



# The World We Want

## Post-2015 National Consultations in Turkmenistan



May 2013

## FINAL REPORT

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### The World We Want. Post-2015 National Consultations in Turkmenistan

#### CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>Chapter 1. Introduction</b>   | 3  |
| 1.1. National consultations in Turkmenistan                              | 4  |
| 1.2. Targeted groups to be included in the consultation process          | 5  |
| 1.3. Choosing questions to focus the consultations                       | 6  |
| 1.4. Methodology used in the consultation process                        | 7  |
| 1.5. Total numbers participating un the consultations                    | 8  |
| 1.6. Structure of the report   | 8  |
| <b>Chapter 2. National context for the post-2015 agenda</b>              | 9  |
| <b>Chapter 3. Findings of the post-2015 national consultations</b>       | 10 |
| 3.1. Good quality education  | 10 |
| 3.2. Healthcare  | 13 |
| 3.3. A responsible government  | 16 |
| 3.4. Better job opportunities  | 18 |
| 3.5. Protection against crime and violence                               | 20 |
| 3.6. Protecting forests, rivers and oceans                               | 23 |
| <b>Chapter 4. Conclusion: the way to move forward</b>                    | 26 |
| <b>Appendices</b>  |    |
| Appendix 1. List of Ministries and Government Agencies and Organizations | 27 |
| Appendix 2. List of the UN agencies and organizations                    | 28 |
| Appendix 3. National consultations in numbers                            | 29 |

## CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

The post-2015 consultations were conducted in Turkmenistan between January and May 2013, starting after the government's approval of the consultation process. The consultations brought together major stakeholders in the country and triggered new discussions in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and in the preparation of a strategic vision for Turkmenistan's development after 2015. The government of Turkmenistan as President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov declared "aims its efforts at the maximum promotion of the processes of sustainable development, attaining the Millennium Development Goals and creating efficient models of multilateral reciprocal action for the solution of urgent international issues."<sup>1</sup> Turkmenistan's government declared that it aims to "achieve a firm peace and security, implementing the development goals and realizing humanitarian cooperation."<sup>2</sup> Various UN agencies have provided significant assistance to the government of Turkmenistan to achieve these aims.

The post-2015 national consultations arose out of the need to define the next global development framework once the Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000 by all 189 Member States of the UN General Assembly period for implementation comes to an end in 2015. Arising out of this need, a High Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly conducted in September 2010, reviewed MDG targets implementation process and agreed on an action plan to accelerate progress towards the full achievement of the MDGs by 2015. At the same time, the High Level Plenary Meeting called on the UN System to lead to international discussions on a post-2015 development agenda.

These discussions began in earnest with the UN Secretary General's 2011 Annual Report to the UN General Assembly "*Accelerating progress towards the MDGs: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015*" which laid out the broad principles of the post-2015 process. These include the need to foster a broad based, open and inclusive dialogue with all stakeholders, including civil society actors, on the post-2015 agenda.

Building upon the recommendations of the Report, the UN system set out several processes that went along simultaneously to each other focusing on defining the priorities for the next global development framework after the end of MDGs.

First, the UN Secretary General convened the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons consisting of 27 representatives from civil society, private sector and government and co-chaired by President of Indonesia, President of Liberia, and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. It was mandated to provide amongst other aspects recommendations regarding the vision and shape of a Post-2015 development agenda that will help respond to the global challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, building on the MDGs. Its work was closely coordinated with

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<sup>1</sup> Address by Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, UN General Assembly 19th plenary meeting Friday, 23 September 2011, 9 a.m. New York.

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/511/85/PDF/N1151185.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

that of the Intergovernmental Working Group tasked to design Sustainable Development Goals, as agreed at the Rio +20 conference.

Second, the United Nations facilitated 11 regional/global consultations with academia, media, private sector, employers and trade unions, civil society, and decision makers to discuss thematic and cross-cutting issues in post-2015 global agenda. The themes of the consultations included: inequalities; health; education; growth and employment; environmental sustainability; food security and nutrition; governance; conflict and fragility; population dynamics, water and sanitation, and energy. Jointly organized by various UN entities and with support from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other international organizations, the thematic consultations were designed to help guide thinking on how to include emerging and pressing issues in the post-2015 development agenda.

Third, in addition to the processes described above, UN were asked to facilitate the national consultations on the post-2015 agenda. The objective of the country consultations was to stimulate discussions amongst national stakeholders, and to garner inputs and ideas for a shared global vision of “The Future We Want”. Initially, 50 countries across the globe were selected as a representative sample across several dimensions: regional, country typology, and different types of development challenges. However, later on another 38 countries, including Turkmenistan, have joined this global process, bringing the total number of participating countries to 88.

To facilitate the country consultations process the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) prepared guidelines on how to conduct post-2015 national consultations. It was intended that these national consultations would access input from all major stakeholders involving a broad base of civil society, including youth, women and vulnerable societal groups.<sup>3</sup>

### ***1.1. National Consultations in Turkmenistan***

Following discussions by the UN agencies with the government on this global process the government agreed to conduct the post 2015 country consultations, confirmed by a decree of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov on January 18, 2013. A high-level UN–Turkmenistan Joint Task Group was established to oversee and guide the country consultation process. The members of the Joint Group included all heads of UN agencies resident in Turkmenistan, deputy ministers of relevant line ministries, chairs of state commissions and selected NGOs, chaired by Vepa Hajiev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (see appendix 2 for composition).

Using the UNDG guidelines, the UN–Turkmenistan Joint Task Group defined the objectives of the post-2015 national consultations as follows:

- To provide an opportunity for different groups of people in Turkmenistan to express their views on the future they want;

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<sup>3</sup> UNDG. *Post-2015 Development Agenda: Guidelines for Country Dialogues. What future do you want?* NY: UNDG, 2013. P. 10.

- To provide the views of Turkmenistan’s people on what they would like to include in the next global development framework period after 2015; and
- To develop mechanisms to express and hear the voices of the children, youth and the vulnerable, as well as both women and men.<sup>4</sup>

### 1.2. Targeted groups to be included in the consultation process

The Joint UN-Turkmenistan Task Group agreed in February 2013, on the number of groups to be targeted for the consultation process. Six groups were identified (see Box 1) and these became the main participants.

#### BOX 1. List of targeted groups identified by the UN–Turkmenistan Joint Task Group

| Name of target group   | Target group composition  |
|--|---|
| Target group 1 – Civil society/vulnerable groups   | Heads of 16 NGOs and their clients from all welayats  |
| Target group 2 – Farmers and entrepreneurs   | Representatives of the Union of Manufactures and Entrepreneurs, and Women’s Union from all welayats   |
| Target group 3 – Government officials  | Senior representatives at the level of heads of departments from MFA, Ministry of Nature Protection, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy and Development, Ministry of Health, State Statistical Committee and National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights |
| Target group 4 – Members of Parliament   | Representatives of welayats and Ashgabat, heads of Committees in Mejlis, Deputy Chairman of Mejlis  |
| Target group 5 – Youth   | School children 8-9-10 Grades of 17 schools and young people of 15-24 year of age   |
| Target group 6 – School children under 15 years of age, parents of children under the age of 7 and local authorities in selected <i>welayats</i> and <i>etraps</i> * | School children from 16 schools, parents of children under the age of seven and local level authorities   |
| * Source: <i>Matrix Outlining Key Elements of the Post-2015 Turkmenistan Country Consultations</i> . Ashgabat, 2013.   |   |

<sup>4</sup> *National Consultation Plan for Turkmenistan*. Ashgabat: Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan, 2013. P. 1

The UN-Turkmenistan Joint Task Group also agreed on the sample size of the groups. Groups 1-4, to be not more than 60 people in each group, group five to be 500 people and group six to be 1000 people.

### 1.3. Choosing questions to focus the consultations

The global UNDG Guidelines had suggested a number of questions that countries could choose from to assist in focusing the country consultations. The UN–Turkmenistan Joint Task Group decided to choose a small number of questions mainly focusing on the future they want and a question on what the next global development framework should include. Box 2 presents the main questions agreed for each group.

#### BOX 2. List of questions for targeted groups

| Target Group   | Proposed Questions   |
|--|--|
| Target group 1 – Civil society/vulnerable groups   | How do you envision the well-being of yourself and your family in 2030 based on the current achievements in the country?<br>What progress would you like to see in the lives of people you work with and for, by 2030?   |
| Target group 2 – Farmers and entrepreneurs   | How do you envision the well-being of yourself and your family in 2030 based on the current achievements in the country?<br>What progress would you like to see in your life by 2030?  |
| Target group 3 – Government officials  | What should be included in the next global development framework?  |
| Target group 4 – Members of Parliament   | What progress do you want to see in the lives of the people you represent by 2030?;<br>What should be included in the next global development framework?   |
| Target group 5 – Youth   | What achievements do you see for young people by 2030?<br>How do you envision the well-being of yourself and your family in 2030 based on the current achievements in the country?   |
| Target group 6 – School children under 15 years of age, parents of children under the age of 7 and local authorities in selected <i>welayats</i> and <i>etraps</i> * | What future do you want beyond 2015?<br>What kind of changes you want to see in your community, and how these link to larger, global development issues?<br>What is it that you want to change? (for children)<br>What future do you want for your children?<br>What type of support you need to care for your child, make him/her fully more developed, healthy and ready to school? (for parents);<br>Representatives of local authorities were asked to fill in a questionnaire answering to a question “What is more important for you and your family?” |
| * Source: <i>Matrix Outlining Key Elements of the Post-2015 Turkmenistan Country Consultations</i> . Ashgabat, 2013.   |  |

#### ***1.4. Methodology used in the consultation process***

A national consultant was recruited with support from the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) office, to conduct consultations with the first four target groups mentioned above. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supported the consultations with group one, while the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported the discussion with group four.

In order to optimize the consultation process these four groups were subdivided into several subgroups. All together eight focus groups were held, each consisting of about 12 people representing all regions in the country and almost equally divided between women and men.<sup>5</sup> All together 96 people took part in the focus group discussions, including 56 women.

Another national consultant was recruited with support of the United Nations Population Fund, (UNFPA) to conduct the consultations with the youth. The consultations with this group included essay writing and focus group discussions conducted among the school children—8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> graders and youth of 15-24 years of age.

In addition, a national consultant was recruited with support of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) who focused on consultations with school children, parents of the young children of preschool age and local level authorities. The methodological framework of national consultations with children and parents has been designed based on the United Nations Development Group's 'What Future Do You Want' guidelines for country dialogues and the post 2015-youth consultations toolkit. The adapted local toolkit was meant to stimulate and build the confidence in young people and children to take the role of facilitators of change by making reflections of how things are at the grassroots and shaping the future through the active contribution of their voices. Prior to consultation, each group received participatory orientation sessions about development agenda within the framework of MDGs and post 2015 development agenda. Here, three age subgroups were targeted: 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. These consultations were intended to hear children's opinion about their vision of the future. The children in the first subgroup, 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> graders, expressed their views through age-appropriate qualitative method – storytelling by means of drawings. Those in the second subgroup, 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> graders, were invited to write a short essay. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the third subgroup were invited to participate in focus group discussions. There were twelve focus group discussions with a selected group of parents of the young children. Also, the representatives of local authorities were invited to fill out a short questionnaire-based survey study to define decision maker's views about the overall well-being of children, including children with disabilities and their families beyond 2015.<sup>6</sup>

The citizens of Turkmenistan were also invited to contribute to the global survey "The world we want!" on [www.worldwewant2015.org](http://www.worldwewant2015.org). This was a novel innovation for Turkmenistan

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<sup>5</sup> *The future we want. Report on preliminary results of the post-2015 national consultations in Turkmenistan.* Ashgabat, 2013. P. 3 (unpublished document)

<sup>6</sup> *Turkmenistan we want 2015. The analytical report on the national consultations on the development program after 2015.* Ashgabat: UNICEF, 2013. P. 5-8. (unpublished document)

and an attempt to integrate Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the national consultations process, with information on the consultations being posted on the websites of both UN agencies and Turkmenistan government ministries. The survey was promoted among the partners as well as being posted on UN agency webpages and elsewhere. It generated 52 responses (as of May 29, 2013).

### ***1.5. Total Numbers participating in the consultations***

In total, 1, 818 people participated in the national consultations geographically representing all regions of the country. Of these, 366 people were adults above 24 years (including the parents and local authorities from group 6), 884 participants were schoolchildren and youth between 15 and 24 years of age, and 568 schoolchildren under the age of 15. Of the total number of participants, 1,099 were female and 719 - male.

#### **BOX 3: Numbers of those participating in the country consultations**

| <b>Proposed Groups</b>   | <b>Suggested Numbers</b> | <b>Actual numbers Participated</b> |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Target group 1 – Civil society/vulnerable groups   | ≤60                      | 24                                 |
| Target group 2 – Farmers and entrepreneurs with focus on men and women   | ≤60                      | 48                                 |
| Target group 3 – Government officials  | ≤60                      | 12                                 |
| Target group 4 – Members of Parliament   | ≤60                      | 12                                 |
| Target group 5 – Youth, including school children above 15 years of age  | 500                      | 884                                |
| Target group 6 – School children under 15 years of age, parents of children under the age of 7 and local authorities in selected <i>welayats</i> and <i>etraps</i> | 1000                     | 838                                |
| <b>Total:</b>  | <b>1740</b>              | <b>1818</b>                        |

The fieldwork and actual consultations were completed between March and May 2013 and summarized by a team of national experts.

### ***1.6. Structure of the report***

**Chapter 1** set out the introduction, covering methodology and consultation process.

**Chapter 2** describes the national context for the post-2015 agenda.

**Chapter 3** covers major findings from the consultations in the target group.

**Chapter 4** summarizes the conclusion and discusses on the way forward.

### **Appendices**



## CHAPTER 2. NATIONAL CONTEXT FOR THE POST-2015 AGENDA

Turkmenistan is a territorially medium-size developing country situated in the south-western corner of Central Asia with a dry continental climate with a relatively low level of precipitation and very hot summers and cold winters. The country has a very fragile environment as most of the country is covered by deserts, semi-deserts and mountain plateaus, which makes Turkmenistan a highly dependent on fresh water sources (almost 90 percent of which originates in other countries - namely Tajikistan and Afghanistan) and has an extremely limited own drinkable water resources. A climatic factor plays an important role for Turkmenistan as its intensive agriculture largely relies on growing crops which require the development of irrigation infrastructure and significant water resources. However, this sector of national economy is extremely vulnerable to climatic changes.

Turkmenistan has a young and growing population where almost 50 percent of the population are under the age of 25 (2012, UNFPA, est.)<sup>7</sup> The growing youth population requires that the government of Turkmenistan invests significant attention and resources into training, education and job creation in the country. The development of labor market is complicated by the fact that population of Turkmenistan is spread across different geographic zones and has a different level of access to job markets, education, training and different attitudes toward labor mobility. Since 2007-2008 the country has increasingly diversified its economy by opening opportunities for private entrepreneurship and attracting new industries, and it has been reforming its education system to deliver a better training and education to young people equipping them with the skills and knowledge required for the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.<sup>8</sup>

The government of Turkmenistan has a long-established tradition of addressing the development, social and economic issues through mid- and long-term strategic sectoral and national programs. These programs are approved by the President after consultations and consideration in the Parliament. Some sustainable development principles are applied in the national strategies for social and economic development. The main policy document which is related to sustainable development is the National Strategy of Social and Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2011-2030 (also called Strategy-2030 and adopted in 2010). This document is a successor of the previous long-term policy document – the National Strategy of Social and Economic Development for 2003-2020 (also called Strategy 2020). The Strategy-2030 is a comprehensive document that defines the policy of the state for the period between 2011 and 2030. It outlines state policies and actions to be taken in the economic and social areas, including education, health, and the environment. The Strategy declares that the social issues and the nation's well-being are among the highest priorities. All sectoral policies and action plans in Turkmenistan are designed to address goals envisioned in the Strategy-2030.

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<sup>7</sup> See: <http://www.unfpa.org/tm/en> (accessed on May 29, 2013)

<sup>8</sup> See: 'The Law on Education of Turkmenistan.' *Neitralnyi Turkmenistan*. May 15, 2013

### **CHAPTER 3. FINDINGS OF THE POST-2015 NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS**

Having analyzed the data received from all the six groups, a number of key priority areas were identified, to be addressed in order for the future they want to materialize. These are as follows:

1. Good quality education
2. Quality healthcare
3. An honest and responsible government
4. Better job opportunities
5. Protection against crime and violence
6. Protecting forests, rivers and oceans

The issues discussed by children also reflect the priorities identified by the other groups as outlined in Box 5.

**BOX 5 sets out the priorities as defined by children in 1- 4 grade and in 5-8 grades.**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Below are priority themes as seen by children (1-4 grades):</b><br><br>Quality education<br>Health, sports, leisure<br>Employment and welfare<br>Peace, security and international relations<br>Environmental protection<br>Transport infrastructure, development of technology and science | <b>Two age groups of children (5-8 grades) also prioritized:</b><br><br>Social protection and better life of disabled people<br>Social support to vulnerable groups<br>Road traffic safety<br>Equality of rights and opportunities<br>Preservation of national heritage and traditions |
|--|--|

This chapter therefore sets out the findings from each of the six groups under these key priority areas.

#### **3.1. Good quality education**

The development of a good quality education system has been named as one of the major priorities for the future of Turkmenistan by all groups who participated in the national consultations. Turkmenistan’s national consultations highlighted that the groups involved in the consultation process appreciate the achievements in the field of education at all levels. The participants also emphasized that they and the groups they represent would like to have a future where they have access to the world’s education system without limitations. They also wanted a future with quality teaching at all levels, competency of teaching and administrative personnel, and the ability of the education system to reflect the needs of rapidly changing demands in the labor market. Overall they wanted for the next global development framework to include three major targets: a) improving the quality of education, its flexibility and ability to prepare the next generation of citizens to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century; b) improving accessibility of education, especially higher education, and of vocational training for vulnerable members of society; c) increasing

teaching hours devoted to global trends and global issues and to sustainable development topics.

**As viewed by civil society and vulnerable groups:** The representatives of NGOs and vulnerable groups suggested that education is one of the issues of highest priority for the country. They appreciated the achievements in the field of education, nevertheless, they also highlighted the existence of opportunities for further improvement. For example, they wanted to see progress in the greater involvement of civil society in the educational process including training members of vulnerable groups for work in both government and non-government educational entities. They envisioned that in future more opportunities would be created for versatile development of children and young people (going in for sports, creativity schools, etc.) outside the curriculum by opening centers for young technicians, young naturalists, art and movie studios for children and young people, and various sports clubs, etc. They also wanted to see progress in raising the level of quality of learning in all schools, whether located in a village or in the city, in remote areas in the provinces or in the capital. They believe there should not be a division of schools into so-called “elite” and ordinary schools. Finally, they talked about improving the quality of teaching of foreign languages in schools and the expansion of the list of languages taught, along with English and Russian, to Chinese, German, French, Spanish, Arabic, Japanese and other most popular languages in the contemporary world.

**As viewed by farmers and entrepreneurs:** Farmers and entrepreneurs expressed their wish that in future there would be a greater emphasis on vocational training of the younger generation, helping them to acquire all necessary skills to work for the national economy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to contribute to the “innovative development of the economy.” They also wished that in future the educators would not only provide knowledge, but also would contribute to the personal development of the students, helping them to become independent and hardworking individuals and to overcome “izhdevencheskie nastroeinia” (dependency attitudes). They also envisioned that in future the higher education institutions would improve the quality of teaching so graduates would be “highly trained” and “innovative.”

**As viewed by government officials:** Although the quality of education was not the highest priority among government officials, they did stress its importance as part of “The world we want.” Among the comments they provided on future progress were such issues as “good education”, which is an important component of success in any society. They also highlighted the importance of the “accessibility” of education and the need to overcome the difference in quality of education at different schools in different geographic locations and among groups of people with special needs.

**As viewed by members of Parliament:** The members of Parliament who participated expressed their vision on progress in the field of the education supporting better quality of education, sciences, culture, sports and tourism. They also believed that in the future the government should spend more on building educational and recreational facilities. They suggested that life-long and continuing education should be included in the next global development framework after 2015 period. They also expressed the view that the national

strategy till 2030 reflects major ideas and vision of Parliament about the progress to be achieved by 2030.

**As viewed by youth:** According to the results of the national consultations among youth, they perceived education as a key tool for social and economic development at the personal and national levels. Education allows people to understand the social environment around them and contributes to personal and national prosperity as well as ability to understand health needs. In fact, they said, it is a “key to happiness.” While answering the question “How do you envision the well-being of yourself and your family in 2030 based on the current achievements in the country?” the youth mentioned that they would like to have own children by 2030, and that they would like them to go to even better equipped and better computerized schools in 2030.

**Voices:**

*“The schoolchildren should be involved in research projects, creative activities, and sports events, during which they will learn to innovate, to understand and master new things, be open and able to express their thoughts, to be able to make decisions, help each other, and formulate interests and realize opportunities”.*

*“By 2030, I would like to have a big family, good education. I want to succeed as an architect. I like this type of activity, and I would like to present to my country many more beautiful buildings. The most important thing is to have good health. I would like for everything I do to be a success.”*

*“In the future, highly skilled and well-educated graduates of 12 year education system will be able to take care of the development and prosperity of our country.”*

*“All subjects must be necessary for the subsequent stages of education and be in demand in the future.”*

*“School is not just a place where we get knowledge. Here we spend half of our day, and so it is necessary to create all conditions to ensure that children have fun in school (all sorts of creative and scientific contests, innovative game lessons, sports activities). ”*

UNFPA. Final Report on Meeting with Youth within the Framework of National Consultations on Goals and Objectives of Global Development Program after 2015. Ashgabat, UNFPA, 2013. (Unpublished document) P.16-17, 32

**As viewed by school children under 15 years of age:** In future children would like to be engaged in a modern education process in contemporary facilities and have access to a well-established education infrastructure. They would like to see the country provide them with a good quality knowledge foundation at school, and access to higher education at domestic universities. Children see education in the future ensuring quality and inclusive learning process, which will employ better teaching models and innovative technologies, availability of more specialized schools such as schools with intensive foreign language teaching or music, sports schools, as well as availability of diverse extra-curriculum activities for all children to make their out-of-school time more useful and fulfilling. Children also shared their aspirations about quality higher education and demonstrated good understanding that quality higher education will enable them to obtain the demanded employment.

**Voices:**

*“Every school has wi-fi, which makes it easy for pupils to access the Internet and download any applications and information for school lessons.”*

*“Good education not only guarantees that all children can be educated, but also that all children have equal education, which applies high-quality education standards”*

*“I want to enter the best university. This is not only my wish, this is a dream of many schoolchildren. Therefore, I want there to be such universities in our country, and in each welayat as well.”*

Turkmenistan we want 2015. The analytical report on the national consultations on the development program after 2015. Ashgabat: UNICEF, 2013. P. 18.

**As viewed by parents of children under 7.** Parents of the pre-school age children think it is important that their children enjoy high-quality affordable education. Most of parents raised their voices about the learning environment at kindergartens as it is important to ensure availability of children's books, visual aids and developmental toys. In their view, it would be useful if children start learning foreign languages while they attend. According to parents, it is equally important to consider reducing the number of children in the group at regular kindergartens (maximum 15 people), and introduce the individual approach to each child. Parents deem necessary integration of the family support and psycho-social counseling to families on children's care and development issues. Parents also shared their views on the further development of educational infrastructure and leisure activities for children both in cities and villages. They would like to significantly increase the number of preschool education establishments both in the cities and in the villages. In the future, they see that all kindergartens are equipped with the latest technology with swimming pools other facilities for sports, music, dancing, theater, etc. Parents said that this all is necessary for our children to be healthy and highly developed intellectually and physically.

**Voices:**

*“Our children are smarter, healthier and more talented than we used to be at their age because more attention is paid to their development and their future.”*

Turkmenistan we want 2015. The analytical report on the national consultations on the development program after 2015. Ashgabat: UNICEF, 2013.

### **3.2. Healthcare**

The national consultations in Turkmenistan illustrated that access to comprehensive and efficient medical services remains a priority among the participants in all groups. The participants stressed the importance of capital investments in medical facilities and in building new hospitals across the country and acquiring new technologies and advanced medical equipment. At the same time they underscored that they would like to see significant progress in the quality of medical services and personnel, and access to effective medical treatment, improving the quality of prevention, early diagnosis of disease and the efficiency of sanitary and epidemiologic services. Overall they wanted the next global development framework to include several major targets such as increasing the efficiency of

work related to the reproductive health of young people, maternal and child protection, improving the demographic situation in the country by significantly reducing infant and child mortality, and finding more effective mechanisms to encourage the birthrate and increase average life expectancy.

**As viewed by civil society and vulnerable groups:** Civil society views the healthcare system as a state service which should be accessible to all groups of society and especially vulnerable communities. Development of the healthcare system means, among other things, high attention to the human capital which would lead to progress in improving the quality of medical services and the quality of retraining medical personnel to ensure that they can effectively work with the most complex modern medical equipment. The representatives of NGOs mentioned that people with disabilities should expect more social and health rehabilitation at medical facilities, so that they can become active members of society. They also suggested expanding health facilities in rural areas with high-quality technical equipment, and expanding the construction of hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centers in the rural areas. In addition, the participants in this group hoped that in 2030 they and their families would have increasing opportunities for active recreation at resorts, spas and fitness centers, which should become accessible and affordable to all segments of the population through “widespread construction of sports facilities, opening of various sports sections for everyone to be able to play sports.”

#### Voices

*“To organize comprehensive assistance to people with disabilities of any group, as well as organize the prevention of diseases which can be a cause of disability.”*

UNFPA. Final Report on Meeting with Youth within the Framework of National Consultations on Goals and Objectives of Global Development Program after 2015. Ashgabat, UNFPA, 2013. (Unpublished document) P. 20-21

**As viewed by farmers and entrepreneurs:** Farmers and entrepreneurs had a very concrete vision about the future they want in terms of healthcare system development. First, they wanted for sanitary and epidemiological services to be developed and improved to prevent outbreak of disease among people and domestic animals. Second, they wanted more modern laboratories for analyzing the quality of water and soil. Third, they believed that veterinary services should be good and strong enough to provide adequate services to assess ecologically safety products, both domestic and imported.

**As viewed by government officials:** Government officials selected the development of the environment for improving health among the issues which require the attention of society and the government. A quality healthcare system has many components including accessibility of medical services and especially accessibility of medical services for vulnerable groups such as disabled children.

**As viewed by members of Parliament:** The participating members of Parliament expressed their vision about progress in the field of healthcare supporting better quality of medical services, the need to acquire more equipment and the need to build more medical facilities.

They also expressed the view that the national strategy till 2030 would help to address the needs of all children and they wanted that the global development framework after 2015 would mention the need to build best medical facilities with best doctors who should be available for all children in future.

**As viewed by youth:** Youth expressed an interesting view on healthcare – they perceive that it is an important component of human capital and quality of life. The health of individual members of society reflects the development of a nation, and economic and demographic processes in the society. They believe that their well-being very much depends on “healthy lifestyle” and therefore “physical culture and sport should become a united force and a national idea, which would lead to a strong state and a healthy society.”

**Voices:**

*“Programs with the focus on the needs of young people in the area of health services, education, economic opportunities and life skills will play the leading role in this direction.”*

*“Make services more accessible and direct efforts to meet the needs of young people in sexual and reproductive health area.”*

*“Assist in the preparation of young people for family life and provide the access to information and services on reproductive health to them.”*

UNFPA. Final Report on Meeting with Youth within the Framework of National Consultations on Goals and Objectives of Global Development Program after 2015. Ashgabat, UNFPA, 2013. (Unpublished document) P. 19-22.

**As viewed by school children under 15 years of age:** Most children believe that one of the key components of good health is a healthy lifestyle and prevention of risky habits. This included access to sports facilities, sporting activities and active recreational opportunities by all rural and urban population. Children would like the opportunity to have access to a quality recreational infrastructure, such as cultural centers, aqua-parks and hotels in major recreational areas of the country, including the seashore.

**Voices:**

*“Improved clinics with highly qualified personnel, with advanced equipment”;*

*“The level of knowledge of doctors should be increased”;*

*“Medical universities will train high quality specialists including in Turkmenistan”;*

*“I want the best specialists to come to the country so that they train our medical doctors to become much more experienced”;*

*“I want to become a well-educated medical doctor and to cure different diseases.*

*“I want to increase the level of education in medicine in our country. I will also try to help ailing people to recover. I want the whole world to live a healthy life”;*

*"I would be very glad if each state, each country has developed medicine. Because people come to this world to live happy lives. I want for many more healthy people to live in the world"*

Turkmenistan we want 2015. The analytical report on the national consultations on the development program after 2015. Ashgabat: UNICEF, 2013.

**As viewed by parents of children under 7.** Many parents noted the quality healthcare is important for the prosperous future of their children. To achieve this they mentioned the construction of healthcare centers for children, and availability of these centers for every child. In their view, qualified medical specialists should be assigned to kindergartens, including speech therapists, pediatricians, dentists and psychologists. Family medical services should be also strengthened and improved. Parents would like to see affordable family medicine centers where parents could get highly qualified counseling services. Another factor in health promotion mentioned by parents was sports and quality rest and recreation for children. "It would be nice if there is more construction of new gyms and swimming pools with contemporary children's sports equipment", said some parents.

### ***3.3. A responsible government***

The issues of effectiveness and efficiency of government institutions were frequently mentioned by participants among the top priorities in the future they want. Participants in the national consultations stressed that they would like to see progress in the delivery of state services and better coordination among public institutions at both local and central levels. In addition, many participants mentioned the human dimension of progress—that civil servants need to be more responsive to requests from ordinary citizens. Some participants also mentioned the need to achieve significant progress in fighting the corruption of individual public servants and improving the public trust in the civil service especially at the local level. Overall they wanted for the next global development framework to include several major targets such greater interaction between the government and civil society institutions on key developmental issues, work towards greater usage of electronic services and expanding electronic government, and importantly—capacity building among civil service professionals through improving training, professionalism, knowledge and skills and better hiring practices.

**As viewed by civil society and vulnerable groups:** Civil society participants place great importance on responsible government, highlighting that in future there is a need for improvement of the system of state management and establishing law and order. This includes such actions as "decentralization and delegation of some responsibilities to local government." They also suggested that the government should be more attentive in the delivery of state services. The participants wanted to see progress in "further optimizing functions of the state, especially of the executive branch, in order to reduce excessive administrative burden," "widely applying and implementing the mechanisms to ensure that the public authorities focus on the results necessary to society," and "increasing responsiveness of government to the needs of society." The participants would like to see progress in society in "improving the legal culture and consciousness of citizens," "developing public self-governance, increasing the number of public organizations and associations of citizens," and "increasing participation of women in social and political life."



**As viewed by farmers and entrepreneurs:** Farmers and entrepreneurs suggested that they would like to see two major changes in the future they want. One is a greater participation of farmers and entrepreneurs in the political life of the society and a greater role for the recently registered Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan. Second, they would like to reduce and even eliminate the “bureaucratic barriers” in acquiring banking loans, dealing with government entities, etc. This could be achieved in their view through development of electronic governance and electronic services and by attracting highly professional and well-qualified workers to civil service.

**As viewed by government officials:** For government officials, responsible government also means government which is able to maintain peace between countries around the world even in a very difficult global economic and political environment. This is important both at regional and global levels, as traditional diplomacy and quest for peace is increasingly supplemented by public diplomacy and people’s diplomacy, which involves ordinary people including children.

**As viewed by members of Parliament:** Members of Parliament expressed their vision about progress in developing better government services and better trained personnel, the need to acquire more equipment and to build more public facilities and provide training to enhance “the efficiency of work of local self-governance bodies.” They also expressed the view that the global development framework after 2015 should reflect their ideas and vision of strong and efficient local governments.

**As viewed by youth:** Youth groups highlighted an important aspect of responsible government - the ability of a government to maintain stability in a country. Among other things such stability means development without “major social and economic crisis.” The capability of a government to maintain stability is also linked by young people to the prosperity of individual groups in society and in the country as a whole. In response to the question “How do you envision your well-being in 2030 based on the current achievements in the country?” some participants stated that “the youth should be given an opportunity to influence the decisions related to the [lives] of young people.”

**Voices:**

*“I would like every person to pass his/her ideas to the Government to improve the lives of people. And these ideas and wishes are taken into account.”*

*“Encouraging young people for leadership and participation in decision-making in the field of well-being.”*

*“Creating an electronic Youth network where young people, members of youth organizations can provide feedback on the design and implementation of youth projects and consultations on how to improve it.”*

UNFPA. Final Report on Meeting with Youth within the Framework of National Consultations on Goals and Objectives of Global Development Program after 2015. Ashgabat, UNFPA, 2013. (Unpublished document) P. -23. 34

**As viewed by school children under 15 years of age:** For children a responsible government means one that is capable of maintaining peace and stability in the country and in the region. They would like to see their national government and other governments around the world being able to develop friendly and positive international relations. The future world should be open for personal contacts and for international exchanges and travel. Beyond that, children raised issues related to provision of the stronger social support to people with disabilities and vulnerable groups of population. Children demonstrated a good understanding that all people and children require equal opportunities, for example they voiced that people in urban settings and rural areas should have equal quality conditions for living.

**Voices:**

*“I want to see many factories and plants by 2030. So that every person has his own profession. Our country will join the list of the developed states. By 2030, our country will become as developed as Germany and France.”*

*“We want more new schools, multi-story buildings, stadiums and kindergartens to be built, not only in the capital city but in all parts of our country”.*

Turkmenistan we want 2015. The analytical report on the national consultations on the development program after 2015. Ashgabat: UNICEF, 2013.P. 22., 27

### **3.4. Better job opportunities**

In the future the participants in the national consultations would like to see better job opportunities and job access in an environment where people would also have better social protection, equality and conditions for the development of human capital. They wanted to see progress in introducing the tools which would help them match their skills with labor market demands, especially for groups aged 40 and above who have been trained for a different working environment with a quite different skillset. Access to the job market should not be a challenge for vulnerable groups, including disabled people and people with health problems. At the same time, they and their family members would have access to schools and colleges, including life-long education to increase their success in the labor market. Overall they wanted the next global development framework to include several major targets such as full or near-full employment with greater social protection for all citizens, better interaction between the government, private sector and various groups of society to provide real job opportunities for disabled groups, and the creation of capacity-building mechanisms and programs which would help to identify major national and global trends in the job market and assist in proactively preparing workers with adequate skills necessary for the future after 2015.

**As viewed by civil society and vulnerable groups:** Speaking from their experience, the civil society and vulnerable groups would like to see progress in the labor market, where opportunities would be created especially for people with disabilities. They would also like to see progress in “ensuring equal opportunities to get education, employment, access to various services for all, regardless of gender, nationality, religion, political opinion” and “creating equal opportunities for all people to realize their human and civil rights and freedoms.” In the future they envision the world with “ramps and other special features

(elevators, stairs, escalators, walkways, etc.) for people with disabilities to have access to residential buildings and offices of public institutions when designing and constructing buildings,” opportunities in “training of social workers in higher educational establishments schools,” and “creating specialized sports clubs for people with disabilities.” In total, these changes would help all people with special needs to become active members of society.

#### **Life story**

*“I am a blind person. By age I am not that old—I am only 50 years old. But I cannot get a job. I am refused under the pretext that I am not able to navigate in space. Although I can in any space, no worse than people who can see ...”* - K. a member of the Society for the Blind and Deaf, Ashgabat.

The future we want. Report on preliminary results of the post-2015 national consultations in Turkmenistan. Ashgabat, 2013. P. 15. (unpublished document).

#### **Voices**

*“Give an opportunity for people with disabilities to work, make clear statements that the persons with disabilities can support themselves without relying on the state.”*

UNFPA. Final Report on Meeting with Youth within the Framework of National Consultations on Goals and Objectives of Global Development Program after 2015. Ashgabat, UNFPA, 2013. (Unpublished document) P. 21.

**As viewed by farmers and entrepreneurs:** Farmers and entrepreneurs expressed their wish that in future the main criteria for hiring for jobs, especially for government positions, would be “high professionalism and qualifications” and “honesty and decency.” This would greatly improve relations between people and would provide a better working environment for all members of the society. In addition they wished that the country would “achieve full employment with high salaries.”

**As viewed by government officials:** For government officials better job opportunities are the single highest priority for the well-being of their country and “The world we want.” Better job opportunities also imply higher incomes and prosperity both for individuals and their families. Many government officials also mentioned creation of more jobs as a part of their vision of the future.

**As viewed by members of Parliament:** Members of Parliament spoke of their vision for progress in job creation and establishing a more flexible labor market which would provide employment for all citizens of the country. They also expressed the view that the global development framework after 2015 should include a vision about better employment opportunities for all people and about creation of condition for “development of potentials and self-realization of young people.”

**As viewed by youth:** For young people better job opportunities mean the opportunity for self-expression and realization of personal ambitions. Better jobs would also allow them to achieve personal prosperity and career goals. Some participants pointed out that better job

opportunities also quite simply mean materialistic achievements—higher salaries and better professional positions.

**Voices:**

*“The most important aspect for modern youth is to have a good job. Being self-established and self-realized is important for us. And all further goals and motives are a means to achieve that status.”*

*“Young people are more interested in working conditions, size of wages, rather than self-fulfillment.”*

UNFPA. Final Report on Meeting with Youth within the Framework of National Consultations on Goals and Objectives of Global Development Program after 2015. Ashgabat, UNFPA, 2013. (Unpublished document) P. 14.

**As viewed by school children under 15 years of age:** For children better job opportunities mostly mean jobs that would allow them to achieve a decent standard of living and provide them access to an infrastructure that would allow them to enhance their quality of life. At this stage, for them, a better job opportunity is an important step towards personal and family prosperity. According to children, it is necessary “to have a lot of opportunities in various sectors”, for example to develop such industries as livestock, agriculture, technology, economics, large scale and staple industries. They would like that those unemployed are offered jobs in agricultural sector and are given the land for farming. Other see the opening of new plants will create more job opportunities for people. Many children think of opening their own businesses.

**Voices:**

*“I want for our country to have a lot of jobs, so that all can work and live in prosperity”;*

*“I would like for there to be no one unemployed – [we need] to open factories and enterprises”;*

*“There should be a lot of factories in the future, and then all the people will be employed.”*

*“It is essential that people enjoy their work.”*

*“I think that in 2015-2030 a special emphasis will be given to economy and development.”*

Turkmenistan we want 2015. The analytical report on the national consultations on the development program after 2015. Ashgabat: UNICEF, 2013. P. 22., 24**ces:**

### **3.5. Protection against crime and violence**

The participants suggested that their personal security and security of their families is an important part of their vision for their well-being in 2030. They had quite a broad definition of violence and crime, suggesting that violence and crime might take many forms and could be seen in different situations and different levels of social interaction. Many participants linked their well-being to such issues as universal and regional stability. Overall they wanted the next global development framework to include several major targets such as creating effective mechanisms to fight terrorism in coordination with the UN and the UN Security Council, creating new and more effective forms of cooperation in the fight against

drugs by developing and implementing a more comprehensive set of legal, economic and health facilities, and establishing cooperation in the humanitarian field and ethnic and cultural factors that bring people together in ensuring peace and security in Central Asia.

#### **Life story**

*“People once lived in communities and have always helped each other. The community has never left behind the poor and needy members of the community. Why can we not make globally rich countries support poor countries? Today, many of them [rich countries] are spending huge sums on armaments, the maintenance of their numerous armies, while there are countries on earth where people are dying in hunger and poverty.”- M, 58, pensioner, Turkmenabat.*

The future we want. Report on preliminary results of the post-2015 national consultations in Turkmenistan. Ashgabat, 2013. P. 15. (unpublished document)

**As viewed by civil society and vulnerable groups:** The representatives from civil society and vulnerable groups viewed that it would be mutually beneficial to develop positive relations between various national and international entities. The development of these relations should contribute to Central Asian stability and solving problems with violence in bilateral and multilateral relations. There is a need to develop a more effective form of cooperation in fighting drug trafficking and international terrorism—the two major sources of violence and crime. The participants also suggested that there should be progress in “further developing and improving mechanisms of preventive diplomacy in preventing conflicts, in finding peaceful solutions to interstate, inter-religious and inter-ethnic differences” and in “developing international cooperation in the human development and cultural fields, in particular, by increasing the number of various international exchange programs for young people.”

**As viewed by farmers and entrepreneurs:** Farmers and entrepreneurs did not discuss crime and violence directly, but they envisioned that a secure future without violence would require that society not be divided into “rich and poor groups” and that it be “without polarization.”

**As viewed by government officials:** Government officials fully understand the importance of a world without crime and violence. They are very specific about it: many of them believe that it is important to fight violence against children, as children are among the most vulnerable groups in any society. They require special attention and special protection.

**As viewed by members of Parliament:** The participating members of Parliament expressed their vision about progress in preventing crime and violence; they believe it should be the role of the state and international community to keep peace and a safe environment in the country and in the region. They also expressed the view that the global development framework after 2015 should mention the importance of stability in the region and in the world and the life without violence and crime.

**As viewed by youth:** Youth had less concern about crime and violence in society, but they had high concern about sustainable relations with close friends, classmates and relatives. In

their view these relations should help to develop a sense of personal comfort and should be free of violence. They also mentioned that it is very important that “there would be no war and we live in peace.” Some young people also mentioned that they would like to see the future where they can realize their potentials in defending justice and stopping violence by becoming lawyers and defending the rights and interests of people against unlawful actions.

**Voices:**

*“For me the most important is that there is no war, that we live in peace, that my relatives are nearby.”*

*“Personal relations are the most important factors defining our wellbeing.”*

UNFPA. Final Report on Meeting with Youth within the Framework of National Consultations on Goals and Objectives of Global Development Program after 2015. Ashgabat, UNFPA, 2013. (Unpublished document) P. 14

**As viewed by school children under 15 years of age:** For children a world without crime and violence means a world where government and society maintain safety on the roads and maintain healthy habits. In this future world they would like to see all people follow the rules and make a world where children can cross the roads without fear for their safety and lives. For them, this is a very important part of “The world we want” where machines do not threaten human and natural habitats.

**Voices:**

*“By 2030, there will not be bad habits like drug addiction, alcoholism and smoking. These problems will be addressed all over the world.”*

*“All countries must fight harmful habits.”*

*“Some people in the world suffer from drug addiction, and in this connection their families have troubles. Therefore, it is necessary to eliminate narcotic substances and strictly punish those who grow them and deal with illegal drug trafficking.”*

*“It is important to eliminate narcotic substances, alcohol addiction, cigarettes.”*

*“Strong liquors should not be produced, narcotics should be banned as well as other harmful substances.”*

Turkmenistan we want 2015. The analytical report on the national consultations on the development program after 2015. Ashgabat: UNICEF, 2013. P. 21.

In addition to the above, children under 15 years of age have also raised their concerns about **social protection issues**. Children especially sensitively treat any changes that may happen in their families. There it was noted the importance of their family environments “so that all the children live and be raised in a full family and the parents were always with them” and that “families are never separated.”

Many children in their essays have written about children with disabilities. They consider the disabled equally valuable people who want to be included in the life of communities. For this, as drawings and essays tell, there should be schools for children who do not see or hear and that disabled children have access to quality education and healthcare. They should participate in sports activities and have jobs when they grow up. Children also are concerned about children deprived of parental care and elderly people who need more support and care. They want that every child has a family; all children in poor families in the world get free meals and cash benefits; that everyone has access to food, water, housing – to everything that a child needs to grow healthy and happy.

**As viewed by parents of children under 7.** Parents shared their opinion on possibility to introduce inclusive method of teaching, which will mainstream children with disabilities in regular kindergartens. At the same time, they desired that many kindergartens are equipped with everything necessary to admit children with disabilities. Parents also understand that children with disabilities will require special attention by teachers in kindergartens. “Children with disabilities need to learn in mainstream schools among other children,” said parents. The parents shared the same view that communication of children with disabilities with other children significantly improves their physical and social health; contributes to the development of their human qualities, increases understanding of equality among all people.

### ***3.6. Protecting forests, rivers and oceans***

During the national consultations participants discussed environmental issues in different formats and linked them to other issues, such as their personal and family well-being, health and job opportunities. They all acknowledged that Turkmenistan has a very fragile environment of deserts and semi-desert zones and therefore in future both society and the state should take preventive measures on such issues as global climate change and man-made degradation of natural habitat. In their view the government should take a lead and develop policies for sustainable development, introducing various policy tools to effectively deal with current and future challenges and changes. Overall they wanted for the next global development framework to include several major targets such as supporting grass-roots actions in saving and recreating the natural habitat both at the global and local levels, active public campaign to improve public awareness about grass-roots actions on saving the environment and mitigating the impact of global climate change and preserving the diversity of flora and fauna of all countries around the world, strengthening measures to protect species under threat of extinction.

**As viewed by civil society and vulnerable groups:** The participants from civil society and vulnerable groups viewed sustainable development and environmental issues as a system of complex measures, which include preservation of the environment, solving water issues and addressing the issue of energy security in the country. They wanted to see significant progress in preventing environmental degradation, “strengthening measures against pollution, in particular soil and water resources,” and the “rational use of water resources, particularly fresh water, and extensive transition to the use of drip irrigation.” In addition they would like to see progress in “protecting the environment and the peaceful use of the Caspian Sea” and “protecting the Caspian Sea against pollution from land-based sources.”

**As viewed by farmers and entrepreneurs:** Farmers and entrepreneurs want the natural habitat and environment to be sustainable and developed to be able to produce agricultural products for domestic consumption and for export to other countries. They also wanted the development of modern agricultural technologies such as drip irrigation which would greatly reduce the usage of water and improve agriculture.

**As viewed by government officials:** Many government officials highlighted the need to preserve the environment among their top priorities. Some of them are very specific about the topic of highest importance, which is in their view the need for finding a solution to the Aral Sea problem.

**As viewed by members of Parliament:** Participating members of Parliament believed that progress in protecting the environment and in sustainable development is the major precondition of positive economic growth and the development of the state. They also expressed the view that the global development framework after 2015 should cover such issues as access to safe water supply and to address the ecological issues and the issues of environmental protection.

**As viewed by youth:** Young people interpreted sustainable development as active civil participation in the life of the society and the country. The young people expressed their interest in participating in social processes, which could include actions on preserving the environment around them and actions on enriching human habitat. Indeed, the youth in Turkmenistan would like to see progress in the situation with the environment as they believe that the key to the future and good health is a “good climate, good environment and ecologically sustainable habitat.”

**Voices:**

*“In the future we expect solution to the problem of waste recycling.”*

*“For the well-being of the urban population, it is necessary to increase the work on the environment, reduce waste and pollution from factories and plants. Increase the number of parks, plant more trees, so that people can breathe clean, fresh air.”*

UNFPA. Final Report on Meeting with Youth within the Framework of National Consultations on Goals and Objectives of Global Development Program after 2015. Ashgabat, UNFPA, 2013. (Unpublished document) P.33.

**As viewed by school children under 15 years of age:** Environment with access to natural habitat, an animal-rich planet and plenty of water and water resources in the rivers and lakes were among the most popular and most discussed topics among children. They would like to see a lot of nature preserves and national parks with beautiful flora and fauna. Interestingly, they understand that there is a need not only to preserve nature, but also to enrich it. They often expressed their personal interest in enriching the natural environment around them by participating in various activities, including tree planting, etc.



**Voices:**

*“Our natural resources will be used for their intended purpose, the funds will be spent on the welfare of the Turkmen people and the peoples of the world.”*

*“A lot of greenery, trees and flowers around the world - will be cleaner air.”*

*“For clean air we need to plant trees. If each person plants two trees, our country will be green!”*

*“I want to be a chemist and clean air for people to be able to breathe clean air.”*

*“It is our duty to protect our natural environment. Because plants produce oxygen.”*

*“It would be better if all people do not pollute nature.”*

Turkmenistan we want 2015. The analytical report on the national consultations on the development program after 2015. Ashgabat: UNICEF, 2013. P. 23, 25

#### **CHAPTER 4. CONCLUSION: THE WAY TO MOVE FORWARD**

The participants of the post-2015 national consultations in Turkmenistan not only identified priorities and discussed the future they want, they also expressed their views about ways to move forward in implementing a sustainable development agenda and “The world we want” vision. The agenda suggested by all participants in the national consultations strongly puts forward the need for developing effective partnership involving government and government institutions, civil society organizations, private organizations and international organizations. In the case of Turkmenistan, mobilization and strong coordination between all stakeholders in the process would help optimize policies and policy initiatives.

All civil society organizations that participated in the national consultations showed a high level of interest in and knowledge about sustainable development and “The world we want.” The ideas, comments, cases and views expressed by the participants in the national consultations suggest there is a need to search for innovative ideas and approaches in developing better coordination mechanisms and capacity building for better policy analysis, information dissemination and policy development. This involvement illustrates that civil society organizations in Turkmenistan are mature enough to participate and be instrumental in implementing sustainable development programs and in searching for new innovative ideas especially at the grass-roots level. They also could be instrumental in communicating to the government and government agencies at all levels about ways of enhancing policy implementation.

The national consultations also revealed the need to involve the private sector in both the discussion and implementation processes. The participants, including farmers and entrepreneurs, emphasized that the private sector should be encouraged to take part in this process as active participants and to develop corporate social responsibility measures. Perhaps this clearly indicates that there is a huge potential for awareness building among private sector companies and individuals. The national consultations indicated a need for increased dialogue between the private sector, civil society and government in order to increase socially responsible contributions to the development of society.

In addition, representatives from youth should be more involved in policy discussion and the policy formulation process. Their contribution – as indeed the national consultations illustrated – might be very constructive as they add important nuances and often critically valuable details that translate into better understanding of ongoing processes and formulation of better policies. In addition, this communications development leads to a strong sense of ownership among the participants in the process.

The national consultations also revealed that there are opportunities to create synergies in working towards “The World we want.” For example the policy priorities and policy tools envisioned in the strategic “Program of Social and Economic Development of Turkmenistan until 2030” incorporate many ideas on sustainable development and progress in the life of citizens the government would like to achieve. The representatives of the government sector indicated that the government would continue to play a key role in future social and economic development. However, at the same time the government envisioned a greater role for other stakeholders.

## **Appendix 1**

### *List of Ministries and Government Agencies and Organizations*

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Nature Protection

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Labor and Social Protection

Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Economy and Development,

Ministry of Health,

Ministry of Interior

Ministry of Justice

State Statistical Committee, and

National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights

## **Appendix 2**

### ***List of the UN agencies and organizations***

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund

UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

IOM - International Organization for Migration

UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

WHO - World Health Organization

WB – World Bank

### Appendix 3

| Target Groups                               | Date(s)   | National Consultations in Numbers |       |        |      |   |             |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|------|---|-------------|
|   | In-person (focus group discussions, essay contests, survey) |                                   |       |        |      |   |             |
|   | Date(s) of Consultations                                    | Rural                             | Urban | Female | Male | Young people under 24 (including young people from refugee communities) | Total       |
| Civil Society/<br>Vulnerable Groups         | 14-15.05.2013   | 8                                 | 16    | 18     | 6    | 3   | 24          |
| Farmers and<br>Urban/Rural<br>Entrepreneurs | 16.04.2013;<br>18.04.2013                                   | 12                                | 12    | 1      | 23   | 0   | 24          |
| Women                                       | 24 -25.04.2013  | 10                                | 14    | 24     | 0    | 0   | 24          |
| Government<br>officials                     | 01.05.2013  | 0                                 | 12    | 3      | 9    | 0   | 12          |
| Members of<br>Parliament                    | 23.04.2013  | 7                                 | 5     | 4      | 8    | 0   | 12          |
| Youth (essay<br>writing)                    | 2-17.04.2013  | 436                               | 374   | 498    | 312  | 810   | 810         |
| Youth (focus<br>groups)                     | 23.03 - 16.04   | 62                                | 12    | 36     | 38   | 74  | 74          |
| Schoolchildren<br>under 15                  | 02.04.2013-<br>20.04.2013                                   | 282                               | 286   | 324    | 244  | 568   | 568         |
| Parents of children<br>under 7              | 05.04.2013-<br>19.04.2013                                   | 60                                | 83    | 137    | 6    |   | 143         |
| Local authorities                           | 02.04.2013-<br>20.04.2013                                   |                                   |       | 54     | 73   |   | 127         |
| <b>Total</b>                                |   |                                   |       | 1099   | 719  | 1455  | <b>1818</b> |
| Online survey                               |   |                                   |       | 27     | 25   |   | 52          |