



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
GENEVA

OHCHR REGISTRY

17 FEB 2011

Recipients : SPD

2011/BMCO/1200089

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the Latter's Note dated 17 December 2010 concerning the request to submit "information for further analysis by the UN Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty", has the honour to enclose herewith the responses provided by the Government of the Republic of Turkey.

The Permanent Mission of Turkey 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.

Geneva, 15 February 2011



Enc. 1.

High Commissioner for Human Rights,
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY'S
RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Post-crises adjustment and fiscal consolidation processes (2010 onwards)

1.Has your government adopted, or does it expect to adopt, contradictory fiscal policy in the aftermath of the global economic crisis?

No contradictory fiscal policy was followed in the aftermath of the global economic crisis in Turkey. Besides, since the estimated 2010 nominal GDP growth is higher than the increase in expenditures, budget expenditures of the GDP are estimated to decrease (2010 4th quarter GDP growth has not been announced yet).

2.What percentage, if any, of expenditure reductions are being or will be directed at social expenditures, including education, health, social security, housing, water and sanitation?

No budget cut has been made in education, health and the social field.

3.Please describe all actual or proposed reductions in expenditure on specific social protection programmes including any reduction of benefits or number of beneficiaries.

No reduction has been made in social protection expenditures.

4.Please describe all actual or proposed reductions in expenditure on the wage bill, including any cap or cut in wages of public health and education sector workers?

No reduction has been made in wages and salaries of public personnel including public health and education sector workers. Furthermore, no relevant reduction has been envisaged in medium term program.

5. Have current economic recovery policies taken into account developments in unemployment, food prices and social inequalities?

In the framework of economic recovery policies, fight against unemployment was taken into consideration and four different employment packages were announced (first announced in 2008), with a view to reducing unemployment and increasing employment. These packages introduced some premium deductions and incentives. Unemployment compensation was increased and short-time working compensation is being implemented. Due to the active labor force policies; more people have been able to benefit from vocational training, entrepreneurship training, internship programs and social interest work programs. With agriculture and husbandry support programs and social interest work programs which are currently in force, an excessive fluctuations in food prices have been avoided. There is an existing gap on the expenditures for social support programs aiming to eliminating inequalities on income distribution and the infrastructure investments aiming to reducing regional developments.

6.Does your country expect to restore public expenditure after a certain time period, and, if so, when?

General government total expenditures which reached 40.09 percent of the GDP in 2009 are expected to go down to 39.07 percent in 2010 due to global crisis. The same item is expected to be 36.11 percent at the of 2011-2013 program period. Parallel to this, general government deficit which was 5.45 percent in 2009 is expected to be 3.67 percent in 2010 due to the crisis. Furthermore, the mentioned deficit is expected to drop to 1.09 percent at the end of 2011-2013 Medium Term Program period.

Impact of the reductions in social expenditure on those living in extreme poverty

7.What is the assessment of the current access of the most vulnerable groups (particularly women, children, the older people and persons with disabilities) to social good, services and assistance, which are essential to their enjoyment of human rights? To what extent is their inadequate access attributable to the reductions in social expenditure? Please provide major findings.

Sufficient resource was allocated in the budget for the vulnerable groups access to social goods, services and assistance. For instance, in 2011 the amount of the resource allocated for disabled persons training program and home care increased by 33 percent and reached to 3.2 billion TRL. In order to encourage school enrollment ratio of the girls, the scope of the transportation services in the education system has been expanded and the resource allocated comprises secondary school female students and has increased to 24 percent for 2011. In order to make the appointment of the civil servant vacancies in public administrations and enable the disabled people to be employed in the public sector, the appointment of disabled personnel has been exempt from 2010 Central Government Budget Law No 5944. Besides, the amount of the resource transferred to Social Assistance and Solidarity Fund has been increased by 12.8 percent and reached to 2.2 billion TRL in 2011.

8.Did the Government carry out any impact analysis (incidence analysis) of the impact public expenditure or social expenditure reduction on the most vulnerable groups in society prior to its implementation? If yes, please provide major findings.

No impact analysis was made since no reduction was made in public expenditures and social expenditures.

9.Where any alternative fiscal policies considered and discarded, and, if so, why?

No there was not.

10.What mechanisms are in place to ensure that the human rights of those living in extreme poverty are protected, respected and fulfilled in light of reductions in public expenditure?

Such social protection mechanisms were not needed since no reduction was made in public expenditures.

11.Please indicate whether there was a public consultation prior to taking measures to reduce public expenditure. If yes, please describe which non-governmental agencies or groups were consulted.

Such consultations were not needed since no reduction was made in public expenditures.