**A/RES/73/153 Sayılı Karar Uyarınca BM Genel Sekreterince Hazırlanacak “Child, Early and Forced Marriage” Konulu Rapor İçin Hazırlanan Bilgi Notu**

**Answers to the Questions 1,2,4**

* “The Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women’s Empowerment 2018-2023” includes 5 main policy pillars (education, economy, health, participation in decision-making mechanisms and media) for women’s empowerment. The Strategy Paper sets “Cross-cutting Policy Areas, to be taken into consideration in all policy pillars. One of the cross-cutting Policy Areas is girl child. Moreover, additional activities were identified for groups of women requiring special policies, including girls and women who were forced into early marriage.
* Activities were conducted by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS) for the provinces with high rate of early and forced marriages between 2017-2018. In this regard, field visits were paid to 19 provinces. During the field visits, the Provincial Directorates of the Ministry prepared reports on the status of early marriages in the provinces. The draft Provincial Action Plans on Combating Early and Forced Marriages were prepared for each province.
* To combat early and forced marriages in cooperation with all stakeholders, "Action Plan on Combatting Early and Forced Marriage (2019-2023)" has been prepared and reached the approval stage. Action plan includes five main targets, namely; Preparation of Legislation, Research and Data Collection, Empowerment of Girls, Protective and Preventive Service Delivery, Awareness Raising, and Cooperation between Institutions and Policy Development.
* Within the scope of the cooperation between the MoFLSS and UNICEF aimed at protecting disadvantaged children,
* 300 vocational personnel working in 81 provinces of the MoFLSS
* 100 military and civilian personnel working in the Ministry of National Defence,
* 150 law enforcement officers working in the 81 Provincial Gendarmerie Commands,
* 500 law enforcement officers working in the General Directorate of Security were trained on combatting early and forced marriages.
* Within the scope of working plan between MoFLSS and UNICEF, a project is being carried out to examine the good practices in countries where the forced marriage is experienced and to report these examples in order to form the basis of the policies of the Ministry.
* Training on Improving Community Working Skills in Combating Violence against Women and Early Marriages was organized for 150 professionals working in Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers affiliated to the MoFLSS.

**Answers to the Questions 3-5**

The following are examples of the best practices implemented under the Provincial Action Plans to Combat Early and Forced Marriages:

* Trainings were given in 8 different coffeehouses on the harms of early marriages (AĞRI)
* Officials of Provincial Gendarmerie Command visited 47 villages and informed them about the damages of early marriages. (BİTLİS)
* Public personnel in the province were trained on early marriage and child abuse. (DİYARBAKIR)
* Opinion leaders in the province were given a seminar on combating early and forced marriage (HATAY)
* 9th grade students were given training on combating early marriage (IĞDIR).
* A qualitative and quantitative field survey was conducted in collaboration with the Provincial Directorate of Family Labour and Social Services and Sütçü İmam University Women's Studies Research and Application Center. (KAHRAMANMARAŞ)
* A total of 58 muhtars from central and district quarters were trained. (KARS)
* Approximately 300 Syrians were trained by the Provincial Directorate of Family Labour and Social Services and the Provincial Directorate of Health (KİLİS).
* Training on prevention of early marriages were given to hairdressers and owners of wedding salons. (MARDİN)
* Persuasion and Lighting Commission was established for families of children who do not attend formal education and are at risk of early marriage. (MUŞ)
* Trainings on the harms of early marriages were given to teachers and administrators by the Provincial Directorate of National Education (NEVŞEHİR)
* Awareness training was given to women studying in the Qur'an course on safe motherhood, sexually transmitted diseases, early marriage and sexual abuse. (NİĞDE)
* Information seminars for religious officials were held by the District Governorships and Provincial Directorate of Family Labour and Social Services (VAN)

**Answer to the Question 6**

Considering 2018/2019 school year, primary school net enrolment rate for boys and girls are 91.7% and 92% respectively. The net enrolment rate for secondary school is 93, 6% for girls and 92,9% for boys. While the gender ratio in primary education was 94.11% in 2006/2007 school year, it has risen to 99,5% in 2018/2019; the rate has risen to 101.9% in secondary school. In the 2018/2019 school year, enrolment rates in secondary education for boys and girls 84.5% and 83.8% respectively.

In order to increase the access of girls to education and to ensure equal opportunities in education, some of the activities are summarized below:

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, boarding and pension schools are founded. According to the 2018/19 school year data, the number of boarder students is 353.34; 176.651 of whom are girls (49.9%).

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.

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. The amount of the financial aids are kept higher for the girls and the aids are paid to the mothers.

Through “Engineer Girls of Turkey Project High School Program”, 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.

Within scope of the in-service trainings organised for teachers 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 was run in 35 provinces between 2011- 2016. The Project continued to be carried out starting from 2017. 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” aimed 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 has been completed. In 2018, preparations are planned for the "Girls’ School Enrolment Project".

The Lifelong Learning Strategy, covering the 2014-2018 period, aims to support women's access to education within the disadvantaged group and to increase distance education opportunities for this purpose.

**Answer to the Question 7**

For many years, a rapid downward trend is observed in Turkey for preventable causes of maternal deaths. The maternal mortality rate calculated in 2018 is 13.6 per hundred thousand. In 2018, the birth rate in health care facilities was 98% and the rate of receiving prenatal care was 99.5%.

In order to increase women's access to health services and to provide reproductive health services, some of the activities carried out are as follows:

* **Monitoring Program for Women Aged 15-49:** Within scope of this program, all women between the ages 15 – 49 are monitored by primary healthcare institutions at least twice a year for getting acknowledged about fertility behaviours, determining the risky situations, confirming pregnancy in the early periods, getting knowledgeable about the use of reproductive health methods, for receiving counselling about women health and reproductive health methods.
* Pre-Marriage Counselling Program
* Prenatal Care Program
* Pregnant Information Class Program
* Birth and Caesarean Section Monitoring Program:
* Postnatal Care Program
* Reproductive Healthcare Services Program
* Mother-Friendly Hospital Program
* With the Mobile Health Care Services and domiciliary care services, services are provided to the people who have difficulty in accessing to the services.
* The Guest Mother Program has been started to identify the pregnant women who live in the settlements with unfavourable weather and transportation conditions and who may have problem in access to health institution during delivery due to social reasons; to follow up and then to transfer them to safer residential centres.
* With Conditional Healthcare Assistance, expectant mothers from the most destitute layer of the society are provided with pregnancy aid in case the delivery is performed at a hospital and in case the regular inspections are performed.
* There are202 “Cancer Early Diagnosis, Screening and Education Centers (KETEM),including 177 immobile and 21 mobile KETEMs in 81 provinces. In 2018, 1.344.375 women and 78.153 men benefited from cancer screening service.

**Answers to the Questions 8-9**

In the context of legal developments, Turkey has become the first country to ratify “The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence”. In addition, the Law No. 6284 on Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence Against Women and the Third National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women 2016-2020 put into force. Moreover, the Provincial Action Plan for Combating Violence Against Women is being implemented in 81 provinces and these action plans include activities to combat early marriages.

Within the scope of Cooperation Protocol on Pilot Scheme of Applicability of Audio Surveillance Systems for Combating Violence against Women, electronic bracelets are implemented in 15 provinces that provide most effective protection for victims of violence.

Since 2018, "Trainings on Combatting Violence against Women" have been organized for public officials working in different institutions in 81 provinces every month. Approximately 46 thousand people have been reached within the scope of the trainings.

There has been cooperation with the Ministry of National Defence within scope of awareness-raising activities for men. In this regard, “Combating Violence against Women” was added to the 21-day basic military service training that is carried out for those who benefit from paid military service; and the awareness-raising seminars were started in 40 provinces as of the first call-up period on 15th September 2018. By 20 September 2019, nearly 420.000 ranks and files have been reached within scope of the paid military service. It is planned to reach more than 500.000 people.

Throughout Turkey, there are 110 women shelters in 81 provinces affiliated to MoFLSS, 1 is affiliated to Ministry of Interior, 33 women shelters are affiliated by local governments and NGOs.

**"**183 Social Support Line**"** working within the MoFLSS works as a psychological, legal and economic advisory hotline for women and children who are at risk of violence and who need support and assistance; they are provided with information about their rights and where to apply. It is also taken as a precautionary measure for negligence, abuse and violence or for the prevention of honour killings; considering the urgency of the situation, the emergency response team responsible for the incident and / or the law enforcement officials are informed to intervene. This hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is free. The hotline in service in Arabic and Kurdish as well is equipped with short message feature and 3G function for the hearing-impaired individuals.

**Answer to the Question 10**

In Turkey, only official marriage is legally valid and these marriages are recorded. This information is obtained from the Central Population Administration System of the General Directorate of Population and Citizenship Affairs and published annually by TURKSTAT.

Survey on Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey was conducted by the MoFLSS in 2008 and in 2013. In the questionnaire of the research conducted in 2013, questions related to early marriages were also included and data on the relationship between the age of first marriage and violence against women were obtained.

MoFLSS continues its efforts to keep record of the injunction orders issued under the Law No.6284 on a common data system through the inter-institutional integration. The integration activity of the injunction orders issued under the Law No.6284 on UYAP system between the MoFLSS and the Ministry of Justice has been completed. “6284 Order Follow-up System” which will contribute to efficiency of follow-up and monitoring of the orders has been put into service for 81 Provincial Directorates affiliated to MoFLSS and Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers (VPMCs). Within scope of the Information Sharing Protocol between the Ministry of Interior and the MoFLSS, the activities have been completed to share electronically the “Registration Form for Incidents of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women under the Law No.6284” with the MoFLSS .

Integration activities with relevant institutions and organizations such as the Ministry of Interior General Directorate on Population and Citizenship, Social Security Institution and the Banks Association of Turkey are maintained for the automation of “the confidentiality orders” issued for the victim of violence under the relevant article in the Law No. 6284. This data integration is expected to shorten the time to reach the victims of violence and increase the efficiency of protection.