CERD	2012	Minority groups; hate speech; and stateless persons. <sup>33</sup>	–
HR Committee	2013	Torture and ill-treatment in places of detention; judiciary independence; and freedom of expression. <sup>34</sup>	2012 <sup>35</sup>
CEDAW	2014	National machinery for the advancement of women; and Violence against women. <sup>36</sup>	–
CAT	2012	Fundamental legal safeguards; monitoring places of detention; and Enforced disappearances and incommunicado detention. <sup>37</sup>	2012 <sup>38</sup>

### Views

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Numbers of views</i>	<i>Status</i>
HR Committee	3 <sup>39</sup>	Dialogue ongoing. <sup>40</sup>

10. The HR Committee was concerned at the non-satisfactory degree of implementation of its Views and urged Turkmenistan to establish a mechanism to implement them.<sup>41</sup> CAT shared these concerns.<sup>42</sup>

## B. Cooperation with special procedures<sup>43</sup>

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Current status</i> <sup>44</sup>
<i>Standing invitation</i>	No	No
<i>Visits undertaken</i>	Freedom of religion or belief (4-10 September 2008)	None
<i>Visits agreed to in principle</i>	None	None
<i>Visits requested</i>	Torture (requested in 2003 and 2007) Education (requested in 2006) Health (requested in 2006) Human rights defenders (requested in 2003 and 2004) Independence of judges and lawyers (requested in 2003) Freedom of opinion and expression (requested in 2003) Arbitrary detention (requested in 2004) Summary executions (requested in 2003) Violence against women (requested in 2007)	Arbitrary detention (reiterated 2009) Health (requested in June 2011, reiterated in July 2011) Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (requested in 2011) Violence against women (reiterated 2012)
<i>Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals</i>	During the period under review, seven communications were sent. The Government replied to one communication.	

11. In 2011, CAT urged Turkmenistan to strengthen cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms, in particular by permitting visits from the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.<sup>45</sup>

## C. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

12. UNCT reported that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is one of the implementation partners of the joint EU/UNDP/OHCHR Project “Strengthening the capacity of Turkmenistan to promote and protect human rights.” As a result of the project activities, the Government improved its interaction with the treaty bodies through the intensive work on enhancing the knowledge of officials representing Turkmenistan before the Committees.<sup>46</sup>

### III. Implementation of international human rights obligations

#### A. Equality and non-discrimination

13. In 2012, CEDAW expressed its concern that the definition of discrimination against women in the Constitution refers only to civil rights and urged Turkmenistan to include in the Constitution or in the Law on State Guarantees on Gender Equality the principle of equality with respect to all rights and a definition of discrimination against women in line with the Convention.<sup>47</sup>

14. CESCR was concerned that certain professions were not accessible to women.<sup>48</sup> The HR Committee urged Turkmenistan to revise its Labour Code to eliminate the negative stereotypes against women that restrict their participation, particularly in the employment sector.<sup>49</sup> CEDAW urged Turkmenistan to make the necessary amendments in the Labour Code and Presidential Decree No.10732<sup>50</sup> and to put in place a comprehensive strategy to eliminate the patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes regarding the roles of women and men.<sup>51</sup>

15. UNCT also drew attention to CEDAW's call for de facto equality.<sup>52</sup> CEDAW encouraged Turkmenistan to adopt temporary special measures in all areas in which women are underrepresented or disadvantaged,<sup>53</sup> with CESCR specifically referring to the adoption of such measures in the labour market and higher education.<sup>54</sup>

16. In 2012, CERD added its concern at the double discrimination faced by women and girls from ethnic minorities and recommended that Turkmenistan enhance their access to education, health care and employment.<sup>55</sup>

17. CERD recommended that Turkmenistan amend its legislation to include a definition of racial discrimination in full conformity with article 1 of ICERD or adopt a general prohibition of racial discrimination that covers all spheres of social life.<sup>56</sup> CERD was also concerned about the broad provisions of article 177 of the Criminal Code, such as on "enmity" or "offending ethnic pride", recommending that Turkmenistan define criminal offences to ensure that they do not lead to unnecessary or disproportionate interference with freedom of expression.<sup>57</sup>

18. Recalling its previous concluding observations, CERD referred to concerns at the prevalence of hate speech by high-ranking Government officials and recommended that Turkmenistan take immediate measures to effectively investigate and bring to justice perpetrators of reported hate crimes regardless of their official status.<sup>58</sup>

19. In 2011, CESCR expressed concern at reports that the "Turkmenization" policy set out preference for persons of Turkmen origin and that "third generation tests" were imposed on persons wishing to access higher education and public sector employment.<sup>59</sup> The HR Committee was also concerned at reported allegations of the use of such a policy in reducing opportunities for ethnic minorities in political life.<sup>60</sup> CERD recommended that Turkmenistan address problems of ethnically-related social exclusion and segregation.<sup>61</sup>

20. In 2012, CERD noted that there were 20,000 stateless persons in Turkmenistan and that Turkmenistan's agreement with a neighbouring country regarding dual citizenship had been terminated. It recommended that Turkmenistan urgently address statelessness and take measures to ensure that the solution of the issues related to citizenship does not increase the number of stateless persons.<sup>62</sup>

21. The HR Committee was concerned at the deep-rooted stereotypes against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity and urged Turkmenistan to put an end to the social stigmatization of homosexuality.<sup>63</sup>

## **B. Right to life, liberty and security of the person**

22. In 2009, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances indicated that it had transmitted one newly-reported case to the Government concerning Boris Shikmuradov, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, who disappeared on 25 December 2002 in Ashgabat.<sup>64</sup> In 2012, the Working Group noted that the outstanding case had been retransmitted and, regrettably, no response had been received from the Government.<sup>65</sup> CAT referred in particular to the lack of information on the fate and whereabouts of Gulgeldy Annaniyozov, Ovezgeldy Ataev, Boris Shikmuradov, Batyr Berdyev, and those imprisoned in connection with the assassination attempt on the former President in 2002.<sup>66</sup> The HR Committee urged Turkmenistan to make known immediately the whereabouts of those convicted for allegedly attempting to assassinate the former President; and allow visits from members of their families and access to their lawyers.<sup>67</sup>

23. CAT urged Turkmenistan to investigate death in custody incidents and prosecute those responsible; ensure independent forensic examinations of death in custody cases; and provide details of any investigation into the alleged death in custody of Ms. Muradova.<sup>68</sup>

24. CAT was deeply concerned at allegations about the widespread practice of torture and ill-treatment of detainees. It was concerned that persons deprived of their liberty, including minors, were tortured, ill-treated and threatened by public officers, especially when apprehended and during pretrial detention, to extract confessions and as an additional punishment.<sup>69</sup>

25. CAT urged Turkmenistan to establish a national system that independently and regularly monitors and inspects all places of detention.<sup>70</sup> The HR Committee also recommended that Turkmenistan allow visits by recognized international humanitarian organizations to all detention places.<sup>71</sup>

26. CAT recommended that Turkmenistan draw up a comprehensive plan to address violence in all detention facilities, including the women's prison colony in Dashoguz.<sup>72</sup> CEDAW urged Turkmenistan to establish clear procedures for complaints and mechanisms for monitoring. CEDAW called upon Turkmenistan to ensure that allegations by women detainees about discriminatory treatment and gender-specific abuse were investigated and perpetrators are prosecuted.<sup>73</sup> UNCT referred to amendments to the Criminal Code in August 2012 specifically penalizing the torture of women (art. 1821), and to special provisions aimed at improving the conditions of women in custody.<sup>74</sup>

27. CAT urged Turkmenistan to bring the conditions of detention into line with international standards, particularly by establishing non-custodial detentions and separating minors detained from adults.<sup>75</sup> UNCT reported that the Government expressed its determination to improve standards of prisons, particularly facilities for women and under 18 year olds.<sup>76</sup>

28. CAT was concerned at hazing in the armed forces, conducted by, or with the consent, acquiescence or approval of officers, which led to suicide and death. It recommended that Turkmenistan eradicate hazing in the armed forces; investigate and prosecute such incidents, including suicides and death caused by ill-treatment and mental pressure; and provide rehabilitation of victims.<sup>77</sup>

29. The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention adopted Opinion No. 15/2010 and considered information on the situation of Annakurban Amanklychev, a member of the Turkmenistan Helsinki Foundation, and Sapardurdy Khajiev.<sup>78</sup> The Working Group concluded that their detention was arbitrary and called for their immediate release and the provision of compensation for damages<sup>79</sup> with CAT urging Turkmenistan to implement the Working Group's decision.<sup>80</sup>



30. CAT was concerned about persons arrested and sentenced at closed trials without proper defence and imprisoned incommunicado. It urged Turkmenistan to abolish incommunicado detention; release all persons held incommunicado and inform relatives of their fate and whereabouts; investigate alleged disappearances cases; and provide remedy.<sup>81</sup> The HR Committee had similar concerns and recommendations.<sup>82</sup> CAT recommended that all persons deprived of their liberty be afforded all fundamental legal safeguards from the very outset of their detention.<sup>83</sup>

31. CAT expressed concern at the reported misuse of psychiatric hospitals to detain persons particularly for the non-violent expression of political views. It recommended that Turkmenistan provide information about the outcome of investigations into the alleged forced confinement in psychiatric hospitals of Durdykuliev and Durdymuradov.<sup>84</sup>

32. CEDAW<sup>85</sup> and CESCR<sup>86</sup> were concerned at the absence of specific legislation on violence against women. CEDAW urged Turkmenistan to adopt expeditiously a comprehensive law addressing all forms of violence against women; prosecute perpetrators; develop a comprehensive national plan; raise public awareness, through the media and educational programmes; encourage women to report incidents; and provide assistance and protection to women victims, especially in rural areas.<sup>87</sup>

33. UNCT highlighted that the law concerning corporal punishment of children in Turkmenistan did not explicitly prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in all settings, including alternative care settings; and the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended explicit prohibition. By law, only corporal punishment that was considered to cause harm was prohibited.<sup>88</sup>

34. The HR Committee was concerned at the use of children for cotton harvesting and urged Turkmenistan to protect children from the harmful effects of all forms of child labour.<sup>89</sup> In 2012, UNCT stated that child labour was illegal. However, enforcement of the laws had to be improved, including in relation to families using their children in seasonal agricultural labour.<sup>90</sup>

35. UNCT reported that in May 2010, the Parliament amended the Criminal Code, which, inter alia, penalized trafficking in human beings.<sup>91</sup> CEDAW recommended that Turkmenistan adopt a national plan of action to implement the Human Trafficking Act and address the root causes of trafficking and prostitution, including poverty.<sup>92</sup> CESCR also urged Turkmenistan to increase the provision of counselling, shelter, legal assistance and other rehabilitative services to victims; and ensure formal victim identification procedures, victim referral or victim sensitivity training for border guards and police officers.<sup>93</sup> The HR Committee<sup>94</sup> and UNCT<sup>95</sup> also made recommendations to address human trafficking.

### **C. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law**

36. CAT was deeply concerned at the ineffective functioning of the justice system apparently caused by the lack of independence of the procuracy and judiciary and regretted that responsibility to appoint and promote judges rested with the President.<sup>96</sup> The HR Committee urged Turkmenistan: to take all necessary measures to safeguard the independence of the judiciary by guaranteeing judges' tenure of office and to sever the administrative and other ties with the Executive Office. The HR Committee also expressed concern at reported widespread corruption in the judiciary and urged Turkmenistan to eradicate it.<sup>97</sup>

37. The HR Committee urged Turkmenistan to guarantee, in practice, the exclusion by the judiciary of any evidence obtained under any form of coercion and torture.<sup>98</sup>

38. CAT also urged Turkmenistan to prevent acts of torture and ill-treatment; eliminate impunity for alleged perpetrators; carry out prompt, impartial and exhaustive investigations;<sup>99</sup> and suspend the allegedly responsible officials from their duties during those investigations.<sup>100</sup>

39. UNCT reported that the Parliament adopted a new Law on legal defence and legal defence activities.<sup>101</sup>

40. The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief urged the Government to initiate reforms in the judiciary, so as to offer effective legal means of redress and compensation for denial of freedom of religion or belief.<sup>102</sup> CAT<sup>103</sup> and CERD<sup>104</sup> also made recommendations for providing redress in practice.

41. CEDAW, while welcoming Turkmenistan's ratification of OP-CEDAW, was concerned that women, especially those in rural and remote areas, lacked information to claim their rights. CEDAW called for all appropriate measures to be taken by Turkmenistan to enhance women's awareness of their rights and the means to enforce them, including through cooperation with civil society and the media.<sup>105</sup>

42. UNCT reported on programmes or plans adopted, including in relation to juvenile justice.<sup>106</sup> The development of appropriate policies in line with the 2012 General Juvenile Justice System Development Programme was needed to bring existing practices into compliance with the international standards on juvenile justice.<sup>107</sup> UNCT made recommendations which included allowing relevant international organizations to visit the correctional-educational facility for juvenile offenders and women's prisons so as to better assess needs and provide assistance.<sup>108</sup>

#### **D. Right to privacy, marriage and family life**

43. CESCR called upon Turkmenistan to prevent child marriages<sup>109</sup> and CEDAW<sup>110</sup> and UNCT<sup>111</sup> welcomed the new Family Code, which raised the marriage age to 18 years. While noting that polygamy is illegal in Turkmenistan, CESCR was concerned that it remained widely practiced; and called upon Turkmenistan to eliminate this phenomenon.<sup>112</sup>

44. The HR Committee urged Turkmenistan to decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex.<sup>113</sup>

#### **E. Freedom of movement**

45. The HR Committee was concerned at reports that Turkmenistan restricted the exit and entry into the country for those on the list of individuals under State surveillance. The Committee also regretted that Turkmenistan maintained the system of mandatory registration at the place of residence, which was a prerequisite for residence, employment, acquisition of real estate and access to health services. Turkmenistan should ensure that restrictions on the movement of individuals within the territory of the State party, as well as the right to exit, and any surveillance programmes for purposes of State security are compatible with the strict requirements of article 12 of ICCPR.<sup>114</sup> CESCR recommended that Turkmenistan ensure that its system of residence registration does not impede the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by all citizens without discrimination, irrespective of the place of registration.<sup>115</sup>

## **F. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life**

46. In 2008, The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief noted that a high level of tolerance and a climate of religious harmony prevailed at the societal level in Turkmenistan; however, there still continued to be mistrust of religious organizations and collective manifestation of religion.<sup>116</sup> She also stated that although the situation had much improved since 2007, individuals and religious communities, both registered and unregistered, remained under close scrutiny and still faced a number of difficulties when manifesting their freedom of religion or belief.<sup>117</sup> Similar concerns were raised by CESCR<sup>118</sup> and the HR Committee.<sup>119</sup>

47. The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief noted that Council on Religious Affairs exclusively appointed Sunni Muslim Imams to represent it at the regional level, therefore leaving religious minorities out of the regional and local governmental structures. She expressed the view that it was inappropriate to give a governmental body which only includes Sunni Muslims and Russian Orthodox Christians the powers to decide on the registration of other religious groups.<sup>120</sup>

48. The Special Rapporteur recommended that the Government ensure that religious communities incur no obstructions with regard to the building, opening, renting or use of places of worship and that they are not deprived of their places of worship.<sup>121</sup>

49. In 2010, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and the Chair of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention sent a joint communication regarding allegations that five Jehovah's Witnesses and conscientious objectors in Turkmenistan had been arrested and convicted for refusing to serve in the military.<sup>122</sup> The Special Rapporteur made recommendations.<sup>123</sup> The HR Committee urged Turkmenistan to review its legislation to provide for alternative military service, clearly stipulating the right to conscientious objection to military service; halt prosecutions of individuals refusing the military service on grounds of conscience; and release those individuals currently serving prison sentences.<sup>124</sup>

50. UNESCO referred to reported detentions, harassment and intimidation of journalists, citing as an example the attempts to report on the Abadan explosion in 2011 which the authorities allegedly attempted to keep quiet. Journalists or photographers who tried to document the aftermath faced detention.<sup>125</sup> CAT<sup>126</sup> and the HR Committee<sup>127</sup> also noted with concern reported acts of intimidation, reprisals and threats against human rights defenders, journalists and their relatives; and that human rights defenders had faced arrest on criminal charges. CAT expressed particular concern that on 30 September 2010, Turkmenistan President instructed the Ministry of National Security to lead an "uncompromising fight against those who slander our democratic secular State."<sup>128</sup> The Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression shared CAT's concerns and urged the Government to guarantee all individuals' right to freedom of opinion and expression, and to promote an open environment where individuals can express diverse and critical views and opinions without fear of harassment or persecution.<sup>129</sup>

51. UNCT observed that, while inhabitants of the capital and regions had access to international TV and radio channels, restrictions in the media environment, including social media, limited freedom of expression and access to information.<sup>130</sup> UNESCO observed that Internet access was severely restricted, and that the Government monitored those who obtained access.<sup>131</sup> Recommendations to address such concerns were made by the HR Committee<sup>132</sup> and CERD<sup>133</sup> with CESCR urging Turkmenistan to ensure free access to diverse sources of information and to cease the practice of censorship of electronic

communication and blocking of Internet sites, thereby making the Internet available to all that desire it.<sup>134</sup>

52. Additionally, UNESCO encouraged the Government to decriminalize defamation in accordance with international standards; begin the process of introducing a freedom of information law to enable public information to be accessed easily and freely by the public in accordance with international standards; allow journalists and media workers to practice in a safe, free, independent, and pluralistic media environment as part of their fundamental human rights; and strengthen capacity in the field of journalism standards and ethics to develop the media self-regulatory mechanism both for media professionals and policy-makers.<sup>135</sup>

53. CEDAW remained concerned at the lack of information about civil society organizations, such as women's and human rights organizations, and the strict legal and procedural requirements for the registration of non-governmental and civil society organizations, as well as restrictions imposed on their activities, and urged Turkmenistan to provide an enabling environment for the establishment and active involvement of women's and human rights organizations.<sup>136</sup> Concerned that the Law on Public Associations restricted freedom of association, the HR Committee urged Turkmenistan to reform its registration system.<sup>137</sup> Equally, the HR Committee expressed concern about the refusal to grant entry visas to international human rights organizations, urging Turkmenistan to allow international human rights organizations into the country.<sup>138</sup>

54. According to UNCT, amendments of electoral laws were introduced, with an overall objective to develop a unified electoral code. Following the adoption of the Law on Political Parties the new "Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs" was launched in August 2012.<sup>139</sup>

55. CERD recommended that Turkmenistan ensure equal opportunities and treatment of all individuals in private and public employment, including election to Parliamentary posts, and recruitment to posts in the State administration or judicial bodies, without distinction.<sup>140</sup> CEDAW was concerned at the underrepresentation of women at all levels of political and public life; and systematic barriers impeding women's equal participation in political life, with the HR Committee also expressing concern that women remained underrepresented in the private sector, particularly in decision-making positions. Specific recommendations were made by the HR Committee<sup>141</sup> and CEDAW.<sup>142</sup>

## **G. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

56. CESCR was concerned that the National Trade Union Centre, the only trade union in Turkmenistan, was controlled by the Government. It recommended that Turkmenistan remove all impediments for creating trade unions; and consider adopting a specific law outlining the modalities of the right to organize strike action.<sup>143</sup>

57. Concerned that 52.8 per cent of women in Turkmenistan work in the informal sector, CEDAW recommended the establishment of a regulatory framework for the informal sector<sup>144</sup> with CESCR recommending that Turkmenistan's social security system provide adequate coverage and minimum pensions, including for informal sector workers.<sup>145</sup>

58. CESCR was concerned at the high unemployment level and urged Turkmenistan to address it.<sup>146</sup>

## H. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

59. UNCT indicated that there was an established State system of social security but there were gaps in the system of family and child support services at the local level due in part to complex administrative procedures.<sup>147</sup>

60. CESCR recommended that Turkmenistan: develop a policy to reduce poverty, including by reducing inequalities in wealth distribution; and implement legislation guaranteeing safe drinking water and adequate water sanitation, paying particular attention to rural areas.<sup>148</sup>

61. CESCR was concerned that Turkmenistan has forcibly relocated human rights activists, members of ethnic minorities and their family members; and that a large number of forced evictions had been carried out in the context of the urban renewal project (“National Programme of Improvement of Social Conditions for the Population of Villages, Settlements, Towns, Districts, and Rural Centers through 2020”). It urged Turkmenistan to refrain from forcibly relocating or evicting individuals and recalled that eviction or relocation should be carried out in strict compliance with international human rights law.<sup>149</sup>

## I. Right to health

62. UNCT reported that a National Strategy on HIV was approved in 2012 for the period 2012-2016. An HIV action plan is being currently developed. Both documents suggest a more proactive approach to combating HIV/AIDS and measures to overcome stigma and discrimination associated with HIV.<sup>150</sup> Access to information and the general awareness level on the right to reproductive health remained low among adolescents.<sup>151</sup> CEDAW, while welcoming the National Reproductive Health Strategy (2011–2015), urged Turkmenistan to promote education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, targeting adolescent girls and boys and paying special attention to early pregnancy and control of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.<sup>152</sup>

63. CEDAW expressed concern at increased fees for medical services while the quality remained poor.<sup>153</sup> UNCT reported that the Ministry of Health was preparing for restructuring the health financing system to introduce compulsory medical insurance, starting from 2016. UNCT also reported that, despite demonstrable progress, the levels of infant mortality and under-five child mortality remained high. Child survival and development was affected by stunting and high iron deficiency anaemia rates (over 40 per cent among children of 6-59 months). UNCT indicated that limited access to official and quality data had proven a major impediment to development planning<sup>154</sup> and made recommendations to address its various concerns.<sup>155</sup>

## J. Right to education

64. UNESCO stated that Turkmenistan was engaging in a review of the education system and the vocational training sector with the European Commission’s support.<sup>156</sup> UNCT commented that the quality of education at times remained a challenge. Additionally, the frequent and prolonged participation of children and students in cultural or political festivities affected learning achievements.<sup>157</sup>

65. CESCR made recommendations to address its concerns at the obstacles to quality education for secondary school graduates wishing to enter higher education in Turkmenistan and abroad and the unofficial fees to access higher educational institutions.<sup>158</sup>

66. CEDAW urged Turkmenistan to ensure equal access for girls and women to all levels of education; and to raise awareness of education as a human right and as the basis for the empowerment of women.<sup>159</sup>

## **K. Persons with disabilities**

67. UNCT reported that children with disabilities were admitted to special institutions and not raised in family environments in their community. There were legal, procedural, physical and attitudinal barriers to a fully-fledged participation of children with disabilities in society, including their visibility in the media. Community-based services and support to children with disabilities and their families was lacking. UNCT, while noting that an ongoing joint United Nations project promotes social inclusion and integration of persons with disabilities,<sup>160</sup> made recommendations for Turkmenistan to set up a follow-up framework including independent mechanisms to promote, protect and monitor the implementation CRPD.<sup>161</sup>

## **L. Minorities and indigenous peoples**

68. CERD recommended that Turkmenistan observe the principle of self-identification of ethnic and national minorities and establish a mechanism of consultation with representatives of minority groups.<sup>162</sup>

## **M. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers**

69. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) noted that Turkmenistan was the first country in Central Asia to become party to the two Statelessness Conventions. UNHCR indicated its readiness to assist the Government with their implementation.<sup>163</sup>

70. CERD welcomed the measures taken by Turkmenistan to facilitate the return of 7,309 ethnic Turkmens from abroad to take up residence in their homeland; and the granting of citizenship to more than 13,000 refugees and awarding permanent residence to more than 3,000 other refugees.<sup>164</sup>

71. UNCT recommended that Turkmenistan provide UNHCR with access to statistical data related to detained foreigners, and to foreigners who have been expelled, returned or otherwise refused entry at Turkmenistan's borders; and share with UNHCR statistics on the number of stateless persons and information about the processing of the applications for naturalization.<sup>165</sup>

72. UNHCR recommended that Turkmenistan revise the 2012 Refugee Law in order to include a rights and gender-based approach and to ensure conformity with international refugee and human rights standards, including explicit recognition of the principle of non-refoulement in accordance with article 33 of the 1951 Convention, the right to family unity and acknowledgement of gender-based persecution as a ground for refugee status.<sup>166</sup> CAT also made recommendations.<sup>167</sup>

### *Notes*

<sup>1</sup> Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found on the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://treaties.un.org/>. Please also refer to the United Nations

compilation on Turkmenistan from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/3/TKM/2).

<sup>2</sup> The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
CPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

<sup>3</sup> Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art.5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and CPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; CPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; CPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: CPED, art. 30.

<sup>4</sup> Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

<sup>5</sup> 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.

<sup>6</sup> Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at [www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html).

<sup>7</sup> International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour; Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation.

<sup>8</sup> 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

<sup>9</sup> International Labour Organization Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

- <sup>10</sup> Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III).
- <sup>11</sup> International Labour Organization Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment.
- <sup>12</sup> International Labour Organization Convention No.169, concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries and Convention No.189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers.
- <sup>13</sup> Concluding observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/TKM/CO/1), paras. 31-32; concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/TKM/CO/6-7), para. 26; concluding observations of the Committee against Torture (CAT/C/TKM/CO/1), para. 27, and concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4), para. 46.
- <sup>14</sup> CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 12.
- <sup>15</sup> CERD/C/TKM/CO/6-7, para. 29.
- <sup>16</sup> CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 26.
- <sup>17</sup> UNESCO, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, para. 26.
- <sup>18</sup> CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 5; CERD/C/TKM/CO/6-7, para. 4; CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 3; and CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, paras. 4, 38 and 39. See also CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, paragraphs. 24, 30, 32 and 33.
- <sup>19</sup> UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, p. 1.
- <sup>20</sup> A/HRC/10/8/Add.4, paras. 63-65.
- <sup>21</sup> CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 12.
- <sup>22</sup> CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 12 and CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, para. 16.
- <sup>23</sup> CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 12; CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, para. 17; CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 7; CERD/C/TKM/CO/6-7, para. 24 and E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, para. 7.
- <sup>24</sup> UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, pp. 2-3.
- <sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, p.3.
- <sup>26</sup> CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, para. 15.
- <sup>27</sup> CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 6.
- <sup>28</sup> CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, paras. 12-13.
- <sup>29</sup> CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 7.
- <sup>30</sup> ILO, Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, General Report and observations concerning particular countries, International Labour Conference, 101st Session, 2012, ILC.101/III1A, p. 967, available at [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms\\_174843.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_174843.pdf) .
- <sup>31</sup> The following abbreviations have been used for this document:
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|--------------|--|
| CERD         | Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination        |
| CESCR        | Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights            |
| HR Committee | Human Rights Committee                                       |
| CEDAW        | Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women |
| CAT          | Committee against Torture                                    |
| CRC          | Committee on the Rights of the Child                         |
| CRPD         | Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities         |
- <sup>32</sup> UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, chapter II, section A, p. 3.
- <sup>33</sup> CERD/C/TKM/CO/6-7, para. 32.
- <sup>34</sup> CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 24.
- <sup>35</sup> CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1/Add.1.
- <sup>36</sup> CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, para. 48.
- <sup>37</sup> CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 29.
- <sup>38</sup> CAT/C/TKM/CO/1/Add.
- <sup>39</sup> CCPR/C/93/D/1450/2006; CCPR/C/96/D/1460/2006, and CCPR/C/100/D/1530/2006.
- <sup>40</sup> Human Rights Committee, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth session*, Supplement No. 40 (A/66/40), Vol. II, Part Two), p. 113.
- <sup>41</sup> CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 5.
- <sup>42</sup> CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 21.
- <sup>43</sup> For the titles of special procedures, see: [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Themes.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Themes.aspx) and [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx).



- 44 Action taken since the previous review.
- 45 CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 14.
- 46 UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, chapter II, section C, p. 4.
- 47 CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, paras. 12-13.
- 48 E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, para. 12.
- 49 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 8.
- 50 CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, para. 33.
- 51 Ibid., para. 21.
- 52 UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, chapter III, section A, p. 4.
- 53 CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, paras. 18-19.
- 54 E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, para. 10.
- 55 CERD/C/TKM/CO/6-7, para. 20.
- 56 Ibid., para. 8.
- 57 Ibid., para. 16.
- 58 Ibid., para. 12.
- 59 E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, para. 8.
- 60 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 22.
- 61 CERD/C/TKM/CO/6-7, para. 14.
- 62 Ibid., paras. 17-18.
- 63 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 21.
- 64 A/HRC/13/31, para. 579.
- 65 A/HRC/19/58, para. 655.
- 66 CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 15.
- 67 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 10.
- 68 CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 16.
- 69 CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 6. See also CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, paragraphs 9 and 18.
- 70 CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 14.
- 71 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 9.
- 72 CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 18.
- 73 CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, para. 37.
- 74 UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, p. 1.
- 75 CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 19.
- 76 UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, p. 3.
- 77 CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 22.
- 78 A/HRC/16/47/Add.1, para. 24.
- 79 Ibid., pp. 85-86, paras. 28-29.
- 80 CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 13 (d).
- 81 Ibid., para. 15.
- 82 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 10.
- 83 CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 9.
- 84 Ibid., para. 17.
- 85 CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, para. 22.
- 86 E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, para. 16.
- 87 CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, para. 23. See also E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, paragraph 16.
- 88 UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, chapter III, section B, pp. 4-5.
- 89 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 20.
- 90 UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, chapter III, section G, p. 5.
- 91 Ibid., p. 1.
- 92 CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, para. 25.
- 93 E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, para. 17.
- 94 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 11.
- 95 UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, recommendation, section on combating human trafficking, p. 9. See also chapter III, section B, page 5.
- 96 CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 10.
- 97 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 13.
- 98 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 14. See also CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, paragraph 20.

- 99 CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 6. See also CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, paragraphs 9 and 18.
- 100 CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 11 (b).
- 101 UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, p. 1.
- 102 A/HRC/10/8/Add.4, para. 69.
- 103 CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 21.
- 104 CERD/C/TKM/CO/6-7, para. 22. See also CERD/C/TKM/CO/6-7, paragraph 23.
- 105 CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, paras. 10-11.
- 106 UNCT, submission for the UPR of Turkmenistan, chapter I, section on other national plans and policy measures, p. 3.
- 107 UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, chapter III, section C, p. 5,
- 108 UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, recommendations, section on strengthening juvenile justice system, p. 9.
- 109 E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, para. 19.
- 110 CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, para. 38.
- 111 UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, chapter III, section D, p.5.
- 112 E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, para. 18.
- 113 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 21.
- 114 Ibid., para. 12.
- 115 E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, para. 9. See also UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, chapter III, section E, page 5.
- 116 A/HRC/10/8/Add.4, para. 52.
- 117 Ibid., p.2.
- 118 E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, para. 30.
- 119 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 17.
- 120 A/HRC/10/8/Add.4, para. 35. See also recommendations at paragraph. 67.
- 121 A/HRC/10/8/Add.4, para.66.
- 122 A/HRC/16/53/Add.1, paras. 384-388.
- 123 A/HRC/10/8/Add.4, para.68; A/HRC/16/53/Add.1, para. 391.
- 124 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 16.
- 125 UNESCO, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, para. 25.
- 126 CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 13.
- 127 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 18.
- 128 CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 13.
- 129 A/HRC/17/27/Add.1, para. 2210.
- 130 UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, chapter III, section K, p. 7.
- 131 UNESCO, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, para. 22.
- 132 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 18.
- 133 CERD/C/TKM/CO/6-7, para. 25.
- 134 E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, para. 29.
- 135 UNESCO, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, paras. 29-32.
- 136 CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, paras. 28-29.
- 137 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 19.
- 138 Ibid., para. 18.
- 139 UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, chapter III, section F, p. 5.
- 140 CERD/C/TKM/CO/6-7, para. 19.
- 141 CCPR/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 8.
- 142 CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, paras. 26-27.
- 143 E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, para. 13.
- 144 CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, paras. 32-33.
- 145 E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, para. 14.
- 146 Ibid., para. 11.
- 147 UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, chapter III, section H, p. 6.
- 148 E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, para. 20.
- 149 Ibid., para. 21.
- 150 UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, chapter I, section on other national plans and policy measures, p. 3.

- <sup>151</sup> Ibid., chapter III, section I, p. 6.
- <sup>152</sup> CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, paras. 34-35. See also, E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, paragraph 22.
- <sup>153</sup> CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, para. 34.
- <sup>154</sup> UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, chapter III, section I, pp. 6-7.
- <sup>155</sup> Ibid., recommendations, sections on public health and childhood development and health, p. 8.
- <sup>156</sup> UNESCO, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, para. 8.
- <sup>157</sup> UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, chapter III, section J, p. 7.
- <sup>158</sup> E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, para. 25.
- <sup>159</sup> CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4, para. 31.
- <sup>160</sup> UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, chapter III, section L, p. 7.
- <sup>161</sup> UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, recommendations, section on disability rights and social inclusion, p. 9. See also E/C.12/TKM/CO/1, paragraph 15.
- <sup>162</sup> CERD/C/TKM/CO/6-7, paras. 10 and 24.
- <sup>163</sup> UNHCR, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, pp.2-3.
- <sup>164</sup> CERD/C/TKM/CO/6-7, para. 6.
- <sup>165</sup> UNCT, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, section on support to refugees and reduction of statelessness, p. 10, recommendations 11 and 12. See also, CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, paragraph 23(e).
- <sup>166</sup> UNHCR, submission to the UPR on Turkmenistan, recommendations section, p. 4.
- <sup>167</sup> CAT/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 23.
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