Voluntary review of implementation of the

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Turkmenistan

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted on December 19th, 2018 by UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/195 at the 73rd session, based on the approval of states on December 10-11, 2018 at the Intergovernmental Conference in Morocco, serves as an international instrument forming an integrated and comprehensive vision of migration, and providing basis for strengthening international cooperation on all aspects of migration to enhance the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development.

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, just like the SDGs, is based on the commitment of UN member states to tackle global inequalities and to ensure that “no one in any country is left behind”.

Migration is a global and transnational multi-faceted phenomenon, and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Legal Migration, as a comprehensive approach to migration management, is of particular relevance for all countries of the world, including Turkmenistan.

National mechanism.

Turkmenistan in full support of the Resolution 73/195 of the UN General Assembly on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration adopted on December 19, 2018, and applying an inclusive approach to the involvement of all state structures, civil society, international organizations and stakeholders, within the framework of integrating goals and the principles of the treaty into the bulk of national and regional strategies and program documents, in May 2020 created the National Coordination Mechanism in the form of an Interdepartmental Working Group on the Implementation
and Monitoring of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (hereinafter - the Global Compact on Migration (GCM)), preparation of voluntary reporting on the implementation of the GCM in Turkmenistan both at the regional and international levels, as well as its subsequent integration into the country's development programs.

The working group includes representatives of ministries and departments, as well as public organizations. The coordinating body of the working group is the State Migration Service of Turkmenistan. The engagement of all members to achieve positive progress in the implementation of the GCM also reflects the government's commitment to fulfilling the SDG on: “leaving no one behind”.

In order to implement paragraph 45 of the Global Compact on Migration, Turkmenistan initiated the process of formation in Turkmenistan of the United Nations Migration Network (UN GMN) during the country-level meetings held in February 2020 with the participation of the Government of Turkmenistan represented by the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, the UN Resident Representative (UNDP) in Turkmenistan, the UN Country Team (UNCT), as well as the representative office of the International Organization for Migration in Turkmenistan. The decision to initiate the UN Network at the country level in Turkmenistan was supported by the Heads of UN Agencies in Turkmenistan on August 7th, 2020.

The United Nations Country Team in Turkmenistan, as part of the creation of the United Nations Migration Network, will provide assistance and support to the Government of Turkmenistan in realizing the goals of the Global Compact on Migration in accordance with the national priorities of Turkmenistan.

As part of the implementation of paragraph 53 of the Global Compact on Migration, the Interdepartmental Working Group with the assistance of the UN Migration Network in Turkmenistan will prepare voluntary reporting (review) at the regional and international
levels on the implementation of the goals set out in the Global Compact on Migration, as well as developing a framework for future action in the format of an inventory of possible national and international responses based on internationally recognized best practices and lessons learned.

**Review objectives.**

This voluntary review (hereinafter referred to as the review) was prepared to determine the current state of Turkmenistan on the way to achieving the goals of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This voluntary review is the result of a comprehensive assessment of the status and progress of achievements in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration.

During the preparation of the review, it was confirmed that most of the goals of the Global Compact on Migration, to one degree or another, have already been incorporated into the national strategic and program documents approved in Turkmenistan. The most successful goals are: “2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18”.

At the same time, there still are issues, the solution of which requires intensification of efforts of the state, civil society and international partnership.

The goals of the Global Compact on Migration are interconnected, and measures implemented for one goal of the treaty inevitably have a direct impact on the achievement of other goals of the GCM.

To assess the progress of the GCM implementation in Turkmenistan, the following main objectives of the review were identified:
1) assess the institutional mechanisms involved in the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration on their effectiveness and sufficiency, as well as the existing redistribution of functions in the process of implementing the GCM;

2) analyze the degree of implementation of the GCM in national strategic and program documents;

3) assess the current state and progress in the implementation of the GCM and identify key successes and challenges in achieving the goals of the GCM;

4) contribute to raising awareness of the population about the GCM and strengthening partnerships between government bodies, civil and scientific society, the private sector, as well as international organizations in achieving the goals of the GCM and in ensuring regulated and safe migration in Turkmenistan.

**Review methodology.**

In the context of this integrated approach in conjunction with the SDGs, the Interagency Working Group prepared this voluntary review of the implementation of the GCM, based on the recommendations of ESCAP, the UN General Assembly resolutions that approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New York Declaration on refugees and migrants, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Format and organizational aspects of the work of fora to consider the problems of international migration, as well as national programs and strategies, including the National Program of Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2011-2030, Program of the President of Turkmenistan for socio-economic development of the country for 2019-2025, Concept for development of the migration service system for 2017-2021 and other national legal documents. This voluntary review is based on national plans and sectoral development programs of the country, laws and
other regulatory legal acts of Turkmenistan (Annex to this review: adopted policy measures and strategies), as well as reports submitted to international organizations, including those, submitted in the framework of international obligations in the field of human rights.

In order to balance and integrate the goals of the GCM into national plans, a comprehensive assessment of national programs and strategies in relation to the goals of the GCM was carried out along with the analysis of migration objectives. Following the initiation of the launch of the UN Network on Migration, a joint IWG meeting with the IOM regional office was held to prepare a voluntary review using the ESCAP methodology and analysis of the relationship between the GCM and the SDGs.

The preparation of a voluntary review of the implementation of the GCM allowed for a fresh look at the measures being taken in Turkmenistan, as well as identified the following next steps in the implementation of the GCM:

- the need to continue work to improve the statistical capacity of the country in relation to the GCM with the national system of SDG indicators on migration, collection and use of accurate and disaggregated data. This will ensure that relevant government programs and strategies are monitored and progress in the implementation of the GCM is tracked.

- achievement of positive progress in the implementation of the GCM at the country and global level and further promotion of international partnership and cooperation with the participation of the UN Migration Network with the assistance of UN agencies and international organizations.

- continuation of work in the field of human rights and dignity protection.

- consolidation of international efforts to resolve the main issues of the GCM with active participation of the international community.
Leading principles.

The streamlining of migration processes in Turkmenistan is based on all ten overarching and interrelated guiding principles of the Global Compact:

- 1) focus on the interests of people; 2) international cooperation; 3) national sovereignty; 4) the rule of law and compliance with legal procedures; 5) sustainable development; 6) human rights; 7) consideration of gender aspects; 8) taking into account the interests of children; 9) involvement of all government agencies; 10) involvement of the whole society.

Turkmenistan is a state governed by the rule of law, in which all conditions have been created to ensure human and civil rights and freedoms, and all social relations are subject to the rule of law and based on the rule of law. Maintenance of effective institutions in Turkmenistan is based on regular improvement of legal relations in accordance with the requirements of legal acts, among which the provisions of the Constitution of Turkmenistan and international legal instruments to which Turkmenistan is a party, and which are of primary importance.

The guiding principles of the Global Compact are enshrined in the Law of Turkmenistan “On Migration” as:

1) ensuring the human rights enshrined in the Constitution of Turkmenistan to freely choose a place of residence, type of activity and profession, freedom of movement;

2) inadmissibility of infringement of the rights and freedoms of the individual on the basis of nationality, race, sex, origin, property and official status, place of residence, language, attitude to religion, political convictions, party affiliation or lack of membership thereof, or for other reasons;
3) ensuring the compliance of the legislation of Turkmenistan with the generally recognized norms of international law and international treaties of Turkmenistan in the field of migration;

4) detection, prevention and control of illegal migration in Turkmenistan;

5) respect and observance by migrants of the legislation of Turkmenistan;

6) cooperation of authorized state bodies, interaction with public associations and international organizations in the field of regulation of migration processes.

Mainstreaming of gender policies and ensuring children's rights, which are expressed in decisions and strategies in the best interests of children and in empowerment of women and girls, lies at the heart of the intersection of all the principles of the country's migration policy.

The creation of a regulated, orderly and safe migration is the basis of the state migration policy of Turkmenistan, the goals of which are enshrined in the migration concept of 2017, national plans and strategies, the Law of Turkmenistan "On migration" and other normative legal acts regulating migration issues and spheres interconnected with migration.

The state migration policy of Turkmenistan is aimed at creating conditions that ensure a decent life for people, realization of human rights and free development, application of comprehensive nationwide approaches to the management and regulation of migration, strengthening regional and international partnerships, in order to analyze and control migration.

The main directions of migration policy integrated into state programs and strategies are migration and health, migration and statelessness, migration and emergencies, migration and human trafficking, migration and the environment, including ensuring
simplicity and transparency of procedures for entering/leaving Turkmenistan, obtaining the right to stay in the country, to permanent residence, the exercise by migrants along with citizens of Turkmenistan of other fundamental rights and freedoms, including increasing the availability of educational and medical services for foreign citizens, non-discriminatory access to justice.

Government agencies authorized in the field of migration, interacting with each other, with the international community and the civil sector, guided by legal national and international documents, responsibly treat the movements and purposes of entry/exit of citizens in order to prevent illegal migration by streamlining and regulating migration processes.

The regulation of migration processes includes, among other things, simplification of mutual trips of migrants between states, procedures for the implementation of labor activities in Turkmenistan, including non-use of quotas and work permits for permanently residing migrant workers from other states and other categories of migrants, direct automatic recognition of educational documents for implementation labor activity.

National action plans, which include measures to assist the voluntary return of migrants, including the issuance of appropriate travel documents, have a positive impact on the regulation of external migration.

The regulation of internal migration is provided by separate legislative acts that help to protect the rights of internal migrants and their employment.

An important role in the regulation of migration processes is assigned to transit migration, due to the increased emphasis on international cooperation in the field of communications, transport and transit.
Particular attention is paid to the problem of countering illegal international migration through adoption, taking into account international requirements and implementation of national plans and strategies to counter terrorism, extremism, human trafficking and other types of transnational crime.

As part of the creation of safe and regular migration in the country, effective measures and practices of international concepts and goals are applied that contribute to the achievement of universal Sustainable Development Goals; international and regional cooperation is strengthened by holding international and regional conferences, round tables, seminars, webinars, trainings, dialogues on adaptation of international requirements and search for solutions to the management of migration movements.

In accordance with the migration concept approved in 2017 by the Decree of the Government of Turkmenistan, one of the main principles of migration regulation is to ensure simplicity, accessibility and predictability of migration procedures, which means certainty and accessibility of procedures for entering, leaving and transit through the territory of Turkmenistan, simplifying visa procedures, obtaining the right to stay/reside in the country, documentation in accordance with international standards and other rights, as well as timely awareness of migration procedures, the rights and obligations of migrants and national legislation at all stages of migration.

Ensuring certainty and predictability of migration procedures is at the heart of GCM Goal 12, the implementation of which, along with GCM goals 2,5,6,18, contributes to the voluntary, orderly and regular nature of migration and constitutes the content of Thematic Block 1 of this review.
THEMATIC BLOCK 1 (goals 2, 5, 6, 12, 18 of the GCM)

Ensuring voluntary, orderly and regular nature of migration.

**Goal 2: Minimize the adverse effects of various forces and structural factors that force people to leave their countries of origin.**

Minimizing the adverse effects of various forces and structural factors that force people to leave their countries of origin is achieved by creating favorable political, economic, social and environmental conditions for ensuring a peaceful, productive and stable life for people in the country and ensuring their access to legal migration channels.

As part of creating the above conditions, in accordance with the principle of the SDGs on “leaving no one behind”, Turkmenistan supports investments in social services, including health and education, which are critical for social and economic well-being of the country's population, including vulnerable groups, such as women and girls, youth, children, people with disabilities, the elderly, refugees, displaced persons, migrants and other vulnerable groups.

Given that the Global Compact for Migration is based on the 2030 Agenda, and migration issues intersect with the SDG objectives (8.8, 10.7 and 17.18), and are also implied in many other targets with common goals (1.3, 2.1, 3.3, 3.7 and 3.8), achieving a voluntary, orderly and regular nature of migration will help accelerate the achievements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other existing international framework documents.

In Turkmenistan, within the framework of promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, state structures in partnership with international organizations and civil society have developed and approved policy framework documents containing targets and
indicators to facilitate their effective implementation at the level of Government of Turkmenistan.

Some of these framework documents include the National Program of the President of Turkmenistan on Socio-Economic Development for 2019-2025, adopted on February 1st, 2019, and the Framework Program for Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Development between the Government of Turkmenistan and the UN for 2021-2025, signed on March 14th, 2020 ...

Considering the importance of ensuring adequate financial resources for projects and programs aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda, and actively supporting the Addis Ababa Funding Action Agenda, initiating a scaling-up of joint efforts to fully and timely implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for the International Forum held in Ashgabat on May 28th, 2019: “Financing the implementation of sustainable development goals: the role of integrated national financing mechanisms”, the final document of which was adopted as a document of the 74th session of the UNGA, Turkmenistan put forward initiatives at the 75th session of the UNGA on holding a UN Conference on Financing for Development at the global level.

In order to strengthen the strategic partnership to accelerate the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, under the auspices of the first UN Caspian Economic Forum held on August 11-12, 2019 in Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan and the United Nations signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkmenistan.

Turkmenistan, continuing to pursue a policy of sustainable development aimed at eliminating all types of inequality, as well as further promoting digital solutions and narrowing the digital divide, invests in national, regional and international programs aimed at respecting rights and freedoms, as well as achieving factors in sustainable development, such as:
- ensuring food security and improving nutrition of the population, promoting a universal healthy lifestyle, ensuring environmental sustainability, mitigating the effects of climate change, strengthening the resilience to emergencies and reducing disaster risk, ensuring gender equality through guarantees of rights and opportunities for all women and girls, ensuring the best interests of children and creating conditions for their early development, creating conditions for inclusive, fair and quality education and inclusive economic growth, including the development of transport and transit potential in order to promote international trade and access to world markets, asserting the rule of law and responsible governance, ensuring access to justice and protection of human rights, security and peace.

In the context of the accelerated achievement of sustainable development factors, in addition to the National Program of the President of Turkmenistan on Socio-Economic Development for 2019-2025, dated February 1st, 2019, and the Framework Program for Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Development between the Government of Turkmenistan and the UN for 2021-2025 dated March 14th, 2020, Turkmenistan also invested funds in the following national programs:

- State Program of Turkmenistan “Health” for 2015-2025. (July 17th, 2015), which is the main document in the field of healthcare, defines the protection of public health as the main goal of socio-economic development, achieving well-being, increasing life expectancy and increasing the country's well-being.

- “The National Program of the President of Turkmenistan on transformation of socio-economic conditions of the population of villages, settlements, cities of etraps and etrap centers for the period until 2020” (2007), the goals of which include promoting the industrialization of velayats, increasing the production of domestic products, creating new jobs, aimed in general at improving the welfare of the population of villages, settlements, cities of etraps and etrap centers.
- National strategy of Turkmenistan on early child development for 2020-2025 (December 6th, 2019).

- The program for improving the activities of preschool institutions in the field of early development and improving the preparation of children for schools in Turkmenistan for 2020-2025 and a plan for its implementation (05/22/2020).

- The concept for development of the digital education system in Turkmenistan, aimed at improving the quality of educational services based on digital platforms and creating conditions for continuous education for all segments of the population (September 15th, 2015).

- The Concept for Development of the Digital Economy in Turkmenistan for 2019-2025 (November 30th, 2018) is designed to help accelerate the transition of the national economy to innovative rails, increase employment in knowledge-intensive industries, introduce advanced technologies in production, and fully switch to electronic document management.

- The program to improve the employment sector and create new jobs in Turkmenistan for 2015-2020 and the Action Plan for implementation of this Program (05/01/2015) envisage improving the quality characteristics of human resources by modernizing the training system, providing necessary conditions for citizens with low competitiveness in the labor market, stimulating entrepreneurial activity of the population, including through the creation of additional jobs in the field of small and medium-sized businesses.

- Program for adapting young people to the labor market in Turkmenistan and improving their employment, 06/14/2019

- National Action Plan for Human Rights in Turkmenistan for 2016-2020 (15.01.2016) is based on international principles of human rights protection and developed on the basis of recommendations of the Treaty Bodies and UN Human Rights Institutions,

- and other national program documents and strategies.

According to the Program of the President of Turkmenistan for socio-economic development of the country for 2019-2025, investments in the amount of about 169 billion manats are envisaged in the development of the economy of Turkmenistan, of which 10 billion manats will be spent on improving social infrastructure in rural regions, including the construction of hospitals, schools, preschool institutions, water treatment and sewerage facilities. The program provides for maintaining the share of state budget expenditures for the social sphere at the level of at least 70 percent: education, health care, culture, pension and social security.

In the process of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, Turkmenistan pays special attention to the need to continue a broad dialogue on climate change, environmental protection and the use of water resources.

Having ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016 (within the framework of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which regulates measures to reduce the carbon dioxide content in the atmosphere from 2020), on September 23rd 2019 Turkmenistan adopted the National Strategy on Climate Change in a new version (previously revised version is dated 15.06.2012), with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ). This strategy is the main national program document for implementation of activities in the field of climate change and meets the objectives of the Program of socio-economic development of Turkmenistan for the period of 2019-2025.
National plans and programs for mitigating the consequences of climate change provide for the involvement of all government sectors and civil society, as well as other stakeholders in the implementation of measures to adapt to climate change, including in the Aral Sea crisis.

As part of the chairmanship of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) for the period of 2017-2019, Turkmenistan has already implemented a number of proposals to enhance cooperation between the countries of the region in order to improve the environmental and socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea basin.

The Aral Sea topic requires a systematic and comprehensive approach, appropriate legal documents, taking into account the needs and protection of the population living in this region, including migrants. Based on the provisions of the UN General Assembly resolutions “Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea”, adopted at the 72nd and 73rd sessions at the initiative of Turkmenistan, work will continue to organize broad consultations in the UN, directed on the development of Special UN programs for the countries of the Aral Sea basin.

Developing activities to create an international legal framework for solving the Aral Sea problem, as announced by Turkmenistan at the 75th session of the UN (2020), in May 2021, within the framework of the regular session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Turkmenistan will present an initial draft concepts and structures of the future Special Program for the Aral Sea for discussion by all states and interested international organizations.

Another large-scale adaptation measure is the construction of Altyn Asyr Lake in the Karakum Desert.

As part of the chairmanship at the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD), Turkmenistan initiated the development of the Regional Environmental Protection Program for
Sustainable Development of Central Asia (REPSD), which will contribute to the region's countries' achievement of commitments on the environmental SDGs and UN environmental conventions, implementation of the Paris Agreement and implementation of the principles of “green” economy in accordance with the decisions of ICSD and the Board of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS).

In accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2015-2030, on 01.03.2019, Turkmenistan adopted the State Program for Implementation of the Main Directions of State Policy in the Field of Civil Defense for the Period of 2019-2030 and the National Action Plan, which include a set of nationwide measures aimed at reducing disaster risk, developing national emergency management mechanisms, raising awareness and preparedness of the population, reducing the number of human casualties and reducing damage resulting from natural and man-made emergencies.

Following the results of participation in the III UN World Conference “Disaster Risk Reduction”, Turkmenistan, in order to develop a set of measures to prevent and reduce the risks of natural disasters in the region, outlined the creation of a Regional Center for Technologies related to climate change in Central Asia under the auspices of the UN.

National mechanisms for disaster risk reduction have been improved in order to strengthen national capacities for the prevention and management of natural disasters. Every year, in the framework of cooperation with the UN, in particular with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the Organization for Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a number of activities are carried out aimed at creating prosperous conditions for reducing the scale of activities and the volume of losses arising from emergencies. The international requirements and recommendations for ensuring the safety of the population, including the protection of the dignity and
rights of people, are studied. Experiences in international evacuation, registration and placement of adversely affected populations in camps are being introduced, with emphasis on the benefits of camp alternatives. The priorities and possibilities of humanitarian monetary assistance are considered, and the experience of other countries in this area is studied.

The annual participation of Turkmenistan in the “Regional Forum-Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Departments of Central Asian Countries”, as well as entry of the country into the “Regional Register of Experts in the Field of Civil Protection/Defense, Disaster Risk Reduction, Prevention and Elimination of Emergencies” made it possible to strengthen the mechanism for joint analysis and information exchange within regional scientific and technical programs, projects in the field of disaster risk reduction, prevention and elimination of emergency situations.

The Law of Turkmenistan “On International Humanitarian Aid in Emergency Situations”, adopted on August 22nd, 2020, significantly expands the capabilities of the national mechanism for disaster risk reduction at the international level.

With regard to the movements of migrants, which may be influenced by all kinds of risks and threats, natural disasters and emergencies, existing mechanisms are being created and strengthened in Turkmenistan to predict the occurrence of risks and threats. It should be noted that “migration and emergency management” is one of the priority directions of state policy and cooperation with the International Organization for Migration designated by Turkmenistan.

Taking into account the prediction and monitoring of risks and threats that may affect the movement of migrants, and taking into account international recommendations and Guidelines for the Protection of Migrants in Countries in Conflict or Natural Disaster (MISIC), an interagency contingency plan was developed and approved in case of an emergency associated with the influx of
internally displaced people. This plan includes specific measures aimed at ensuring systematic preparedness for emergencies related to internally displaced persons, refugees, planning ahead of time for response to a particular emergency before it occurs, response measures in case of occurrence, as well as measures to support post-crisis activities. Key roles and redistribution of responsibilities of state structures in emergency management are reflected in the Regulation on the Central Civil Defense and Emergency Situations, approved by an act of the Government of Turkmenistan.

With a view to sustainable development of the country at the local and national levels to achieve sustainable economic growth, and within the frames of the Presidential Program for Socio-Economic Development of the Country for 2019-2025, structural reforms are envisaged to create favorable conditions and opportunities for decent life for the population, including migrants, refugees, displaced persons - which are based on transition to diversified market economy, financial support (lending), creation of new decent jobs, further growth of the minimum wage, provision of productive employment, expansion of employment in the private sector and transfer of informal workers to the formal sector, child protection and increased economic activity of women, stimulating the development of small and medium-sized businesses, which will reduce the vulnerability and risks of this segment of the population, as well as assure provision of necessary social guarantees, improved working conditions and decent wages.

Investing in the development of human capital in the field of entrepreneurship, education, vocational training and skills development, ensuring productive employment in accordance with the needs of the labor market, in cooperation with the private sector and trade unions in order to reduce youth unemployment, preventing the outflow of specialists, is achieved by implementing existing and developing new programs and mechanisms, including those with gender-sensitive perspective. So, for example, in order to encourage programs and partnerships in the field of entrepreneurship and involvement of the private sector, in accordance with the Law of
Turkmenistan “On state support for small and medium-sized enterprises”, the State Program for Support of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Turkmenistan for 2018-2024 was adopted in 2018” along with a plan for its implementation, aimed at promoting the development of entrepreneurship in the country and creating new jobs in the non-state sector of the economy.

In order to reduce youth unemployment, in accordance with the Law of Turkmenistan “On State Youth Policy” (March 20, 2015), the country has adopted a State Program of State Youth Policy of Turkmenistan for 2015-2020, according to which, on August 18th, 2017, Interdepartmental Commission for the Employment of Young Specialists in the country was established by the Resolution of the President. As part of measures aimed at preventing the outflow of young specialists, on March 2nd, 2018, by Decree of the President of Turkmenistan, the government approved the Program for improving the system of employment of young specialists for 2018-2020 and Action Plan for its implementation. The objectives the latter two documents include maintaining a balance between demand and supply for labor in the labor market, increasing employment of young people and provision of sectors of our economy with qualified personnel.

In continuation of the targeted work in supporting youth, the Government of Turkmenistan on June 14th, 2019 adopted the Program for Adapting Youth to the Labor Market and Improving its Employment, as well as an Action Plan for implementation of this program.

The provision of productive employment and creation of decent jobs is facilitated by a special platform created on the basis of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan, which includes a “single window” mechanism for coordinating supply and demand in the labor market, awareness raising of the population, including migrants, stateless persons, refugees on vacant positions in the territory of Turkmenistan. This platform helps to employ more than 90% of registered users annually.
In order to achieve further development of gender-oriented policies in Turkmenistan, the government adopted the National Action Plan for Ensuring Gender Equality in Turkmenistan for 2015-2020, based on the provision of equal opportunities for women, including women migrants and refugees, and equal access to quality education, health care and the labor market. Based on the results of successful implementation of this plan, this year the development of a new national plan for gender equality for 2021-2025 was launched.

To ensure the rights and freedoms of persons without citizenship status and their access to social and economic opportunities, the best practice in the region was the approval and implementation of the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Statelessness for 2019-2024, which reflects all the achievements of Turkmenistan in the field of reducing statelessness and aspects of inclusive protection of vulnerable categories of migrant groups without a certain status, including their documentation for the purpose of their access to legal migration channels and unimpeded movement.

Under the leadership of the Esteemed President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the state pays special attention to humanitarian issues. As you know, for a number of years in order to further improve democratic institutions in the country, effectively fulfill its obligations in the field of human rights, Turkmenistan has been pursuing close and multifaceted cooperation with relevant international organizations in humanitarian areas. Turkmenistan actively cooperates with such international organizations as the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the International Labor Organization, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other humanitarian structures.

Goal 5: Facilitate access to legal migration channels and increase their flexibility.
In order to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration channels, it is important to simplify access to them by facilitating labor mobility, optimizing educational opportunities, ensuring the right to marry and family life with foreign citizens, stateless persons, and by taking into account the needs of migrants in vulnerable position.

In the context of promoting labor mobility, Turkmenistan, based on the guidelines and principles of the ILO, actively cooperates with other states and international actors in order to protect the rights of migrant workers on the basis of concluded multilateral and bilateral agreements, as well as, within the framework of national legislation of Turkmenistan, providing favorable conditions in the fields of employment, education, protection of the institution of family and marriage and other needs of migrants.

Streamlining labor mobility and developing infrastructure for the organized inflow of foreign labor regulated by international treaties and national legislation of Turkmenistan, is one of the measures to protect the rights of migrant workers.

The Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Labor Migration and Social Protection of Migrant Workers of April 15, 1994, concluded between the Governments of the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine, provides for labor mobility of migrants engaged in paid activities in the Country of employment, as well as provision of social protection for migrants and members of their families who permanently reside in the territory of one of the states of the Parties and carry out their labor activities in enterprises, institutions, organizations of all forms of ownership in the territory of another state party in accordance with the legislation of the Country of employment.

Separate bilateral agreements provide for the liberalization and simplification of the visa regime in order to simplify labor mobility, provide educational opportunities for citizens of the Parties. An example of this is the Agreement between the Government of
Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on simplification of the visa regime for participants of international transportation through the territory of Turkmenistan and the Republic of Azerbaijan signed on November 22nd, 2018.

The agreements concluded with the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan provide for a legal mechanism regulating the nature of the seasonal work and registration of migrants at economic facilities located in the territories of the Parties. (Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on crossing of the Turkmen-Uzbek border by persons servicing economic facilities located in the border regions from November 19th, 2004, Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on cooperation in the field of operation and repair and restoration work at the economic facilities of Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan located on the border territories of the states of the Parties from November 10th, 2008).

Visa-free travel for diplomatic and business purposes is provided for in separate bilateral agreements for holders of diplomatic and service passports.

The procedure for the employment of migrants, the entry of migrants and the stay of migrants for educational, business, investment, entrepreneurial and other purposes are regulated along with international treaties by the Laws of Turkmenistan “On the legal status of foreign citizens in Turkmenistan”, “On migration”, “On refugees”, provisions on the procedure the issuance of visas and the implementation of labor activities in the territory of Turkmenistan by foreign citizens and stateless persons, while various categories of migrants are provided with a range of rights and social services on an equal basis with citizens of Turkmenistan.

The Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Russian Federation on regulation of the resettlement process and protection of the rights of migrants,
(Ashgabat, 23.12.1993), the Agreement on Assistance to Refugees and Forced Migrants within the Commonwealth of Independent States, (Moscow, 24.09.1993), the Agreement between Turkmenistan and Ukraine on the regulation of the resettlement process and protection of the rights of migrants, Kiev, 14.05.2001, and other documents were signed as part of the regulation of migrants' movements.

Selection of personnel through national labor market analysis, identification of the necessary specialties, formation of requests to attract foreign citizens-labor migrants is carried out on the basis of a coordination mechanism in the form of interdepartmental commissions with the involvement of relevant state bodies, executive authorities and the private sector. At the same time, the execution of requests to attract migrant workers to relevant specialties is carried out through flexible and simplified procedures for issuing visas and work permits introduced into national legislation. For the selection of highly qualified personnel from among migrant workers, exceptions from the established quotas for the employment of foreign citizens and maximum assistance to employers in attracting such specialists are applied.

Quotas for the employment of migrants who find themselves in a vulnerable position due to forced resettlement as a result of sudden natural disasters or other emergencies, are provided in accordance with the Laws of Turkmenistan “On Migration”, “On Refugees” and other regulatory procedures governing the employment of foreign citizens, the aforementioned legal acts are not applied to stateless persons. In such cases, migrants, on equal basis with the citizens of Turkmenistan, have the right to unhindered access to work in the country, and their children are provided with the right to education in preschool and school institutions of Turkmenistan. In addition, the Law of Turkmenistan “On International Humanitarian Aid” and the Law of Turkmenistan “On Migration” regulate a simplified procedure for granting humanitarian visas. In the event that internally displaced migrants are granted refugee status, further stay in the country is ensured by a visa-free regime in accordance with the Law of
Turkmenistan “On Refugees”, which also establishes procedures for unhindered access to free medical services, temporary employment and children's access to education.

For family reunification of migrants of any skill level, a family visa is issued for the duration of stay of the migrant reuniting with the family. Such family visas are issued at the request of migrants staying in Turkmenistan for the purpose of family reunification. The Law also provides for a visa-free stay for family members of a refugee with an equivalent status, including coverage by the system of basic social services for migrants of all categories, including language training for children in educational institutions.

In accordance with the Regulations on the Procedure for Teaching Foreign Citizens in Institutions of Higher and Secondary Vocational Education of Turkmenistan (April 19th, 2013 No. 12973), foreign students with insufficient knowledge of Turkmen language are admitted to language courses in higher and secondary vocational educational institutions. The term of language training is one year, and those, who successfully passed the final language test are accepted for the first year of the corresponding school. An example of application of the aforementioned mechanism is the training of Afghan and Chinese students at the Turkmen State Pedagogical Institute named after Seidnazar Seydi, a higher educational institution in the city of Turkmenabad.

(Describe existing agreements for scientific exchange, e.g. agreement on scholarships for students and academic staff, on inviting professors, joint study programs and participation in cooperation with scientific institutions)

Special attention is paid to gender issues in facilitating access to legal migration channels. Measures to improve women's access to services and increase women's representation in all spheres of public, political and professional life, as well as equal opportunities for women and equal access to quality education, health care and the
labor market are ensured in accordance with the National Action Plan for Gender Equality in Turkmenistan for 2015-2020. 

**Goal 6: Promote fair and ethical recruitment of workers and provide conditions for decent work.**

In Turkmenistan, necessary attention is paid to creating favorable conditions for decent life of the country's population by maintaining a culture of labor protection and ensuring safe working conditions.

Turkmenistan has ratified eight constituent conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO): “On the minimum age for admission to work” (06.06.1973), “On forced or compulsory labor (28.06.1930), “On freedom of association and protection of the right to organize” (06/17/1948), “On the right to organize and conclude collective agreements” (06/08/1949), “On equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value” (06/06/1951), “On abolition of forced labour” (06/05/1957), “On discrimination in the field of work and occupation” (06/04/1958) and others, the norms of which aimed to protect migrant workers from any forms of exploitation and abuse, ensure decent working conditions, guarantee the fair and ethical nature of employment personnel are implemented through the creation of legal mechanisms in the sectoral legislative blocks.

All of the above conventions were ratified by the Resolutions of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan:


Resolution of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan on joining the 1976 ILO Convention No. 144 “On tripartite consultations to promote the application of international labor standards” from 08.06.2019.

Despite the non-adherence of Turkmenistan to the International Convention (ILO) on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 18th, 1990 and entered into force on 01.07.2003, Turkmenistan, in accordance with national legislation, guarantees a very wide range of economic, social and cultural rights to labor migrants, in particular: equality of migrants
with citizens of Turkmenistan in terms of working conditions, pay and rest (Article 25 Convention), equality with citizens of Turkmenistan in social security issues (Article 27 of the Convention). All migrant workers in Turkmenistan have the right to emergency medical care (Article 28 of the Convention), equal access of children to education, and cultural identity (Article 31 of the Convention).

Migrant workers entering the territory of Turkmenistan both for temporary stay and for permanent residence, regardless of their legal status, are provided with access to the labor market and fair, timely pay and decent working conditions, as well as non-discriminatory access to the justice system, equal access to social security and health care systems, protection of family unity, equal employment opportunities for women and men, free choice of profession, occupation and place of work, the right to engage in entrepreneurial activity, vocational training and retraining, combining work with parental responsibilities, equal rights to safe working conditions, equal remuneration for work of equal value, equal right to participate in the management of an enterprise, organization, institution regardless of their form of ownership, as well as an equal approach to assessing the quality of work in accordance with the labor legislation of Turkmenistan. All labor migrants in the country have the right to consular protection, to transfer earned funds, protection of identity documents and protection of labor contracts.

The active participation of Turkmenistan in regional and international dialogues on international labor migration, labor rights, decent work and abolition of forced labor contributes to signing and ratification of recommended and other international documents in this direction. Thus, every year the delegation of Turkmenistan takes part in meetings of the Council of Heads of Migration Authorities, where it shares its experience and masters the best practices on labor migration issues, as well as in other regional and international events to build capacity in this direction:

− training seminar on management of labor migration and protection of labor migrants, Kazakhstan (Nur-Sultan) 8-12.07.2019;

− seminar on the development of labor migration policy in Central Asia, Uzbekistan (Tashkent) September 15-19, 2019.

− other.

State guaranteeing of a fair and ethical character of personnel recruitment is regulated by the Law of Turkmenistan “On Employment of the Population” and other regulatory legal acts, in particular, a mechanism is provided for operation of state and non-state agencies, employment services for the provision of services for the employment of citizens both in Turkmenistan and abroad, as well as quotas for attracting foreign labor.

In order to promote employment and protect the labor rights of migrants, it is planned to improve the regulatory legal acts of Turkmenistan on regulating the activities of public and private employment agencies to improve employers' observance of labor laws, as well as to improve the mechanism for monitoring the regulation of the employment sphere in the field of ensuring ethical recruitment of personnel with payment by the employer of all payments related to the recruitment of migrants to prevent debt bondage, forced labor and exploitation of migrants.

The mechanism of ethical and fair recruitment through assistance with the participation of employment services, trade unions and other associations, employers in the employment of citizens in compliance with the terms of labor and collective agreements in accordance with the labor legislation of Turkmenistan (conclusion in writing, in a language accessible to migrant workers, with awareness on rights and obligations, the right to lodge complaints and access to justice) is regulated by the Labor Code of Turkmenistan, the Code of Turkmenistan “On Administrative Offenses”, the Laws of Turkmenistan “On Employment”, “On
Refugees”, “On Migration”, “On Administrative Procedures” and other regulatory legal acts for attracting foreign citizens to work. Also, in accordance with the national legislation and international treaties of Turkmenistan, there is a mechanism for monitoring labor inspectors and other authorized bodies over the work of employment services, employers, including in order to prevent any forms of exploitation, forced, compulsory and child labor. The Criminal Code of Turkmenistan (Article 1291) provides for liability in the event of the use of forced and child labor.

When concluding employment contracts, it is not allowed to seize identity documents and travel documents by employers in order to prevent abuse and any forms of exploitation, forced labor and other situations associated with the dependence of migrants.

In cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, regional events are planned to study best practices and exchange experiences to build capacity for the public and private sector in the provision of pre-departure information services, international labor recruitment standards and the International Fair Recruitment System (IRIS)...

The transfer of migrant workers from one employer to another without prejudice to the duration of the conditions of stay in the country with the expansion of opportunities for decent work and compliance with international labor law is regulated by the Regulation on the Procedure for Issuing Labor Permits to Foreign Citizens. At the same time, stateless persons, refugees have the right to have a choice of decent work without the obligation to have labor permits on an equal basis with citizens of Turkmenistan.

In order to ensure the implementation of the norms of national legislation in the context of simplifying access to legal migration channels and increasing their flexibility, timely measures are taken to inform the population, including foreign citizens, stateless persons.
Goal 12: Increase certainty and predictability of migration procedures to ensure proper monitoring, verification and referral of people to the appropriate authorities.

For the purpose of transparency and accessibility of migration procedures, in particular, awareness of the requirements of migration legislation, on the procedure for entering Turkmenistan, staying in and leaving Turkmenistan, on the right to education, to work and other rights of migrants, the Law of Turkmenistan “On Legal Acts” provides for the official publication of regulatory legal acts, including by posting them on the electronic Internet sites of state authorized bodies (Migration service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, etc.).

Timely awareness on migration procedures, including the procedure for entry, stay, departure and transit of migrants, about the rights, forms of protection and compensation provided for victims of trafficking in persons and other persons in mixed migration flows, about the procedure for repatriation and reintegration and other norms, enshrined in the Laws of Turkmenistan “On Migration”, “On Refugees”, “On Counteracting Trafficking in Human Beings” and other regulatory legal acts of Turkmenistan, is also provided, in accordance with national action plans and country programs, by employees of authorized bodies, educational institutions, media representatives, in accordance with the powers assigned to them, as well as by holding round tables in information resource centers on human rights and other public events under the local executive authorities.

Simplification and acceleration of migration procedures is ensured through the use of electronic technologies, in particular, online (online) format provides for submission of applications for visas, labor permits, registration, issuance of passports and other identity documents, as well as for the feedback from authorized bodies, referrals to migrants through electronic notifications (SMS messages) about the readiness of their visas and labor permits, identity documents and other stages of migration procedures (Laws
of Turkmenistan “On migration”, “On migration service”), which allows to avoid unnecessary delays in the consideration of documents and costs from migrants and government agencies.

To simplify and standardize migration procedures for identifying persons in mixed migration flows, in particular, identifying potential victims of human trafficking, migrants, children, including unaccompanied and separated children, and persons who have suffered from violence and exploitation in situations of smuggling of migrants, comprehensive measures for specialized training on human rights and emergency assistance to migrants have been developed and approved at the national level for officials of authorized state bodies, including employees of law enforcement agencies, migration, customs and border services. Specialized trainings of a systematic nature is carried out for government officials who come into contact with presumed victims of human trafficking and migrants in vulnerable situations and refugees by the nature of their activities. The aim of systematic training is to increase the level of knowledge and skills on the procedures for identifying victims of trafficking in persons and persons in mixed migration flows, including persons who have been exploited and abused in any form, including unaccompanied and separated children, as well as studying international standards and national legislation, along with effective international practices.

The passing of such training by workers helps to eliminate the causes and conditions conducive to trafficking in persons and the commission of related crimes, to improve the process of rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking in persons, migrants, including unaccompanied and separated children.

Systematic training includes training programs, seminars, webinars, trainings for employees of authorized state bodies, including prosecutors and the judiciary, internal affairs bodies, border, migration, customs authorities, as well as teachers/professors and administration of educational institutions, specialists bodies of the health care system, education, social protection and other state
bodies and public associations, with their involvement in the mechanism of referral of victims of trafficking in persons and other persons in mixed migration flows, taking into account gender factors and the interests of children, to provide them with the necessary support and advice.

Through the application of standard operating procedures for identification, procedure for interviewing victims of trafficking in persons and migrants in mixed flows, and mechanism for referring these persons to the competent authorities, conducting training events, publishing information materials for victims of trafficking in persons using an inclusive approach in cooperation with national executive authorities, international organizations and civil society have improved measures for monitoring and checking persons, promptly identifying children of migrants at state border checkpoints, in accordance with the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and other country programs. At the same time, at checkpoints, at entry and transit, in the case of unaccompanied and separated children, they are redirected to the guardianship authorities and other competent authorities, and the principle of family unity and its reunification is ensured through the appointment of guardians and legal representatives for such children.

**Goal 18: Invest in skills development and promote mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competencies.**

Migrants, internally displaced persons and other vulnerable categories and members of their families, upon entry into the country and further stay, are provided with automatic recognition of skills, qualifications and competencies in protection of their labor rights at all skill levels, as well as development of skills in Turkmenistan in order to optimize the employment opportunities of migrants at the labor market in the country and to provide for decent jobs. Recognition of documents of foreign states on education, on the award of academic degrees and the conferment of academic titles on
the territory of Turkmenistan is carried out in accordance with the legislation and international treaties of Turkmenistan.

The coordination of the professional and technical training of migrant workers and recognition of their documents certifying the knowledge and skills gained is ensured by a transparent and open procedure for employers to apply for foreign labor and issue them in a short time labor permits to work in Turkmenistan.

Improving the potential training of migrants and the recognition of their qualifications and competence is guaranteed by the Laws of Turkmenistan “On the legal status of foreign citizens in Turkmenistan”, “On education” and other by-laws. Foreign citizens in Turkmenistan have the right to receive education in the manner prescribed by the legislation of Turkmenistan. Foreign citizens studying in educational institutions of Turkmenistan have the rights and obligations of pupils and students in accordance with the legislation of Turkmenistan.

The authorized executive body in the field of education carries out international cooperation in the field of education through a system of analysis and forecasting of modern world processes in the field of education and upbringing of young people, as well as interstate relations aimed at studying and implementing advanced pedagogical experience and establishing effective links for training professional personnel. Bodies of executive power in the field of education, educational institutions may establish direct links with foreign enterprises, institutions and organizations implementing various educational programs in the manner established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan.

Persons of Turkmen nationality who are not citizens of Turkmenistan have the right to receive education in educational institutions of Turkmenistan on the conditions established for citizens of Turkmenistan.
Education by foreign citizens in educational institutions of Turkmenistan, as well as by citizens of Turkmenistan in foreign educational institutions, is carried out under direct contracts concluded by legal entities, as well as individuals with educational institutions, executive authorities in the field of education, in accordance with this Law, other regulatory legal acts and international treaties of Turkmenistan.

Foreign citizens and stateless persons permanently residing in Turkmenistan receive education in educational institutions of Turkmenistan in accordance with this Law, other legal regulations and international treaties of Turkmenistan.

The organization and operation of educational institutions (or their branches) of foreign states or joint activities with them on the territory of Turkmenistan is carried out in accordance with this Law and international treaties of Turkmenistan.

Turkmenistan contributes to the satisfaction of the educational needs of persons of Turkmen nationality living abroad by providing assistance in the training of teachers and providing educational and methodological literature in the Turkmen language in the manner prescribed by international treaties of Turkmenistan.

As part of improving the quality of educational services on the basis of a digital platform and creating conditions for lifelong education for all segments of the population, the Concept for the Development of the Digital Education System in Turkmenistan was approved (September 15, 2017).

Special attention is paid to such issues as creation of conditions for obtaining a fair and high-quality education, early development of children. The development of children in the physical, social and mental spheres has reached high level as a result of the implementation of state programs.
THEMATIC BLOCK 2 (Goals: 4, 8, 9,10,11,13,21)

Protecting migrants with human rights-based border management measures

Goal 4: Ensuring that all migrants have legal identity and proper documents

Regarding Turkmenistan's approach to creating safe, orderly and regular migration, it should be noted that the international community is paying close attention to ensuring that the state adequately ensures that all migrants have legal identity and travel documents.

In conjunction with the desire to achieve the goals of sustainable development, Turkmenistan successfully realizes the right of all persons to register births, to identity and proof of citizenship documents, travel documents and other identity documents.

Taking into account the principle of the SDGs “leaving no one behind”, among the most successful goals of the treaty, one can highlight the experience of Turkmenistan in reducing statelessness, ensuring equal rights and opportunities regardless of migration status, as well as the involvement of all state structures, the civil sector and the international community in the implementation of the treaty's goals.

In the field of migration and statelessness, Turkmenistan leads the Central Asian region in joining the conventions on statelessness, legislative reform, and biometric identification of the identity of refugees and stateless persons.

Turkmenistan, having acceded to the conventions on statelessness, and having introduced uniform standards on citizenship issues into the country's sustainable development programs, grants citizenship to any person born on its territory who would otherwise become stateless, thereby realizing the international obligations it has
assumed, enshrined in the UN Conventions on statelessness and other international human rights instruments.

At the same time, the exclusion of gender discrimination from the legislation on citizenship was implemented by enshrining in the Constitution of Turkmenistan, the Law of Turkmenistan “On Citizenship of Turkmenistan”, the National Action Plan for Ensuring Gender Equality in Turkmenistan for 2015-2020, the equal status of women and men in the acquisition, changes and retention of citizenship, regardless of the conclusion or dissolution of marriage, regardless of the change of citizenship by one of the spouses, as well as the transfer of citizenship to children.

In order to implement the UN global 10-year plan for the elimination of statelessness until 2024, measures are being taken in Turkmenistan to implement the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Statelessness for the period 2019-2024, developed as a result of close cooperation with international organizations, including the UNHCR Regional Office and civil society.

In cooperation with UNHCR and other international partners, in 2020, activities were intensified to implement the tasks of the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Statelessness, as a result of which effective results were achieved on the procedures for determining the status of stateless persons in order to provide them with fundamental rights and state guarantees. As a result of vigorous activity in the field of statelessness in recent years, Turkmenistan has granted its citizenship to about 23 (twenty three) thousand refugees and stateless persons.

Taking into account the implementation of measures to support stateless persons and refugees enshrined in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Legal Migration and the Global Compact for Refugees, the UN Global Compact on the Elimination of Statelessness, Turkmenistan actively involves government agencies in the implementation of the national action plan to eradicate statelessness,
UNHCR, other UN agencies and international organizations, and civil society.

Particular attention is paid to the protection of children's rights, which is based on the principles of ensuring the best interests of the child and the right to life, as well as providing favorable conditions for his development in conditions of freedom and dignity. The state guarantees the universal registration of birth of every child, and, from the moment of birth, the right to a name and the right to acquire citizenship. Registration of the birth of a child is an integral part of protecting human rights, ensuring the child’s ability to fully participate in society, providing access to education, employment and social security.

According to the Family Code of Turkmenistan, registration of a child and providing him/her with a birth certificate is mandatory at the child’s birth and the achievement of timely universal registration of all children born in Turkmenistan is a priority. To date, Turkmenistan, through legislative reforms and practical steps, has reached almost 100% of the birth registration of children. This indicator was recorded in the voluntary national review of Turkmenistan in New York, as well as at regional conferences on birth registration, at the high-level segment in Geneva in October 2019 and at the high-level forum in Geneva in December 2019 on the implementation of the Global Compact for Refugees.

In the context of improving civil registration systems, special attention is paid to reaching unregistered and undocumented persons by providing documents certifying birth registration, citizenship and other personal identification procedures. On November 30th, 2019, the Law of Turkmenistan “On acts of civil status” was adopted, which entered into force on July 1st, 2020. The new law of Turkmenistan “On Acts of Civil Status” guarantees registration of all children born in the country, regardless of the legal status of their parents, and is aimed at preventing statelessness in the country.
Based on Article 10 of the adopted Law on Civil Status Acts, work is underway to develop software to carry out state registration of all types of civil status acts in electronic form. Each civil status record compiled in the Unified Register of Civil Status Records is identified by a number that does not change in time and on the territory of Turkmenistan. Each newborn will be assigned an identification number.

Creation of the Unified Register of Civil Status Acts in the future will make it possible to use the information of the registry office as the main source of the population register.

Within the framework of constructive interaction of health authorities, civil registry offices, statistical bodies, judicial and other authorized bodies, birth registration in the country is carried out on mandatory basis, uniformly for all persons, regardless of their origin. Any child born in Turkmenistan receives a birth certificate. Discrimination based on the birth of a child out of wedlock, by stateless persons, migrants or refugees is not allowed.

Reaffirming in practice adherence to the international obligations enshrined in the 1951 Convention on the Legal Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, in accordance with ICAO standards and in order to guarantee the granted right to free movement - Turkmenistan has developed and introduced biometric travel documents and certificates since 2008, and since 2013 - biometric travel documents and certificates of a new type for refugees, stateless persons. Along with these documents, protection elements and methods have been modernized, including the protection of personal data of biometric identity documents of citizens of Turkmenistan and residence permits of foreign citizens in Turkmenistan.

In accordance with the Laws of Turkmenistan “On migration”, “On refugees”, “On acts of civil status” and the Regulation on the procedure for state registration of civil status documents dated
02.07.2014 (currently undergoing modification reform), state registration of acts of civil status of citizens of Turkmenistan residing outside the territory of Turkmenistan, stateless persons, as well as identification by identity cards, passports and other substituting documents, are carried out by diplomatic missions and consular offices of Turkmenistan located in respective countries.

New programs for registration of migrants are being perfected and implemented, electronic reception of documents for visas, travel documents and passports is being actively improved on the territory of the country.

**Goal 8: Save lives and ensure coordination of the international community's efforts to address the issue of missing migrants.**

The efforts of Turkmenistan at the international level to save lives and prevent death and physical suffering of people, collect and exchange information, interact between the relevant state and international structures of the relevant entities are carried out within the framework of the development of procedures and agreements, implementation of existing international treaties, as well as implementation of international and regional measures to strengthen human resources. The focus of these measures is on protection of the human right to life and strict observance of legal procedures of humanitarian nature.

The most important area of international cooperation in the rescue and search for persons is the interaction of the relevant state structures of Turkmenistan and foreign states, in particular, interaction among operational-search units of the law enforcement agencies of the states is carried out to identify and detain wanted persons, to establish the whereabouts of missing citizens, to establish the identity of a person by an unidentified corpse, as well as a complex of information and reference measures aimed at detecting wanted persons, including missing persons. The internal affairs bodies of Turkmenistan, within the framework of the concluded
Agreements and Memoranda on cooperation, closely interact with the search units of the Ministries of Internal Affairs (Police) of the CIS member states. A constant exchange of information of interest is carried out, inquiries and guidance are sent both to the Turkmen side and to colleagues from the search units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Police) of the CIS member states. The international wanted list is also processed out through the Interpol NCB. The NCB of Interpol in the country was created on the basis of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan.

The interaction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan with the CIS member states is carried out through the Bureau for the Coordination of Fight against Organized Crime and Other Dangerous Types of Crime (BCFOC CIS). The Bureau implements a wide range of coordination measures aimed at facilitating the interstate search for persons, including those associated with providing assistance to investigative and operational-search groups, as well as employees sent by the CIS member states to disclose and investigate crimes.

As part of strengthening the capacity to rescue and search for migrants, with the interaction of law enforcement, military structures and partnerships of international organizations, comprehensive exercises are being conducted to rescue migrants. An example of such are regional level exercises conducted on 03/04/2019 in the Ak-Bugday district of the Ahal velayat on “Improving the interaction of law enforcement and security agencies, as well as other ministries and departments in relation to migrants and refugees.”

Particular attention is paid to cooperation in the field of search and rescue in the Caspian Sea: in the context of improving the interaction of the Caspian countries in conducting search and rescue operations in the Caspian, on January 30th, 2020, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan held the second meeting of authorized representatives of the Caspian states to discuss the draft Agreement between the governments of the Caspian littoral states on cooperation in the field of search and rescue in the Caspian Sea. The meeting was
attended by experts from the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Turkmenistan, including employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, the Caspian Sea Institute, as well as “Türkmendeňizderýaýollary” (Turkmen maritime and river routes) Agency.

In accordance with the national legislation of Turkmenistan, migrants are provided with opportunities to communicate with their families along routes of movement and at points of destination, in places of detention, in referral mechanisms for personal identification, including in the case of detection of unaccompanied or separated children in mixed migration flows, as well as the ability to access consular missions, local authorities and organizations.

National public associations provide all possible assistance to reunite family ties. In accordance with the Law of Turkmenistan “On the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan” and the Charter of the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, activities are carried out on regular basis to train employees and volunteers on disease prevention, first aid, risk assessment in emergencies and natural disasters, rules of conduct in emergency situations, as well as provision of humanitarian and psychosocial assistance in emergency situations and reuniting family ties. The National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan provides assistance through national societies and international organizations of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to victims of natural disasters and other emergencies that happened in other countries, in the form of services, personnel, material, financial and psychosocial support, and also receiving, in similar cases on the territory of Turkmenistan, the same assistance from the international Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. If necessary, special services are created on the basis of the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan to provide assistance to refugees and various segments of the population; a tracing service is organized to restore family ties between members of separated families separated by war, occupation or other conflicts; and family reunification is facilitated.
Goal 9: Improve the effectiveness of transnational responses to migrants smuggling.

In order to increase the effectiveness of transnational measures to counter the smuggling of migrants, Turkmenistan has joined a number of UN conventions and protocols that are directly related to illegal migration:

- UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (28.03.2005);

- Protocol to prevent and suppress trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and punishment for it, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (28.03.2005);

- Protocol against the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (28.03.2005);

In Turkmenistan, crimes or offenses related to smuggling of migrants are not common. Since joining the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to date, there have been no cases of smuggling of migrants in Turkmenistan.

Nevertheless, the accession of Turkmenistan to these international documents in the field of combating human trafficking and illegal migration marked a new stage in the organization of work of national bodies and services aimed at preventing and suppressing crimes of this category.

The legalities of the main counteraction against the smuggling of migrants are enshrined in the Laws of Turkmenistan “On Migration”, “On Migration Service”, “On Counteraction to Human Trafficking”, the National Action Plan of Turkmenistan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for 2016-2018, the National Action
Plan of Turkmenistan to Combat Trafficking in people for 2020-2022, the National Strategy of Turkmenistan on Preventing Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism for 2020-2024, the Code of Administrative Offenses of Turkmenistan, the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan, the Criminal Procedure Code of Turkmenistan and other regulatory legal acts.

In the field of information and data exchange on illegal migration, including routes of smuggling, working methods and vulnerability factors of smuggled migrants, Turkmenistan cooperates with foreign states and international organizations within the framework of concluded bilateral and multilateral, regional and international treaties:


Agreement on cooperation between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on the fight against serious crimes, in particular terrorism and organized crime, 29.02.2012.

Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on cooperation in the field of security 05/01/2016

Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on cooperation in the field of combating crime on 03/30/2017.

Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Russian Federation on mutual establishment of representative offices of competent authorities in the field of migration 02.10.2017
Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on cooperation in the fight against terrorism, organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors and other types of crimes 03/15/2018

Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on cooperation in the field of migration 03/11/2020

As part of improving the effectiveness of transnational measures to counter the smuggling of migrants and the exchange of information on the factors of illegal migration, Turkmenistan actively participates in the meetings of the Working Group on the smuggling of migrants, established by the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 5/3 “Implementation of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air”.

As part of its compliance with the recommendations of the seventh session of the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants, held on September 8-9, 2020, the current legislation is analyzed and assessed with a view to improving it. In this context, successful strategies are being studied for the use of technical means, information and communication technologies to prevent and investigate cases of smuggling of migrants and to effectively respond to the expansion of the activities of criminal groups in cyberspace. The Law of Turkmenistan “On Cybersecurity” and other normative legal acts regulating this area were also adopted on September 6th, 2019.

Taking into account the impact of natural disasters, conflicts and crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic on the trends of organized crime groups and the smuggling routes of migrants, Turkmenistan is studying the successful experience of other states in supporting effective law enforcement cooperation during such crises in order to
identify and, carry out investigation of related crimes and ensure the administration of criminal justice.

Based on the objective side of organization of illegal migration in the commission of one of the following actions: 1) provision of vehicles, 2) provision of fake documents, 3) provision of residential or other premises, 4) provision of other services for illegal entry, exit, movement within the territory of Turkmenistan, - in relation to citizens of Turkmenistan, foreigners and stateless persons, - the Code of Administrative Offenses of Turkmenistan for the provision of vehicles, provision of other services for illegal entry, exit, movement within the territory of Turkmenistan, provision of residential or other premises for the purpose of illegal migration established administrative responsibility and The Criminal Code of Turkmenistan establishes criminal liability for the provision of forged documents.

Taking into account the obligations assumed by the state to implement the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the recommendations for its implementation by the Working Group in Vienna, as well as the FATF-EAG recommendations in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 1617 (2005) and 2462 (2019) In order to strengthen the fight against illegal migration and fulfil the purposes of this agreement, within the framework of recognizing the illegal import of migrants as a criminal offense, at this stage, a project is being developed to amend the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan on criminal liability for illegal import of migrants.

In order to understand and implement procedures to differentiate crimes such as smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, applying different measures in relation to these individual crimes, with the understanding that smuggled migrants may become victims of trafficking in persons and therefore may need appropriate protection and assistance, the country is implementing national and regional measures provided for by the National Plans to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for the period of 2016-2018 and for the
period of 2020-2022. The key areas of these activities include effective training on differentiation of illegal migration from crimes of human trafficking and other related crimes for the personnel of law enforcement and other authorized state bodies, as well as successful application of the developed standard operating procedures for identification of victims of trafficking in persons and smuggled migrants in mixed migration flows and mechanisms for their referral to assist them in accordance with international law.

As part of taking measures to prevent the smuggling of migrants, best practices are exchanged with law enforcement agencies of other states, and in order to raise awareness and educate the population, preventive measures are being taken to counter illegal migration and human trafficking, as well as their existing dangers and consequences.

Goal 10: Prevent, suppress and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration.

In Turkmenistan, human trafficking crimes are not widespread. So, in 2016, such crimes amounted to 0.03% of the total number of cases considered, in 2017 one case was registered, and in 2018 not a single case was registered.

The legal basis for the activities of Turkmenistan to prevent, suppress and eradicate trafficking in persons, as in the case of smuggling of migrants, are: the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol to Prevent and Suppress Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and the punishment for it, supplementing the Convention UN against transnational organized crime, Laws of Turkmenistan “On migration”, “On migration service”, “On combating human trafficking”, National Action Plan of Turkmenistan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for 2016-2018, National Action Plan of Turkmenistan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for 2020-2022, the National Strategy of Turkmenistan on Preventing Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism for 2020-2024, the Code of Administrative Offenses of
Turkmenistan, the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan, the Criminal Procedure Code of Turkmenistan and other regulatory legal acts.

Turkmenistan, having successfully implemented the National Action Plan of Turkmenistan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for 2016-2018, applying in practice the standard operating procedures for the identification of victims of human trafficking and the mechanism for their referral developed under this plan, has begun to implement the activities of the next National Action Plan of Turkmenistan on combating human trafficking for 2020-2022. The created interdepartmental Working Group monitors the National Action Plans and prepares proposals for providing assistance to victims of trafficking in persons, improving the legal framework in accordance with international experience, and also closely interacts with international organizations and public associations.

On the basis of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan with participation of other state bodies authorized for countering trafficking in persons, a special unit has been created to identify persons involved in trafficking in persons and to tackle trafficking in persons through preventive measures; within the framework of interaction with the intelligence services of other states, bilateral cooperation is carried out on regional and interregional levels on issues of prevention and suppression, investigation of cases of trafficking in persons, tracing the routes of illegal migration that can be used by networks of traffickers, as well as on the identification and protection of victims of trafficking in persons and providing them with assistance in accordance with the mechanisms of identification and referral. An example of a mechanism for interregional interaction with international organizations is cooperation with CAREC since 2007, and an example of interdepartmental interaction is bilateral interagency agreements, such as the Agreement on Cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation (25.03.2009), the Agreement on Cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China (23.11.2011), the Agreement on
Cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (08.08.2017) and other agreements listed below.

In order to increase efforts on the basis of international, regional and bilateral cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination to prevent trafficking in persons through the exchange of information and harmonization of legal procedures aimed at prosecuting traffickers in persons, the Government of Turkmenistan, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan, concluded the following bilateral interstate and interdepartmental Agreements:

- Agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan (17.02.1994);

- Agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia (17.02.1994);

- Agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine (17.02.1994);

- Agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Tajikistan (16.02.1995);

- Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Slovak Republic on cooperation in the fight against international terrorism, illegal drug trade and other types of organized crime (08.08.1996);

- Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on cooperation in the fight against organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and
psychotropic substances, terrorism and other dangerous types of crime (27.02.1997);

- Agreement between Turkmenistan and Russian Federation on cooperation in the field of security (10.04.2003);

- Agreement between Turkmenistan and People's Republic of China on cooperation in the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism (03.04.2006);

- Memorandum on cooperation in the field of security and border affairs between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran on cooperation in the field of security and border affairs (25.06.2006);

- Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the activities of border commissioners (28.05.2007);

- Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on cooperation in the fight against crime (25.02.2009);

- Agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation (25.03.2009);

- Agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China (11/23/2011);

- Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on the fight against serious crimes, in particular terrorism and organized crime (29.02.2012);

- Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on an international
railway checkpoint across the Turkmen-Kazakh state border (30.05.2012);

- Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Latvia on cooperation in the fight against terrorism, organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors and other types of crime (14.05.2013);

- Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on cooperation in the field of security (01.05.2016);

- Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on cooperation in the field of combating crime (30.03.2017);

- Agreement on strategic partnership between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan (04/18/2017);

- Agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (08.08.2017);

- Agreement between Turkmenistan and the Russian Federation on strategic partnership (02.10.2017);

- Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on cooperation in the fight against terrorism, organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors and other types of crimes (03/15/2018).

In order to counter organized transnational crime, including trafficking in persons, manifestations of terrorism, extremism, illegal migration, trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as other dangerous crimes, on October 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2020,
Turkmenistan ratified the agreement concluded in 2003 with the Russian Federation on cooperation in the security sphere, which provides for search for new forms of interaction between special services in the field of security, increasing the efficiency of information exchange, strengthening interaction in conducting operational-search and other special events, as well as strengthening cooperation in order to counter cross-border crime on a bilateral and multilateral basis and within the framework of Commonwealth of Independent States.

In order to exchange information and intelligence, by the methods of work of networks of traffickers in persons within the framework of transnational and regional mechanisms, interaction is carried out on established working contacts between the competent authorities of Turkmenistan and the countries of destination and transit of trafficking in persons, including financial intelligence units. At the national level, training is being conducted to enhance the capacity of competent authorities to draft mutual legal assistance requests in accordance with bilateral legal aid treaties. To improve the quality of criminal prosecution for transnational crimes between the ministries, departments and competent authorities of Turkmenistan and countries of destination and transit of trafficking in persons, as well as with international organizations working in this area, close international cooperation is carried out through the establishment of working contacts and exchange of experience through bilateral, regional and interregional seminars, webinars, dialogues in the field of identification and repatriation of victims of trafficking in persons, investigation and prosecution of the trafficking crime.

In accordance with the National Action Plan of Turkmenistan on combating trafficking in persons for 2020-2022, measures are being taken to study the best international experience in concluding agreements/memoranda on cooperation in the field of combating trafficking in persons between the relevant competent authorities of various countries, as well as improving the Law of Turkmenistan “On combating human trafficking” and other regulatory legal acts, taking
into account the analysis of the legislation of Turkmenistan in the field of combating trafficking in human beings carried out in 2018 with the assistance of the UNODC, in accordance with recommendations of the UN treaty bodies and recommendations contained in the Collection of methodological manuals on combating trafficking in persons within the framework of United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

The state policy in the field of combating trafficking in persons is aimed at protecting the individual and society, improving legislation, preventing, identifying and intersecting trafficking in persons, creating favorable conditions for physical, psychological and social rehabilitation of persons who have become victims of trafficking in persons, implementing the international obligations of Turkmenistan in the field of combating human trafficking.

As part of improving legislation and related procedures to improve the effectiveness of the prosecution of traffickers, prevent the prosecution of migrants who have become victims of human trafficking and provide victims with adequate protection and assistance, regardless of their willingness to cooperate with the authorities, legislative reforms were carried out to bring national legal framework in accordance with international standards. Relevant amendments and additions were made to the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan, to the Code of Turkmenistan on Administrative Offenses, to the Laws of Turkmenistan “On the Bar and Advocacy in Turkmenistan”, “On Employment of the Population”, “On Advertising”, the Law of Turkmenistan “On the prevention of offenses” was adopted on August 22nd, 2020. In the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan (2016), article 1291, which regulates liability for trafficking in persons, has been brought into line with international standards in the field of combating trafficking in persons, in particular, the structure of this crime has been expanded and detailed. The Law of Turkmenistan “On Amendments and Modifications to the Code of Administrative Offenses of Turkmenistan” establishes administrative liability for violation of the legislation of Turkmenistan on combating trafficking in persons (2016) by adding
a new article 3441 thereof. The Law of Turkmenistan “On Amendments to the Law of Turkmenistan “On the Bar and Advocacy” provides victims of human trafficking with the right to receive free legal aid (2017). Taking into account the existing norm prohibiting advertising aimed at involving potential victims in human trafficking (Article 6), amendments have been made to the Law of Turkmenistan “On Advertising”, according to which advertising should not express discrimination of human rights on the basis of nationality, skin color, gender, origin, property and official status, place of residence, language, attitude to religion, political beliefs or other circumstances (2018). In the Law of Turkmenistan “On Employment of the Population”, persons who have become victims of human trafficking or domestic violence are classified as persons in need of state support (Article 7). According to the Law of Turkmenistan “On Refugees” (2017), persons in Turkmenistan who, due to well-founded fears, may become victims of persecution in the state of citizenship on the basis of race, gender, religion, citizenship, membership of a particular social group or political opinion are provided refugee status. The Law of Turkmenistan “On Combating Legalization of Criminal Proceeds and Financing of Terrorism” (2009) also reflects the provisions of the UN international Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

In addition, departmental normative legal acts improved the prosecutor's supervision over the implementation of the laws “On combating trafficking in persons (2019)” and the Plenum of the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan on April 17, 2020 adopted a resolution “On judicial practice in cases of human abduction, illegal deprivation of liberty and human trafficking”. According to the departmental act of the Ministry of Health of Turkmenistan (2019), special powers are entrusted to the heads of central institutions, as well as the heads of the velayat health departments and family doctors to jointly conduct explanatory, sanitary educational work with law enforcement agencies and educational authorities in Ashgabat, velayats, etraps for vulnerable categories of the population, including young people in schools, universities.
To differentiate the crime of trafficking in persons from smuggling of migrants, an analysis was carried out with the UNODC to ensure that the definitions of trafficking in persons and the penalties were consistent with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. According to the assessment, the definition of the term “trafficking in persons” generally corresponds to the definition of trafficking in persons in Article 3 of the Protocol, and broader interpretation is presented in national legislation. The definition clearly indicates the purpose of the crime of trafficking in persons - exploitation of victims, contains all the actions of the offender provided for in the Protocol - recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or receiving a person. The methods of committing provided for by the Protocol - the threat of force or the use of force or other forms of coercion, kidnapping, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability of a position - are taken into account in the definition in Article 1 of the Law under consideration.

Also in the current edition of the disposition of a simple composition under Part 1 of Article 129\(^1\) of the Criminal Code, trafficking in persons is recognized as “recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or receiving a person by means of threat, coercion, deception, abuse of trust or vulnerable position of the victim of trafficking in persons, or bribery of a person, that the trafficked person in in dependency with, as well as - the purchase and sale of a person or commission of other illegal transactions in relation to such trafficked person, in which he/she is considered as an object of property.” The purpose of the act - exploitation - is specified in Article 129\(^1\) of the Criminal Code in full compliance with the purpose specified in Article 3 of the Protocol. The disposition of Article 129\(^1\) of the Criminal Code provides for all types of actions specified in the Protocol - recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or receiving a person. In addition, the disposition of the article under consideration provides for additional actions: the sale and purchase of a person or the commission of other transactions in which a person is considered as an object of property. The protocol speaks in general
about the illegality of the transfer of a person, and Article 129\textsuperscript{1} of the Criminal Code, in addition to transfer in general, highlights particular cases of transfer made in the form of a purchase and sale transaction or other transactions in which a person acts as an object (product). Thus, these additional actions in the disposition do not take the interpretation of the term “trafficking in persons” outside the scope of the Protocol, but only clarify it for law enforcement practice.

Within the framework of the National Action Plans to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for 2016-2018 and 2020-2022 and the Law of Turkmenistan “On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings”, mechanisms and programs for systemic awareness of the population, including employers, officials, have been created, based on which information materials (leaflets, booklets) on human rights, the rights of migrants, victims of human trafficking are developed, published and distributed, including at control points on the State Border of Turkmenistan. To this end, the potential is being strengthened through systematic training of law enforcement and other authorized bodies, including teachers/professors and administration of educational institutions, specialists of the health care system, as well as public associations, increasing skills of specialists in the prevention of trafficking in persons, identification, assistance to victims and prosecution of perpetrators in all aspects of this phenomenon, including forced labor, sexual exploitation, etc. State bodies and other organizations countering trafficking in persons, within their powers, inform the population about the risk, danger and consequences of trafficking in persons and related crimes, its forms, means of suppression of crimes.

In order to suppress financial flows associated with human trafficking, law enforcement and other government agencies interact with the financial monitoring unit under the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan (FIU of Turkmenistan), which is a member of the Egmont group since June 2019 and actively exchanges information with a number of foreign partners.
In order to facilitate access to justice and secure mechanisms for the transfer of information, with regard to persons who have suffered from human trafficking, administrative expulsion from Turkmenistan is not applied throughout the entire period of criminal proceedings in the case of a crime committed against such a person. It is not allowed to place a person recognized in the manner prescribed by the Law of Turkmenistan “On Combating Human Trafficking” as a victim of human trafficking in places of detention, preliminary detention, correctional institutions, as well as other institutions executing punishment, except for cases established by the legislation of Turkmenistan, and subject to the placement of victims of trafficking in persons separately from others.

If a victim of trafficking in persons wishes to leave Turkmenistan, in accordance with the procedure for repatriating victims of trafficking in persons, assistance is provided in providing the necessary documents, paying for transport and other necessary expenses, and recommendations are given to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of trafficking in persons in the host country. Repatriation of victims of trafficking in persons to the state of their origin or the state of their permanent residence is carried out in accordance with international legal acts and international treaties of Turkmenistan.

Victims of trafficking in persons, on the basis of a resolution of bodies carrying out operational-search activities, an inquiry officer, an investigator, a prosecutor, or a court, are assisted by local executive authorities, public organizations, specialized institutions in accordance with the Law of Turkmenistan “On combating trafficking in persons” and other regulatory legal acts of Turkmenistan.

Assistance to child victims of human trafficking is carried out with the consent of the legal representatives of the child or representatives of the guardianship and guardianship authorities and in accordance with the legislation of Turkmenistan and the relevant norms of international treaties of Turkmenistan. State bodies operating in the field of combating human trafficking provide
protection and assistance to a child victim of human trafficking from the moment of his identification as a victim of human trafficking until the child is fully socially rehabilitated. In accordance with the legislation of Turkmenistan, children who are victims of human trafficking are provided with the opportunity to visit state educational institutions, keep in touch with their families through mail, telephone conversations and visits, as well as receive food, clothes, shoes and other items according to established norms. If a child victim of human trafficking is left without parental care or is not aware of the whereabouts of his family, measures are taken to find the child's family or to establish custody or guardianship over him in the manner prescribed by the legislation of Turkmenistan.

In accordance with the State Program of State Youth Policy of Turkmenistan for 2015-2020, measures are being implemented to assist young citizens in vulnerable situations to prevent them from becoming victims of human trafficking and members of terrorist organizations.

Social rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in persons is carried out with the aim of returning them to a normal lifestyle and includes legal assistance to the said persons, their medical, psychological, professional rehabilitation and employment. Social rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking is carried out at the expense of the state budget of Turkmenistan and other sources not prohibited by the legislation of Turkmenistan.

Within the framework of the Pipeline of projects and activities planned for implementation by the Government of Turkmenistan together with the Representative Office of the International Organization for Migration in Turkmenistan for each year, an item is provided to support the work of the rehabilitation center, as well as provision of rehabilitation and reintegration assistance to victims of human trafficking and vulnerable migrants, including assistance of returning affected migrants to their homeland. In order to provide protection and assistance to victims of trafficking in persons, the
legislation provides for the creation of specialized state institutions to support and assist victims of trafficking in persons.

On the basis of the Yenme public association in Ashgabat, there is a rehabilitation center (shelter), where victims are provided with information about their rights and obligations, medical and legal assistance, and a social rehabilitation program is being drawn up.

Public organization “Yenme” is a partner of IOM in Turkmenistan. Since 2010, the “Rehabilitation Center” project has been registered, according to which the victims of human trafficking are provided with social rehabilitation services. The Yenme public organization employs social workers and a psychologist who provides social and psychological support to victims of human trafficking.

Public organizations working in the field of providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings represent a network of organizations cooperating with the International Organization for Migration. They are actively working in all velayats of the country to identify victims of trafficking in persons (VTs) and to provide assistance. In the city of Ashgabat, on the basis of the Ashgabat “Ynam” club and in the city of Turkmenabat, on the basis of the economic society “Beyik Eyyam”, there are “Hot lines”, which also provide advice to citizens on leaving the country and preventing risks. With the aim of preventive measures in the field of preventing human trafficking, public organizations conduct information campaigns.

Diplomatic missions and consular offices of Turkmenistan abroad protect the rights and interests of citizens of Turkmenistan who have become victims of human trafficking in the state of their residence and facilitate their return to Turkmenistan. In accordance with the legislation of Turkmenistan and the laws of the host state, diplomatic missions and consular offices of Turkmenistan are obliged to provide information on the legislation of Turkmenistan on combating trafficking in persons to the relevant authorities of the host state, as well as to disseminate information about the rights of victims
of trafficking in persons among relevant persons. Guided by the interests of ensuring the safety of the individual, society and the state, given the transnational nature of human trafficking, Turkmenistan persecutes persons involved in human trafficking on its territory, including in cases where human trafficking or its individual stages were carried out outside of Turkmenistan, harmed the citizens of Turkmenistan and foreign citizens, as well as in other cases stipulated by international treaties of Turkmenistan.

Over the recent period, a number of conferences, educational seminars and trainings with the participation of specialists from government agencies and representatives of international organizations, public associations also contributed to the improvement of ways and forms of coordination of actions to prevent human trafficking.

Sources of funding for anti-trafficking activities include funds of the State budget of Turkmenistan, funds of international organizations, and other sources not prohibited by the legislation of Turkmenistan.

**Goal 11: Integrated, secure and coordinated border management.**

Integrated and secure border management includes the coordination of efforts of state bodies of Turkmenistan and cooperation at the bilateral, regional, international levels with other states, as well as international organizations, in the field of border protection and prevention of cross-border crime, including in the field of emergency preparedness, profiling and redirecting persons in mixed migration streams and protecting them.

By contributing to strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation, Turkmenistan aims to create safe and legal cross-border channels of human mobility. In the context of border management, Turkmenistan is adopting a set of measures and strategies to combat cross-border crime, including trafficking in persons, terrorism and
extremism, legislative reform in accordance with international standards, improve travel documents, identify persons in mixed migration flows, modern technical equipment of borders and improving systems for registering movements of persons at borders. In the context of equipping the borders, the checkpoints of the state border of Turkmenistan are equipped with modern nanotechnological equipment, including electronic “e-gates” of world analogues for registering the crossing of the state border by persons. The perfections of the systems for registering the movements of persons at the borders in the context of their security in accordance with international standards were also positively noted by the international experts of the EU BOMCA Program, as well as by the UNCTU group on monitoring the UN General Assembly resolutions during their visit to Turkmenistan in 2017, 2019. In addition, in order to ensure the safety of border crossing, taking into account the global health situation, it was decided to strengthen nine checkpoints and supply them with the necessary disinfectant and medical equipment; through these checkpoints foreign citizens are allowed to travel to neighboring countries in the purpose of their return or transit through neighboring states in the event of their acceptance by the state of ownership.

Taking into account the special geographical position of Turkmenistan as a transit country for international, regional and interregional cooperation on the axis of the main migration flows, the sphere of border management in Turkmenistan consists of three components: 1) intradepartmental cooperation, 2) interdepartmental cooperation, 3) international cooperation.

Based on the strategic location of Turkmenistan, special attention is paid to the development of transport and energy infrastructure through the modernization of existing and construction of new roads and railways, a radical renovation and expansion of the material and technical base of civil aviation and shipping, the formation of international transit and transport corridors, as well as strengthening the capacity of border management and establishing close interaction with neighboring countries. At the initiative of Turkmenistan, the UN General Assembly adopted three Resolutions
on transport: 1) The role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development, 2014, (69th UN General Assembly); 2) “Towards a comprehensive interaction between all modes of transport to promote creation of sustainable multimodal transit corridors” 2015 (70th UN General Assembly); 3) “Strengthening links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals” 2017. (72nd UN GA). As the initiator of a number of UN General Assembly resolutions on sustainable transport, Turkmenistan is taking consistent steps to implement them in practice, including the opening of a new International Port of Turkmenbashi, which provides freedom of transit for landlocked countries, strengthening maritime security in emergency situations and performing other tasks related to the movement of persons across the border.

In order to ensure security and stability on the water borders, Turkmenistan joined the Convention “On the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea”, adopted on 12.08.2018, which is a legal regional mechanism for ensuring security in the Caspian region. The Caspian littoral states closely cooperate in order to counter international terrorism and its financing, illegal circulation of weapons, narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, poaching, preventing and crossing the illegal import of migrants by sea, as well as other crimes in the Caspian Sea. Based on the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea, interagency agreements have been developed to improve border management, including search and rescue operations and emergency response.

As part of the application of nationwide approaches in the implementation of cross-border activities aimed at improving border security systems and protecting persons in mixed migration flows, Turkmenistan actively interacts with neighboring and other states in the framework of the Almaty process, the Istanbul process, the Central Asian Initiative Group on Border Security (CABSI), Border Management Programs in Central Asia (BOMCA), educational activities on border management under the auspices of the OSCE, UNHCR activities on using regional recommendations on the
identification and referral of refugees and asylum seekers at the borders of Central Asia, with IOM in measures for border management, taking into account the transport transit policy of Turkmenistan and optimization of opportunities for migration, border, customs border management, and other international organizations, as well as on migration issues within The Executive Council of the CIS, the Council of the heads of the migration authorities of the CIS states.

In order to improve the field of border management and compliance with international obligations, in accordance with ICAO standards for facilitating formalities, the project on “Implementation of the API system in Central Asia for 2020-2021” was launched. Through seminars, webinars, dialogues, round tables, purposeful work is being carried out to study and implement the advance passenger information system (API) by established coordination mechanism in the form of an Interdepartmental Working Group with the involvement of government agencies, public associations and international organizations (IOM, UNODC, OSCE), the national coordinator of the former was appointed by the State Migration Service of Turkmenistan. So, on July 30th, 2020, within the framework of this regional project between representatives of the migration and border departments of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, Russia, a meeting was held in the format of a video link in order to get acquainted with the innovations in the API system, as well as exchange views on its progress, practical implementation and upcoming work plans in this direction. Turkmenistan also took part in the 4th OSCE seminar on the exchange of passenger data on October 29-30, 2020 in the format of video communication with Vienna, Hofburg.

On the issue of border management within the framework of the implementation of sustainable development goals and within the development framework for Turkmenistan, a number of key initiatives were carried out, 50 times exceeding the RDP indicators. So, according to the report on border management events in 2019 and
In the first half of 2020, 46 events were held in Turkmenistan, 36 events abroad, 82 events in total.

In order to analyze and revise national procedures in the field of border management, monitoring and legislative reforms were carried out, which affected the improvement of the Laws of Turkmenistan “On combating trafficking in persons”, “On migration”, “On the migration service”, “On refugees”, accelerated the implementation of national action plans to combat trafficking in persons, terrorism and extremism, preparedness and response to emergencies, identification, repatriation and reintegration, provision of social protection and security at international borders. At this stage, a new version of the Law of Turkmenistan “On the State Border” is being developed along with other bylaws to prevent and suppress illegal activities of criminal groups and individuals across the State border, and to ensure security in case of emergencies at the border.

In accordance with the abovementioned legislation, as well as the Law of Turkmenistan “On guarantees of the rights of the child”, in order to ensure sustainable solutions in the best interests of children at the borders, prompt information is provided to state bodies for the protection of children, participation of guardianship authorities in procedures for identifying and referring in order to ensure the best interests children, including unaccompanied and separated children, who provide search and rescue and emergency assistance to all migrant and refugee children facing life and safety risks during travel and upon arrival, regardless of status or mode of arrival. Such measures include the provision of food, medical assistance, psychological support, adequate reception areas along major transit routes, and multilingual information on rights, including the right to consular protection, access to justice and legal services, and respect and fulfillment of the rights of the child, reunification and abandonment of refugee and migrant children with their family members and/or guardians while a decision is being made on their immigration status.
In support of training and capacity building measures, intra-agency and inter-agency training activities are being carried out to improve skills in border management, including in the field of combating cross-border crime, emergency preparedness and response, and assistance and protection to displaced persons.

The annual participation of Turkmenistan in the “Regional Forum-Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Departments of Central Asian Countries”, as well as entry into the “Regional Register of Experts in the Field of Civil Protection/Defense, Disaster Risk Reduction, Prevention and Elimination of Emergencies” made it possible to strengthen the mechanism for joint analysis and information exchange regional scientific and technical programs, projects in the field of disaster risk reduction, prevention and management of emergencies to improve border management.

Based on the implementation of the activities of the National Action Plans of Turkmenistan to combat human trafficking in the periods for 2016-2018 and 2020-2022, the National Strategy of Turkmenistan on Preventing Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism for 2020-2024, it was possible to achieve and outline further plans for integration, improvement of the border management system, detection mechanisms (including early stages), crime prevention related to human trafficking, other illegal actions of cross-border, transnational nature and to improve the interaction of the bodies involved in this struggle, both at the national and regional, international levels in order to ensure security and maintain peace.

In 2020, the Gallup International Research Center recognized Turkmenistan as the safest country in the world. Based on the research results of the Institute of Economics and Peace, reflected in the Global Terrorism Index 2019, Turkmenistan also entered the category of the safest countries in the world in 2019, as, incidentally, it held this position for previous several years.

The celebration of the 25th anniversary of neutrality in 2020 is also another testament to the success of the state policy on security,
peace and tranquility, implemented by the leader of the nation. The backbone of the policy of the head of Turkmenistan is progressive transformations aimed at creating conditions for a prosperous life of the people, strengthening mutually beneficial partnership with all interested parties. The unprecedented nature of the status of neutrality of Turkmenistan lies not only in the fact that it is approved and supported by the world community, but also in the practice of implementing the country's foreign policy, in its characteristic harmonious combination of national and international interests. The year 2021, which in accordance with the Resolution unanimously adopted at the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly by the member states, has been declared the International Year of Peace and Confidence, will further reveal to the world community the significance and role of Turkmen neutrality as an important factor in ensuring regional security and stability and sustainable development, all-round progress of the country and well-being of the people.

Goal 13: Application of practice of placing migrants in temporary detention centers as a last resort and seeking alternatives

Violations by foreign citizens, stateless persons of the procedure for entering Turkmenistan, staying in it, leaving Turkmenistan, as well as transit through the territory of Turkmenistan are considered as administrative offenses only in accordance with the Code of Turkmenistan on Administrative Offenses. No person may be subjected to an administrative penalty or measures to ensure administrative proceedings: administrative detention, drive, delivery to the internal affairs bodies or other state bodies, personal search and examination of the things with him, except on the grounds and in the manner established by the Code of Turkmenistan on administrative offenses. Each detainee, brought in is informed of the reasons for detention and reasons for these actions, and also is provided immediate communication with representatives of the relevant diplomatic mission or consular post and family members, in accordance with international law and procedural guarantees.
In accordance with the principle of personal inviolability, no one may be subjected to torture, violence or other types of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the course of administrative proceedings. The detention of a person in respect of whom an administrative arrest is chosen as a measure of administrative punishment, a person subjected to administrative detention and bringing, as well as delivery, is carried out in conditions that exclude a threat to his life and health.

There is no practice in the country of placing migrants in temporary detention centers for violating the procedure for entering, staying in, leaving Turkmenistan, as well as transit through the territory of Turkmenistan. In this case, at the time of consideration of cases of administrative offenses, the right to free movement, including the right of migrants to free time at the place of stay (residence), place of work on the territory of Turkmenistan, is not limited, except for cases of application of measures to ensure administrative proceedings in the form of administrative detention for a short period in order to suppress administrative offenses, to draw up a protocol on an administrative offense, to ensure the timely and correct consideration of cases on an administrative offense and the execution of decisions.

In the course of administrative proceedings, decisions and actions that humiliate or belittle the dignity of a person are prohibited, the collection, use and dissemination of information about a person's personal life, as well as personal information for purposes not provided for by the Code of Administrative Offenses of Turkmenistan, are prohibited.

Migrants who do not speak the language in which the proceedings are being conducted are explained and ensured the right to make statements, give explanations, file petitions, make complaints, get acquainted with the materials of the case, speak during its consideration in their native language or another language that they speak; the right to use the services of an interpreter, the right to receive professional legal assistance in accordance with the
legislation of Turkmenistan (in cases stipulated by law, professional legal assistance is provided free of charge), and the right to judicial protection of one's rights, freedoms and legitimate interests is ensured.

Material and moral damage caused in the course of administrative proceedings as a result of illegal actions of state bodies or their officials is subject to compensation, and violated rights – to restoration in the manner prescribed by the legislation of Turkmenistan.

**Goal 21: Cooperation to ensure safe and dignified return and readmission and orderly reintegration**

In accordance with the Constitution of Turkmenistan and the Law of Turkmenistan “On Migration”, every citizen of Turkmenistan has the right to leave Turkmenistan and enter Turkmenistan. A citizen of Turkmenistan cannot be deprived of the right to enter Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan ensures the reception of its own citizens back, regardless of the existence of international agreements on return and readmission, while providing decent conditions for the systematic reintegration of its citizens upon return.

With a view to the safe and dignified return of its citizens, Turkmenistan through diplomatic missions and consular offices provides citizens with documents for returning to their homeland in the absence of other valid travel documents proving identity, and also cooperates with other states within the framework of bilateral agreements on extradition and on the provision of legal assistance in civil, family and criminal cases, on mutual trips of citizens and others.

Despite the fact that the institution of readmission in Turkmenistan is currently under development, the obligation of each Party to accept without conditions and at any time its citizens who will be ordered to leave the other state before the deadline or who will be expelled is an inalienable norm of bilateral prisoners is enshrined in agreements on mutual trips of citizens, for example, this obligation

Pursuant to articles 8 and 18, respectively, of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the 2000 UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and also adopted and implemented on their basis by the National Action Plans on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Turkmenistan promotes the return of its citizens and accepts them without unreasonable delays, while providing travel documents necessary for their return, and creating favorable conditions for ensuring personal security, expanding economic rights and opportunities for systematic reintegration into society.

Striving to ensure a dignified return, Turkmenistan is developing bilateral agreements on readmission with the EU countries, Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkey, Estonia. The draft agreements with Switzerland and Estonia, which have already undergone several stages in the development and agreement between
the Parties, have become a pilot project for introduction of the readmission institute in Turkmenistan. International human rights standards, including children's rights, are applied in the drafting of readmission agreements, and clear and consistent procedures are established for legal compliance, individual screening and interviews, legal certainty, and provisions to facilitate systematic reintegration.

In Turkmenistan, an interdepartmental mechanism for cooperation between law enforcement, military, consular and other authorized bodies has been created on the procedures for establishing the identity of citizens of Turkmenistan, including registers of biometric information, digitalization of civil registration systems, while respecting the right to privacy and ensuring protection of personal information, which results in the provision of adequate consular assistance to returning migrants by simplifying the issuance of return travel documents and services to ensure a dignified return for the citizens. At the same time, return processes are carried out taking into account the best interests of children, the right to family life, and family unity.

In partnership with public associations, and in accordance with the legislation of Turkmenistan, as well as National Human Rights Plans, National Action Plans to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and a set of measures envisaged by these documents, state authorized bodies contribute to the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants by providing them with equal opportunities, social protection, psychological, medical care, training, employment, recognition of skills acquired abroad and other services to enable them to contribute to the sustainable development of the country upon their return.
THEMATIC BLOCK 3 (GOALS 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22)

Goal 14: Improve the effectiveness of consular protection, assistance and communication throughout the entire migration cycle.

In order to increase the efficiency of consular protection and interaction, legislative reforms are being carried out to improve national legislation in terms of improving consular protection of citizens of Turkmenistan abroad and the assistance provided to them, strengthening cooperation on consular issues between states in order to increase the efficiency of protecting the rights and interests of all migrants, as well as improving interaction between consular missions and migrants in accordance with international law.

Based on the norms of the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations concerning the establishment and implementation of consular relations and diplomatic relations, to which Turkmenistan joined on June 18th, 1996, on August 4th, 2011, the Law of Turkmenistan “On the status of diplomatic representations of Turkmenistan in foreign countries”, and on October 22nd, 2020, a new version of the Law of Turkmenistan “On Consular Service” was adopted, regulating the entire range of issues related to consular relations and consular protection of citizens.

Consular missions of Turkmenistan abroad in accordance with the Laws of Turkmenistan “On consular institutions of Turkmenistan abroad”, and “On the status of diplomatic missions of Turkmenistan in foreign states”, implement the protection of the rights and interests of Turkmenistan, its citizens and legal entities, and also assist in the development of friendly relations of Turkmenistan with other states, expansion of economic, trade, scientific, technical, cultural ties and tourism.

Ensuring consular relations of Turkmenistan with foreign states, protection of the rights and legitimate interests of Turkmenistan, its
citizens and legal entities abroad is coordinated by the Consular Service Department - a structural unit of the central office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

Turkmenistan opens its consular offices in the states with which consular relations have been established. In the absence of a separate agreement on the establishment of consular relations, the establishment of diplomatic relations shall also be considered the establishment of consular relations. Consular offices of Turkmenistan are opened and closed by a decree of the President of Turkmenistan. A preliminary agreement on the opening of consular offices is carried out on the basis of bilateral interstate treaties, agreements and protocols.

Currently, there are two Consulates of Turkmenistan in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif, the Consulate General of Turkmenistan in the Islamic Republic of Iran in Mashhad, the Consulate General of Turkmenistan in the Republic of Turkey in Istanbul, the Consulate of Turkmenistan in the Russian Federation in Astrakhan, the Consulate of Turkmenistan in the Federal Republic of Germany in Frankfurt am Main and the Consulate of Turkmenistan in the Republic of Kazakhstan in Aktau, as well as consular posts of the Embassy of Turkmenistan in the Republic of Kazakhstan in Almaty and the Embassy of Turkmenistan in Ukraine in Kharkov. Consular offices also include consular departments of diplomatic missions of Turkmenistan abroad. They are called upon to protect the rights and interests of Turkmenistan, legal entities and citizens of Turkmenistan.

At the moment, Turkmenistan has established diplomatic relations with 149 states of the world. There are 40 diplomatic missions and consulates of Turkmenistan operating abroad.

35 diplomatic missions of foreign states and 14 representations of international organizations are accredited in Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan is a party to 161 international conventions and treaties.
Turkmenistan has signed many consular conventions with other countries to promote the development of friendly relations between Turkmenistan and these countries, to promote the effective protection of the rights and interests of our citizens abroad. Examples of this include the Consular Convention between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Azerbaijan from 03/18/1996, the Consular Convention between Turkmenistan and Georgia from 12/05/1997, the Consular Convention between Turkmenistan and the Russian Federation from 05/18/1995, the Consular Convention between Turkmenistan and Ukraine from 01/29/1998, Consular agreement between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan from 02.27.1997.

Consular institutions of Turkmenistan abroad are taking measures to establish guardianship over minor citizens of Turkmenistan who are abroad and who have been left without parental care, including measures to establish guardianship over adult citizens of Turkmenistan, who for health reasons cannot independently exercise their rights and fulfill their duties.

Consular offices of Turkmenistan abroad carefully monitor that in relation to a citizen of Turkmenistan who is in custody (arrested), or detained on suspicion of committing a crime, or subjected to other measures restricting freedom, or serving a sentence of imprisonment, as well as subject to other measures judicial or administrative influence, the laws of the host state and the agreements concluded by Turkmenistan with this state were observed. Consular officials, at the request of interested persons and on their own initiative, visit the citizens of Turkmenistan in places of detention and find out the conditions of their detention, and also ensure that such citizens are kept in conditions that meet the requirements of hygiene and sanitation, and are not subjected to treatment that is cruel and degrading to human dignity.

In our country, the state guarantees the protection of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of convicts, ensures the conditions established by law for serving a criminal sentence, applying other measures of criminal law enforcement, and maintaining social justice.
Convicted foreign citizens have the right to maintain contact with diplomatic missions and consular offices of their states, and citizens of countries that do not have diplomatic and consular institutions in Turkmenistan, as well as stateless persons - with diplomatic missions of the state that has assumed the protection of their interests, or with any national or international body protecting them (article 8 of the PEC). Convicted foreign citizens serving a sentence of imprisonment are provided with access to diplomatic and consular representatives of their country, and citizens of countries that do not have diplomatic and consular offices in Turkmenistan, as well as stateless persons - with diplomatic representatives of the state that has taken over the protection of their interests, or with representatives of a national or international body dealing with their protection. (Criminal Executive Code of Turkmenistan, article 7, 8, 60)

Diplomatic missions and consular offices of Turkmenistan abroad protect the rights and interests of citizens of Turkmenistan who have become victims of human trafficking in their host state, and facilitate their return to Turkmenistan. If the identity documents of citizens of Turkmenistan who have become victims of trafficking in persons are lost or cannot be seized from traffickers, diplomatic missions and consular offices of Turkmenistan draw up and issue documents to such citizens granting the right to return to Turkmenistan.

In accordance with the legislation of Turkmenistan and the laws of the host state, diplomatic missions and consular offices of Turkmenistan provide information on the legislation of Turkmenistan on combating trafficking in persons to the relevant authorities of the host state, as well as disseminate information among relevant persons about the rights of victims of trafficking in persons. In addition, diplomatic missions and consular offices of Turkmenistan carry out identification of victims of trafficking in persons (Law “On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings” Article 34, 21).

Consular offices of Turkmenistan abroad take measures to ensure that citizens and legal entities of Turkmenistan enjoy in full
all the rights granted to them by the legislation of the host state and international treaties to which Turkmenistan and the host state are parties, as well as international customs. Consular officials accept written and oral statements, as well as measures to restore the violated rights of citizens and legal entities of Turkmenistan.

Within the framework of their competence, consular officials carry out notarial actions, registration of acts of civil status, legalize documents and various acts drawn up by the authorities of the consular district or emanating from these authorities. Along with protecting the rights and representing the legitimate interests of citizens of Turkmenistan who are abroad, consular officials inform citizens about the laws and rules of stay in force in a foreign state, about local customs and give them the necessary recommendations, take appropriate measures to ensure safety in case of emergencies. keep records of citizens of Turkmenistan permanently residing and temporarily staying abroad, assist in the performance of their official duties to representatives of ministries, departments and organizations of Turkmenistan, as well as other citizens of Turkmenistan sent abroad, exercise the right to determine the belonging of persons living abroad to citizenship of Turkmenistan and registration of loss of citizenship of Turkmenistan by persons permanently residing outside of Turkmenistan.

Diplomatic missions or consular offices of Turkmenistan abroad carry out registration of citizens of Turkmenistan located on the territory of their consular district. Citizens of Turkmenistan who are outside Turkmenistan have the right to register (for consular records) at the diplomatic mission or consular office of Turkmenistan. Registration of citizens of Turkmenistan is free of charge.

In accordance with the legislation of Turkmenistan, consular offices register acts of civil status of citizens of Turkmenistan, accept petitions from citizens of Turkmenistan permanently residing abroad for changes, corrections and additions to the civil status records, restoration of lost records, as well as on changing the surname, first name, middle name. In addition, upon receipt of information about
the birth or death of a person on a ship or aircraft of Turkmenistan, consular offices, in accordance with the current legislation of Turkmenistan, register the act of birth or death.

**Goal 15: Reaching migrants with basic services.**


Foreign citizens and stateless persons in Turkmenistan are equal before the law and court regardless of origin, property and official status, race and nationality, skin color, sex, education, place of residence, language, attitude to religion and other circumstances. The exercise of the rights and freedoms granted in Turkmenistan to foreign citizens is inseparable from their fulfillment of the obligations established by the legislation of Turkmenistan. Foreign citizens in Turkmenistan are obliged to observe the Constitution, laws of Turkmenistan and respect national traditions.

The country has formed a legal mechanism to cover migrants with basic services, according to which the State Migration Service and other competent authorities provide assistance in safe access to basic services, in particular to employment, recreation, health care, social security, the right to housing, property and personal non-property rights, education, enjoyment of cultural achievements, participation in public associations, freedom of religion, marriage and family relations, personal and home inviolability, movement within the territory of Turkmenistan and choice of residence, non-discriminatory access to justice and protection of rights.

At the velayat levels, migrants are informed about a range of basic services, including procedures for identifying and granting legal status, taking into account gender factors, the interests of children and people with disabilities, the rights to marriage and family unity, and facilitated safe access to them.
In order to ensure the best interests of the child, in accordance with the Law of Turkmenistan “On State Guarantees of the Rights of the Child”, the protection of the rights of the child of migrants is implemented by a set of measures aimed at protecting the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of the child, ensuring the upbringing and development of the child in accordance with his developing abilities, strengthening international cooperation in the field of protection of the rights and legitimate interests of the child, protection of motherhood and childhood. As part of the development of international cooperation in recent years, Turkmenistan has become an arena for holding various kinds of international events, including children's and youth events in the field of education, culture, sports (Olympiads, competitions, festivals, conferences, symposia, sports competitions, etc.), which also has a positive effect on the development of education and its quality.

State and public organizations (Union of Youth, Union of Women and others) of Turkmenistan, in cooperation with representatives of international organizations (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, IOM, OSCE) accredited in Turkmenistan, carry out extensive explanatory work on children's rights, including international standards in the field of protecting the rights of children. International and national normative legal acts in this area are regularly published, conferences, seminars, “round tables” and other events are held to raise public awareness.

In accordance with the Constitution of Turkmenistan and the Law on State Guarantees for Ensuring Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, men and women, regardless of their citizenship and migration status, have equal rights and freedoms, as well as equal opportunities for their implementation. In 2015, the National Action Plan for Gender Equality in Turkmenistan for 2015-2020 was adopted, which provides for measures to eradicate gender stereotypes, combat all forms of violence against women, improve measures to improve women's access to services and increase the representation of women in all spheres of public, political and professional life. In this regard, the national legislation of
Turkmenistan is monitored in terms of its compliance with international standards in the field of gender equality, the methodology for collecting and analyzing comprehensive data on the status of women is being improved, efforts are being made to raise awareness of the population on gender issues, the development of entrepreneurship among women is being promoted, and all necessary conditions for the equal participation of men and women in all spheres of public life.

In order to create opportunities and conditions for the realization of the rights of citizens with disabilities to work, increase their employment, Action Plan for 2017-2020 was approved to ensure full realization of the rights of people with disabilities in the sphere of labor and employment in Turkmenistan, and Optional Protocol to The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in New York on December 13th, 2006, was ratified by a resolution of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan on September 25th, 2010. And in the near future, the adoption of the Law of Turkmenistan “On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” is envisaged.

In terms of protecting the rights of migrants and ensuring non-discriminatory access to justice, a national human rights mechanism has been created in accordance with the Law of Turkmenistan “On Administrative Procedures”, the Law of Turkmenistan “On Court”, according to which a migrant can appeal in court in case of illegal actions of state bodies, public associations, local self-government bodies and officials, to seek protection from any encroachment on honor and dignity, life and health, personal and political rights and freedoms of a person and citizen, including the right to appeal against decisions, sentences and other judgments of the courts of Turkmenistan.

In order to ensure respect for the rule of law, the Administrative Procedure Code of Turkmenistan was adopted on October 22nd, 2020, aimed at protecting citizens and strengthening the responsibility of officials for the safe access of migrants to basic services.
Appeals of foreign citizens and stateless persons on the territory of Turkmenistan to actions and decisions of officials and organizations in connection with violation of their rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, other regulatory legal acts and international treaties of Turkmenistan, as well as their secondary complaints about decisions or actions (inaction) of state authorities, local self-government, officials, civil servants after the initial consideration of appeals in a judicial or administrative order may also be considered by the Ombudsman in the manner established by the legislation of Turkmenistan.

In accordance with the Constitution of Turkmenistan and the Law of Turkmenistan “On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in Turkmenistan”, foreign citizens and stateless persons in Turkmenistan have the same rights to health care and bear the same responsibilities as citizens of Turkmenistan.

Migrants in Turkmenistan use a network of healthcare institutions and medical services on the basis and in the manner established by the legislation of Turkmenistan.

In the field of health protection of citizens, including foreign citizens and stateless persons, the state guarantees the volume of free medical services, the provision of primary health care, specialized medical care, ambulance, palliative care, including the use of telemedicine, development and improvement of the system of state voluntary medical insurance of citizens. The passage of compulsory medical examination and the provision of free emergency medical care, medicines in the health authorities are provided to refugees and persons applying for refugee status, in the manner prescribed by the legislation of Turkmenistan, at their place of temporary residence and at points of temporary accommodation.

The rights to health protection of migrants enshrined in the Law of Turkmenistan “On the Protection of Citizens' Health” are implemented by a combination of political, economic, legal, social, cultural, scientific, medical, sanitary-hygienic and anti-epidemic
measures aimed at preserving and strengthening the physical and mental health of each person, maintaining his long active life. Such measures, in particular, include the State Program of the President of Turkmenistan “Health”, the National Plan of the President of Turkmenistan for the implementation of the State Program “Health” for 2015-2017, State Program for the Development of the Healthcare System of Turkmenistan for 2012-2016, Action Plan the implementation of the State Program for development of the health care system of Turkmenistan for 2012-2016, National Program for Protection of the Mental Health of the Population of Turkmenistan for 2018-2022, Action Plan for Implementation of the National Program for the Protection of the Mental Health of the Population of Turkmenistan for 2018-2022, Action Plan for the Development of the Resort System of Turkmenistan.

The Constitution of Turkmenistan, the Law of Turkmenistan “On Education”, the Law of Turkmenistan “On State Guarantees of the Rights of the Child” guarantee the right of every citizen to compulsory free, equal and high-quality primary and secondary education. The state provides access to preschool and general education institutions for all children living in the territory of Turkmenistan and having such a right in accordance with the established age, regardless of the child's citizenship (part 3 of article 18 of the Law of Turkmenistan “On Education”). This norm is implemented everywhere on the territory of Turkmenistan and children, regardless of citizenship and migration status, are covered by preschool and school education. In order to protect the rights of a refugee child, state authorities, local self-government bodies provide assistance in the placement of a refugee child in a preschool or general educational institution, provide him with medical care and medicines in accordance with the legislation of Turkmenistan. The educational authorities provide access to education in preschool and general secondary education institutions for such refugee children at their place of temporary residence and in temporary accommodation points on an equal basis with the citizens of Turkmenistan.
According to the Law of Turkmenistan “On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in Turkmenistan”, foreign citizens, stateless persons in Turkmenistan have the right to receive education in the manner prescribed by the legislation of Turkmenistan. Foreign citizens, stateless persons studying in educational institutions of Turkmenistan have the rights and obligations of pupils and students in accordance with the legislation of Turkmenistan. Education by foreign citizens in educational institutions of Turkmenistan, as well as by citizens of Turkmenistan in foreign educational institutions, is carried out under direct contracts concluded by legal entities, as well as individuals with educational institutions, executive authorities in the field of education.

Obtaining high-quality education for children and youth - migrants and refugees, on an equal basis with the citizens of Turkmenistan, is regulated along with the Laws of Turkmenistan by the Country Program of Cooperation between Turkmenistan and UNICEF, 2021-2025, the State Program of State Youth Policy of Turkmenistan for 2015-2020, the Program for increasing the employment of young professionals in Turkmenistan for 2018-2020, the Program for the Adaptation of Young People to the Labor Market in Turkmenistan and Improvement of Their Employment, the Program for Improving the Work of Preschool Institutions in Turkmenistan for 2020-2025 for purposes of Early Development and Preparing Children for School, the National Program for Early Development and Preparation of children in Turkmenistan for 2011-2015, the Concept for transition to twelve-year general secondary education in Turkmenistan, the Concept for improving teaching of foreign languages in Turkmenistan, the National Action Plan for Realization of Children's Rights in Turkmenistan for 2018-2022, the Program for training of researchers in Turkmenistan).

The government of Turkmenistan pays special attention to issues of early childhood development. Thanks to the implemented state programs in the country, it was possible to achieve high indicators of child development in the physical, social-emotional and cognitive areas (90.9%). To improve the indicators of reading and
numeracy, a number of measures have been developed that provide for the improvement of the activities of parent education centers, where children who do not attend preschool institutions are prepared for school, and parents are provided with methodical, advisory assistance in the development of their children and their preparation for school at home, providing the former with services to improve parenting skills.

An important role is played by the network of preschool institutions, which prepares preschool children for mastering the educational program of primary education in senior kindergarten (pre-school) groups. In order to expand the coverage of children with pre-primary education, an operational plan was developed to introduce one-year pre-primary education for all children aged 5 years. In addition, early childhood development centers for children with disabilities are located in preschool institutions, which, in turn, creates inclusive environment for their development.

Pilot counseling centers for work with children with developmental disabilities operate on the basis of existing educational complexes with rehabilitation centers. These centers employ interdisciplinary teams of specialists who provide support to children with disabilities and their families, which contributes to their social adaptation and subsequent inclusion in general educational institutions.

Turkmenistan creates conditions for persons with disabilities to receive a decent education (inclusive education). For example, on the basis of the Mechanical and Technological Secondary Vocational School of Ashgabat under the Ministry of Textile Industry of Turkmenistan, the Society of the Blind and Deaf has successfully introduced inclusive methods of vocational training for persons with disabilities. This experience served as the basis for amending the national legislation on education in order to introduce inclusive education in all educational institutions of the country.
For children undergoing long-term treatment in medical institutions, training is organized at the place of their stay (treatment) by the teachers of a nearby secondary school. Homeschooling of disabled children is organized in a similar way. In addition, interdisciplinary services for children with disabilities and their families, which began to be introduced on the basis of educational complexes with rehabilitation centers and two Early Childhood Development Centers of the education system, are the basis for subsequent transition and inclusion of such children in the general education system and creation of an inclusive learning environment. These services contribute to further social adaptation and subsequent inclusion of children with disabilities. The concept of the country's progress is set out in the Program of Social and Economic Development (PSED) of Turkmenistan for 2019-2025, which includes important elements of the well-being of children and families. The National Action Plan for the Realization of Children's Rights for 2018-2022 (NAPRC) covers a wide range of children's rights and takes into account the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2015). The long-term vision for change is that by 2025, in line with NAPRC goal 3, all boys and girls in Turkmenistan, including those with disabilities, are provided with quality inclusive education and learning opportunities that develop their skills and promote their well-being, resilience and integration, enabling them to fully participate and contribute to the modern economy. In addition, it will be extremely important to expand the pre-training and on-the-job training of specialists, establish mechanisms for ensuring the quality and monitoring of services in the field of early and preschool education, and expand support for children with developmental delays to integrate them into general education kindergartens.

In Turkmenistan, vocational education is provided by primary vocational education institutions. They offer short-term courses that allow one to improve existing skills or acquire new ones for further employment. Particular attention is paid to vulnerable groups of the population and persons with disabilities.
Foreign students with insufficient knowledge of Turkmen language are admitted to language courses in higher and secondary vocational schools (for example, Afghan and Chinese students). The term of language training is one year, those who successfully passed the final language test are accepted for the first year in the corresponding school. Foreign students studying in these educational institutions of Turkmenistan undergo educational practice in Turkmenistan, and industrial practice in the country of permanent residence. In the event that foreign students pass the final state exams, they are issued a state diploma certifying that they have received the appropriate vocational education (higher or secondary vocational education), and certified by the seal of the corresponding school. (Regulation on the procedure for training foreign citizens in institutions of higher and secondary vocational education Turkmenistan from 04/19/2013)

In accordance with the Law “On Education” in educational institutions, the maintenance and education of orphans and children left without parental care or persons replacing them is carried out on the basis of full government support, including professional institutions, until they reach the age of 24 years. (Law “On Education”, Article 40)

The national education policy of Turkmenistan is focused on ensuring gender equality and creating educational opportunities for women. There is gender balance in the education system as a whole. To further develop gender-oriented programs and policies, Turkmenistan adopted the National Action Plan for Gender Equality in for 2015-2020, which is based on the provision of equal opportunities for women and equal access to quality education, health care and the labor market.

**Goal 16: Creating an enabling environment for migrants and societies to ensure full social inclusion and cohesion.**
The policy of adaptation and integration of migrants is the most important component of the migration strategy. The integration of migrants in the country is aimed at reducing the socio-cultural distance, promoting adherence to mutually acceptable norms of behavior, mutual respect, equality of social and labor rights, exclusion of discrimination. The national policy for integration of migrants in Turkmenistan is focused on empowering migrants, allowing them to actively participate in the life of society, to comply with national laws, customs and traditions.

Building a policy for integration of migrants is based on reliable information basis. At the same time, the responsibility for informing migrants about the rights and obligations, about the legislation of Turkmenistan, customs and traditions of the country rests with both the state authorities, the parties receiving migrants and the migrants themselves. In order to inform migrants, purposeful work is being carried out to post information (general information, politics, education, culture, customs, legislation, etc.) on the websites of state authorized bodies, including on the websites of the embassies and consular offices of Turkmenistan, State Migration Service of Turkmenistan.

Diversity of migration flows to Turkmenistan - investment migration, foreign labor infrastructure, family reunification, education and medical services, humanitarian migration, cultural migration, those who come for permanent residence and subsequent acquisition of Turkmen citizenship, migrants of different age, gender characteristics, ethnic repatriation, return and reintegration - dictates the need for multiple options for the integration of migrants and constancy in improving the legislation of Turkmenistan in each direction by creating, based on the indicated contours, various infrastructure options that create conditions for the integration of migrants of different categories. Examples of such variations in integration in a country include the socio-cultural component, such as language learning, adaptation to cultural norms of life, customs and traditions, as well as the economic component of integration,
consisting of access to employment and other basic services, taking into account gender and non-discrimination.

The participation of migrants in the labor market, promotion of their qualifications and technical training, language training, as important aspects of the integration policy, are guaranteed both by legislative program measures, direct interaction with society and the responsibility of the Parties receiving migrants in Turkmenistan. In this context, the principle of priority employment of Turkmen citizens, implemented in the country, is important, while respecting the right to labor of labor migrants. The right to work affects the chain of vital interests of the migrant, first of all: the right to remuneration of labor in accordance with its quantity and quality, the right to rest, the right to labor protection and safety measures, the right to professional development, to material security in in the event of disability, non-discriminatory access to the systems of justice, social security and health care - which are provided to migrants entering the territory of Turkmenistan, regardless of their legal status, which makes it possible to fill in scarce professions, taking into account the demand and supply in the national labor market and, accordingly, to create more opportunities for decent work, prosperity of society and the economy of the country.

The state provides measures to support the cultural life of migrants through sports, music, art, culinary and other public events that promote mutual understanding and enrichment of the cultures of migrants and the country's population. As an example, it is necessary to note the participation of a sports team of refugees for the first time in the Asian Games in Turkmenistan and the subsequent adoption in Geneva at the 36th session of the UN Council of the Declaration “On Encouraging the Valuable Contribution of Olympic Teams of Refugees to Strengthening Peace and Human Rights”, initiated by President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

In order to involve migrants in interaction with the local population, the state is taking measures for intercultural dialogue and exchange of experience with delegations of educational and other
state authorities, as well as public organizations, to establish informal contacts between the local population and migrants: the organization of language courses, groups of children's creativity, celebrations of national holidays, holding various seminars, etc. Since the beginning of 2019, various creative events have been organized, including conferences, meetings, exhibitions and competitions, theatrical performances, musical celebrations and other events provided for by the Program for the Development of the Cultural Sphere of Turkmenistan for the period of 2019-2025.

In order to strengthen the educational process between children of migrants and citizens of Turkmenistan, the curricula include subjects covering scientific information on migration and its types, which promotes respect for diversity and openness as well as prevention of discrimination and intolerance.

**Goal 19: Creation of environment for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.**

The empowerment of migrants affects not only migrants themselves, but also the quality of contribution of migrants and diasporas to sustainable development.

The first thematic cluster of this review already demonstrates the relationship between migration and achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Mitigating climate change and natural disasters, ensuring food security, eliminating inequalities and ensuring decent work, non-discrimination and respect for human rights, establishing the rule of law and other sustainable development goals are all enormous national and sectoral development planning challenges that are taking into account the factor of migration. Investing in young people through education and employment, transfer of knowledge and skills of migrants, their social and civic engagement, cultural exchange, allows through the implementation of national program measures to
promote empowerment, thereby creating a positive migration factor aimed at contributing to the development of Turkmenistan...

As noted in the previous blocks of this review, taking into account the positive factor of migration, the country has reflected its attitude in flexible and transparent migration procedures aimed at ensuring access to migrants' movements, employment, investment activities with simplified mechanisms for obtaining visas, work permits, residence permits, citizenship, as well as in establishing close contacts with foreign compatriots, which helps to optimize the positive role of migrants in planning the country's development.

In the process of building up various relationships, economic and humanitarian contacts of Turkmenistan with foreign compatriots have acquired a positive dynamic, which contributes to an inextricable community with its historical homeland. Head of State Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov pays great attention to uniting and rallying foreign compatriots, expanding and intensifying contacts with them in various fields. At the initiative of the head of state, the Turkmen diasporas are assisted in preserving their native language and original traditions, building social and cultural facilities. So, on May 18th, 2018, in the village of Funtovo, Privolzhsky district, where the largest Turkmen community in the Astrakhan region resides, a secondary school was opened, built under the initiative of the leader of the nation Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov by efforts of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan. The local Turkmens took its launch with great enthusiasm as a clear sign of an inextricable spiritual connection with the historical Motherland, the continuity of times and generations. Together with the school, which was named after the founder of Turkmen poetry Magtymguly Fraghi, a monument to this outstanding master of words and philosophical thought was opened, since the poet visited Astrakhan between 1760 and 1793, which was the only place in Russia where he lived and worked, leaving his manuscripts in library of the local mosque, where in 1912, on their basis, the first most complete collection of works of the genius poet in the Turkmen language in Arabic script was published.
All conditions for preservation and development of the Turkmen language, culture and customs for the Turkmen diaspora have also been created in Uzbekistan. There are schools in Uzbekistan with teaching in the Turkmen language. The Karakalpak State University trains specialists in Turkmen philology, and the Nukus State Pedagogical Institute named after Ajiniyaz trains teachers of the Turkmen language.

Real opportunities are also created to ensure the participation of citizens of Turkmenistan abroad in solving the affairs of society and the state. The right to vote for citizens of Turkmenistan, including those living abroad, is enshrined in the Constitution of Turkmenistan. All citizens of Turkmenistan who have reached the age of eighteen have the right to vote; each voter has one vote. In accordance with the Election Code of Turkmenistan, the Central Election Commission determines the procedure for participation in elections and referenda of citizens of Turkmenistan who are abroad, and who are included in the voter list at polling stations established at the diplomatic missions of Turkmenistan.

On February 12\textsuperscript{th}, 2017, during the presidential elections in Turkmenistan, 2,548 polling stations were created for voting, including 39 at diplomatic missions and consular offices of Turkmenistan abroad.

Strengthening foreign diplomatic missions and consular offices to serve immigrants and permanent diasporas, taking into account the factor of migration as one of the main aspects of development planning and formulating strategies, contributes to safe, orderly and regular migration and integration.