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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to the Note Verbale OHCHR/TESRPRD/DESIB/HRESIS, dated 16 August 2018, has the honour to transmit the information of the relevant authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the preparation of the report "Empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: 2 pages



Geneva, 12 October 2018

**Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights
GENEVA**

**Information submitted by the
Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of
the Republic of Azerbaijan**

According to the article 6 of the Child Rights Act of the Republic of Azerbaijan, all children have equal rights. Irrespective of social and property status, health, racial and national identity, language, education, political views, the place of residence of the children, their parents or persons replacing parents, children cannot be exposed to discrimination. Children aren't responsible for the actions of their parents and persons replacing parents. Their rights can not be restricted for reasons related to their parents. Whether born in wedlock or not children have the same rights with regard to their parents.

According to the article 5 of the Education Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the State guarantees the creation of equal education opportunities for each citizen and preventing discrimination, regardless of the individual's gender, race, language, religion, political views, nationality, social status, background, and state of health.

Over the past period, as a result of amendments to the national legislation, the term "Children with disabilities under the age of 16" has been replaced with the term "Children under 18 years of age with limited health care", the term "Disabled from childhood" has been removed from legislation.

The Republic of Azerbaijan joined the United Nations Convention on the "Rights of Persons with Disabilities" with the Law No. 686-IIIQ dated October 2, 2008. Since then substantial work has been initiated to improve social protection of persons with disabilities, including that of children with disabilities, their integration into society, provision with prosthetic-orthopedic devices, rehabilitation measures and referrals for recreational treatment as well as to bring the legislation in line with the Convention.

The legal framework with regard to persons with disabilities in our country that joined the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, is being upgraded based on the principles of this Convention. The Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the Republic of Azerbaijan has been approved on May 31, 2018.

The law covers the provision of all rights and freedoms with regard to people with disabilities (including children), specified under the Convention including basic principles of state policy in this field, state guarantees, disability prevention, habilitation and rehabilitation of persons with disability, employment, education, social security of persons with disability etc.

In addition, the Law reflects the issues of respect to the particularities of persons with disabilities, as well as to the evolving capacities and the right of identity of children up to the age of 18 with limited health capacities, their acceptance as a part of human diversity and mankind, the importance of raising awareness about fostering respect for the rights of persons with disabilities at all the stages of education starting from the early ages and ensuring inclusion at all stages of life.

In accordance with the "Annual Action Plan for 2014-2015" signed between the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the UNICEF, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan has approved the Action Plan on inclusive education of children with disabilities within the project on "implementation of inclusive education at the primary level".

Based on the Action Plan, measures are being taken to assess the enrollment of children with disabilities to the selected pilot schools (four general education schools in Baku) based on the findings of the Psychological-Medical-Pedagogical Commission and the establishment of a speech therapy service at these schools and the adjustment of the infrastructure of the educational institutions to the needs of children with limited health capacities. At present, each pilot school has 2 inclusive classes with 20 people in each, including 2 children with limited health and 18 typical children.

In May-September 2016, 87 children were assessed by the Ministry of Education with the purpose of enrollment, out of which 15 children were accepted at general education schools, 56 at special education schools and 16 children at inclusive schools. In 2016-2017 academic year, 16 children with mild mental illness, physical or sensory impairment were enrolled in pilot schools. In subsequent school years it is planned to involve children with moderate and severe restrictions in inclusive education.

In addition, the State Program on the Development of Inclusive Education for Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2018-2024, approved by the Presidential Decree No. 3498 dated December 14, 2017, will give impetus to reforms in this direction.