



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Türkiye to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the letter by the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls dated 19 May 2025 (Ref: OL TUR 4/2025), has the honour to enclose herewith the information note provided by relevant Turkish authorities.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Türkiye avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 4 August 2025



Encl: As stated.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson
Rue des Pâquis 52
1201 Geneva

INFORMATION NOTE IN REPLY TO THE COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPECIAL PROCEDURES

(Reference: OL TUR 4/2025)

1. With reference to the letter of the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls dated 19 May 2025, the Government would like to submit its observations herein below.
2. Türkiye is committed to the goals of improving the rights of women, ensuring their full and equal participation in all spheres of life and strengthening their status in society.
3. Equality between women and men before the law is one of the basic principles of the Turkish Constitution. Article 10 of the Constitution states that "*Women and men have equal rights. The State has the obligation to ensure that this equality exists in practice. Measures taken for this purpose shall not be interpreted as contrary to the principle of equality.*" The constitutional amendment in 2010 further enhanced the legal fundamentals of the rights of women by introducing the concept of "positive discrimination". In addition, the Civil Code, the Penal Code and the Labour Code were completely revamped in this sense. Moreover, the "Commission for Equal Opportunity between Women and Men" at the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye was established in 2009 to monitor developments on the issue at the national and international levels.
4. Türkiye continues to develop policies for empowering women and eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women. In the last several years, various strategy documents and action plans related to the rights of women have been prepared and started to be implemented. All these works are carried out with transparent and participatory spirit in extensive consultations with all stakeholders, including local administrations, civil society representatives, academics as well as international organisations.
5. The 12th National Development Plan covering 2024-2028 stipulates ambitious goals in the field of women's rights and empowerment of women, including but not limited to integrating equality of opportunity for women into all budgeting processes, increasing women's participation in the labour market, improving girls' and women's education, as well as ensuring women's full and effective involvement in decision-making mechanisms at all levels. Furthermore, for the first time, "temporary special measures" such as quotas and supplementary support were included in the National Development Plan. Moreover, also for the first time, a

separate chapter on women’s empowerment was included in the 2023 Budget Guidebook for citizens published by the Presidency. As a result of the steps taken in this context, OECD included Türkiye for the first time among the countries that successfully integrate equality of opportunity for women into all planning and budgeting processes.

In line with the 12th National Development Plan, the Strategy Document and Action Plan for the Empowerment of Women covering 2024–2028 consists of various objectives, strategies and activities as well as monitoring and evaluation indicators under five main policy axes: ‘Education’, ‘Economy’, ‘Health’, ‘Leadership and Participation in Decision Making Mechanisms’ and ‘Environment and Climate Change’.

Türkiye has also introduced significant legal and administrative regulations aimed at ensuring work-life reconciliation to eliminate the barriers that women face in their professional life, such as the right to part-time work after childbirth and mandatory daily care services in workplaces. Furthermore, a series of projects and programmes are pursued to increase women’s participation in employment and labour force, supporting women entrepreneurs, strengthening women's cooperatives, expanding education and training opportunities, raising awareness and disseminating best practices.

Türkiye’s periodic reports under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) provide more detailed information on the measures taken to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

6. On 22 February 2023, the Constitutional Court found unconstitutional and annulled the first sentence of Article 187 of the Turkish Civil Code on the account that the difference in treatment between men and women concerning the use of one’s own surname alone after marriage is contrary to the principle of equality. Pursuant to Article 153 of the Constitution, this decision is final and legally binding. According to Article 7 of the Constitution, legislative power is vested in the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye. It is at the discretion of the parliamentarians to put forward law proposals and the final authority to adopt such proposals lies with the Grand National Assembly.