

THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN TURKMENISTAN

COMMON COUNTRY ASSESSMENT

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ANNEX I: The United Nations in Turkmenistan and UN Reform

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UN CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CCA	Common Country Assessment
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CIC	National Commission for Implementation of UN Environmental Conventions
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EFA	Education for All
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FSU	Former Soviet Union
FWCW	Fourth World Conference for Women
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HABITAT	United Nations Conference on Human Settlement
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MOHMI	Ministry of Health and the Medical Industry
SAFI	State Agency for Foreign Investment
SFHD	State Fund for Health Development
STI	Sexually-transmitted Infection
TLSS	Turkmenistan Living Standards Survey
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCPCOT	UN Conference on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNODCCP	United Nations Office of Drug Control and Crime Prevention
UNS	United Nations System
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WCHR	World Conference on Human Rights
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WFS	World Food Summit
WHO	World Health Organization
WSC	World Summit for Children
WSSD	World Summit for Social Development

TERMS USED

<i>Archin</i>	Head of Gengeshy
<i>Khalk Maslakhaty</i>	People's Council
<i>Khalk Vekilleri</i>	People's Representative
<i>Khyakim</i>	Head of Velayat or Etrap
<i>Mejlis</i>	Parliament
<i>Velayat</i>	Province
<i>Etrap</i>	District
<i>Gengeshy</i>	Local Self-governance Unit
<i>Kolkhozes</i>	Agricultural Cooperatives
<i>Sovkhozes</i>	State Farms
<i>Turkmenmillihasabat</i>	Turkmenistan Statistics and Forecasting Agency

ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

Ashgabat (Capital City)	Dashoguz Velayat
Akhal Velayat	Lebap Velayat
Balkan Velayat	Mary Velayat

PART I: INTRODUCTION

A. THE UNITED NATIONS AND TURKMENISTAN

1. The United Nations (UN) is a unique international organisation of 189 sovereign states. Founded after the Second World War, it aims to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations and promote social progress, better living standards and human rights. Turkmenistan became a full member of the UN on 2 March 1992, the year after the break-up of the Soviet Union and the achievement of independence.
2. Since independence, Turkmenistan has made efforts to integrate itself into the international community. Membership of the UN has facilitated this process, helping it become a full partner within the family of nations. Although only a new member, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution approving Turkmenistan's status as a permanently neutral country on December 12 1995.
3. In 1990 the UN initiated a cycle of world conferences. Drawing on the best efforts of thousands of leaders and experts in many fields, the conferences enabled Member States to address some of the major developmental, economic, social and environmental problems of our time.
4. The conferences provided governments and civil society with an opportunity to re-think development policies and development cooperation, areas in which, despite impressive gains over the past five decades, international efforts have faltered in recent years. At each conference, Member States demonstrated the political will to reach agreement on a series of landmark declarations and plans of action. These established not only a basis for future work but also a gauge by which the implementation of the commitments can be monitored and renewed.
5. Turkmenistan has also participated in the UN Global Conferences and Summits, and is a signatory to key UN Conventions and Declarations. The UN System supports governments in their efforts to fulfil the commitments and obligations of various international agreements and conventions. These instruments, which were developed jointly by all member states, aim to create the positive global, national and local environments that allow people to flourish and enjoy their rights.

B. THE COMMON COUNTRY ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Description

6. The Common Country Assessment (CCA) is a UN System process that includes an overview of a country's development situation together with an analysis of the most important development challenges and key national priorities. It also includes examination of the status of national follow-up to UN Conferences and the implementation of UN Conventions and Declarations. It is therefore an important UN System tool to facilitate the implementation of the Secretary General's programme for reform described above.
7. The CCA process includes not only the UN System but also other key developmental and humanitarian assistance partners (government, civil society and international organisations) in Turkmenistan. The CCA involves a process of consultation and consensus building among the members of the UN System and its partners leading to a common understanding of the development situation and issues in the country.
8. The CCA process will take into account the large body of assessments and analytical work already undertaken by the UN System and its partners. Moreover, as a point of departure, there are existing UN System programmes in place in Turkmenistan as well as the agreements reached at UN Global Conferences and ratification of UN Conventions and Declarations.

Expected Outcomes

9. The CCA process (described below) will require considerable effort from the UN System and the other partners involved. These efforts are justified in light of the important outcomes of the CCA process and the value-added by the CCA document itself, including:

- More effective partnership between the UN System and the Government and people of Turkmenistan.
- Better co-ordination of activities within the UN System leading to more effective use of the financial and human resources provided through it.
- An improved basis for policy dialogue and advocacy among the partners in Turkmenistan's development process.
- An improved platform for mobilising external resources in support of Turkmenistan's priority development needs.
- A mechanism to facilitate better coordination of all external assistance beyond the UN System
- Increased capacity among the individuals and organisations involved in the CCA process

The CCA Process

10. The CCA is a process with the key output being the CCA Document. The CCA process is divided into three stages:

- **Assessment** – review where the country is in terms of its development situation and progress towards conference and convention commitments.
- **Analysis** – based on the initial broad assessment, key development challenges are identified and the partners select areas for detailed analysis. The analysis should identify underlying causes of the problems and the relationships among them.
- **Conclusion** – based on the above analysis the partners draw conclusions and decide on key issues for the priority attention by the UNS.

The CCA InfoBase

11. An information base – the CCA InfoBase – has been developed as a component of the CCA. This is a management tool for the UN System and its partners establishing a common source for all development indicators and other relevant qualitative information (such as reports and government programmes). It also allows progress towards achieving the goals of UN Summits and Conferences to be monitored and represents a key element of the process of preparing the CCA document.

United Nations Development Assistance Framework

12. The conclusions and key issues for priority attention identified in the CCA process by the UN System are agreed with national partners and form the basis for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The UNDAF lays the foundations for cooperation among the UN System, the government and other development partners through the development of a complementary set of programmes and projects. It is the planning framework for the development operations of the UN System at the country level and consists of common objectives, strategies of cooperation, a programme resource framework and proposals for follow-up, monitoring and evaluation.

C. THE FIRST TURKMENISTAN UN SYSTEM CCA DOCUMENT

13. The CCA process in Turkmenistan was started in late 1999 and as a result greater partnerships have been developed among the UN Agencies as well as some government organisations. Progress has also been made during 2000 on the development of the UN CCA InfoBase for Turkmenistan.

There are, however, some methodological issues concerning the data collected for the InfoBase and it is hoped that opportunities for further UN System partnership with government in statistical collection, analysis and dissemination can be identified.

14. A key lesson that has been learned during the past year, however, is that the CCA process cannot be hurried. While the rapid development of a complete CCA (within the four months proposed by the CCA Guidelines) may be desirable, in the specific context of Turkmenistan this has not been possible. The UN System in Turkmenistan is represented by a small number of agencies each facing human as well as financial constraints that make full participation in the CCA process difficult.

15. It was therefore decided by the UNCT to focus efforts on getting the first stage of the CCA right, the assessment of the current development situation, and make progress in developing the CCA InfoBase. In light of this, the first CCA document has been produced to lay the foundations for the next stage of the CCA process, the identification of the key development challenges facing the country, as well as for more effective partnership with government in the process.

16. In addition to this introduction the document is divided into four further parts that together will set out the current development situation in Turkmenistan in a comprehensive manner.

- **Part II: The Setting** – this provides the overall setting in terms of Turkmenistan's natural and human resources, its geography and cultural history
- **Part III: The Enabling Environment** – within this setting Part II describes the enabling environment for human development in terms of the governance of the country, the overall economic situation and the major economic sectors.
- **Part IV: The Human Dimension** – The fourth part examines the human dimension of the transition within this enabling environment to which it is closely linked.
- **Part VI: Cross Cutting Themes** – Finally, the UNCT has identified key cross-cutting themes that can be used to summarise some of the key issues identified in the previous parts.

PART II: THE SETTING

A. HISTORY

1. Turkmens have long inhabited the territory of present day Turkmenistan. For a long time the great Silk Road played an important part in Turkmens life: it greatly influenced the formation of intensive trade and cultural links between the people of Central and South Asia and of the Far East. From the 16th Century a part of today's Turkmenistan was controlled by the Khanates of Khiva and Bukhara Emirate. When Turkmen lands became part of Russian empire in 1876, a Trans-Caspian Sea Region was formed which included the present Territories of Mary, Akhal and Balkan velayats of Turkmenistan. In 1924 as a result of the national demarcation of Central Asia, the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic (TSSR) was formed which included not only the Trans-Caspian Sea region of the Turkmen Autonomous SSR (TASSR) but also the Turkmen region of Khiva and Bukhara, the present day Lebap and Dashoguz Velayats of Turkmenistan.

2. Both as part of the Russia or the former Soviet Union, the Turkmen SSR never enjoyed full sovereignty which would permit it to carry out an independent internal or foreign policy. On August 22, 1990 the Supreme Soviet of Turkmenistan declared a sovereign SSR. On October 27 of the same year the first President of Turkmen SSR, Saparmurat Niyazov was elected by national ballot. Turkmenistan is now an independent state formed by the result of the peoples will declared by a referendum on October 27 1991 and by parliamentary adoption of the official decision on independence.

B. GEOGRAPHY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

3. Turkmenistan is a desert country located in the western part of Central Asia on the shores of the Caspian Sea. The total land area is 488 thousand square kilometres and it is bordered by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Iran. The Northern and central parts of the country, covering about 80% of the total land area, is made up of the sand desert of Karakum. Only about 4% of the land is used/suitable for arable farming. Topographically, four-fifths of the territory is plane with the mountains and hills mainly located in the south of the country

4. The climate of Turkmenistan is sharply continental, with the exception of the inshore zone of the Caspian Sea and the mountains: summers are long, hot and dry: winters are cold. Average air temperatures. Rainfall averages 225 millimetres annually. Turkmenistan has significant oil and gas resources and per capital gas reserves are among the highest in the world. In addition to Oil and Gas, Turkmenistan is well endowed with other natural resources including substantial reserves of industrial strontium, bentonite, onyx and other types of natural stones. Turkmenistan also has a rich biodiversity including more than 2,500 species of wild plant and fauna, 600 species of invertebrates and 3,200 species of invertebrates. Among the flora and fauna are plants and animals native only to Turkmenistan.

C. THE PEOPLE

¹ Population

5. According to the 1995 national population census the population of Turkmenistan was 4.52 million of which 55% were living in rural areas. The estimated population for 2000 is about 5.2 million. The main ethnic groups are Turkmen (81%), Uzbeks (9.7%), Russians (4.3%) and Kazaks (1.7%). There are about 1030 women for every 1000 men in the country and this ratio has remained stable over the last 15 years. In 1995, about 48% of all women were within the reproductive ages of 15-49.

¹ Sources: UNFPA "Turkmenistan Country Population Assessment" (1999)

6. On average, the population density of the country is 9.1 per km² and ranging from Ashgabat 5,447 persons per km² to Balkan Velayat with 2.8 persons per km². Apart from Dashoguz and Mary Velayat (where the population densities are 12.7 and 11.9 respectively) the rest of the velayats have less than 10 people per km². Such low population densities are a notable demographic feature of Turkmenistan.

7. A second key feature of the population has been the rapid growth rate, an increase of approximately 24% between 1991 and 1997. As a result, and typical of a high fertility country, 40% of the population is under the age of 15 with about 6% aged 60 or above. The remaining 54% is in the age group 15-59. The average age of the population is about 23 years.

Basic demographic indicators		
	1990	1999
Population (thousands)	3,668.1	4,993.5
Population under 18 (% of total)	47	46

Source: Turkmenmillyhasabat

Migration

8. In the 1930s and 1940's, migration of skilled workers and specialists from other Soviet Republics played an important role in training and building skills among local labour. However, due to changes in the Soviet economic system in the 1980's and its subsequent collapse, Turkmenistan began experiencing net out-migration since the early 1980's. While the inflow of specialists and workers in local joint and leased ventures and private sector is increasing, there is a net outflow of trained urban population with industrial skills.

9. The main reason for this net outflow is the reduction in the size of the army after the country proclaimed neutrality and a return of a considerable number of military personnel to the Russian Federation and other CIS countries. The rate of out-migration is highest among specialists with higher education (39%) and for those with secondary specialised education (55%).

Refugees

10. Turkmenistan is now home to an estimated 19,000 asylum seekers and refugees. The great majority are Tajik refugees who fled Tajikistan at the time of the civil war. They are mostly ethnic Turkmen. There is also an increasing number of Afghan refugees and some individual cases from other countries. The Government has taken important steps to protect the rights of the asylum seekers and refugees, in compliance with international standards. Turkmenistan acceded to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol in March 1998. Turkmenistan signed a Cooperation Agreement with UNHCR in March 1998. A Refugee Law was adopted by the Mejlis in mid 1997, which meets international standards. However, pending implementation of the law by the government, UNHCR conducts refugee status determination for newly arrived asylum seekers on an ad hoc basis. The government is now in the process of examining how Turkmenistan will implement the refugee law and conduct refugee status determination, which is the primary responsibility of Turkmenistan.

PART III: THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

A. INTRODUCTION

11. At the time of independence in 1991, Turkmenistan was one of the least developed republics of the former Soviet Union. For decades the economy was geared to the production of raw materials with its agriculture sector based on the mono-culture of cotton. As a result the country found itself almost entirely dependent on the import of its food supplies and with little means for modern production.

12. Following independence, Turkmenistan embarked on a gradual – step-by-step – transition from a planned to a market economy as opposed to the rapid “shock therapy” approach adopted by many other post-socialist countries. The basis for this approach was recognition of the need to protect the living standards of the people during the transition. The process of transition to a market economy therefore implies both economic and social reorganisation and will be carried out carefully to minimise adverse effects such as increased inequalities, monopolisation of wealth and the tendency to exploit labour.

13. Political transformation has also been incremental with slow reform to promote good governance and institute the basic structures of democracy. Decision-making is still highly centralised and the role of the state strong and pervasive throughout society. The Government points to the stability this strategy has achieved and the lack of ethnic conflict that many of Turkmenistan’s neighbours have experienced.

14. In December 1999 the Government published the “Strategy for Socio-economic Development in Turkmenistan for the Period up to 2010” The programme will guide the development of the country over the next ten years and identifies four primary goals summarised below:

- Economic Independence: This includes high rates of economic growth and efficient use of natural and other resources; privatisation and support for entrepreneurship including guaranteeing ownership rights; further integration into the world economy and promotion of foreign investment, and; implementation of a tight budget to provide macro-economic stability.
- Food Safety: This includes increased supply of domestic goods in the market and strict quality control of agricultural exports and imported foodstuffs.
- Social Security: This provides for labour rights and employment for the population; an increase in the real incomes of workers; strengthening the social safety net for the vulnerable population, and; guaranteeing the inviolability of private ownership.
- Ecological Safety: This includes ensuring that industrial development takes account of environmental concerns; the prevention of ecological disaster in the Aral Sea region; provision of high quality drinking water for the population, and; the safe use of chemicals in agriculture and the prevention of soil erosion and salinization.

B. GOVERNANCE

15. Turkmenistan is administered on the basis of President’s rule and the political system is characterised by a strong presidency. The President is Head of State, chief executive and the executor of the national constitution. He is also the Prime Minister and chairs the only political party. As noted, Saparmurat Niyazov was elected the first President of Turkmen SSR before independence in 1990. After the adoption of the new constitution in May 1992, President Niyazov was re-elected in the second presidential election in June of that year. In 1994 a national referendum extended President Niyazov’s term for a further 5 years and on the Khalk Maslakhaty (see below) removed all limits on his term of office making him President for life.

16. The Khalk Maslahaty (People's Council) is the supreme legislative body. It is the only body empowered to make changes to the constitution - through nations-wide referenda - but its main function is to approve the overall direction of government policy. The President is Chairman of the Khalk Maslahaty and other members include the parliamentary deputies, one elected deputy from each etrap, the chairman of the supreme court, government ministers, judges and Governors (?)

17. The unicameral Mejlis (parliament) is the second legislative body. The Mejlis has 50 members who are directly elected by majority vote through constituencies. The term of office is five years

Local Government

18. The executive power in each Velayat and Etraps belongs to the Khakim who is the representative of the government and accountable to both government and President. Responsibilities for these levels of local government include implementing certain aspects of the privatisation programme, reform of agricultural enterprises, providing social protection to the people and supervising educational institutions, health services and social security systems.

19. While the Khakims are local representatives of the government, in towns, settlements and villages a different system exists. In 1993 Gengeshy – or Municipal councils – were established. This system of “self-governance” is based on traditional Turkmen structures such as village assemblies, councils of elders and women’s councils. The Gengeshy were given full power over their territory including, among others, control over the local budget, choice of direction in terms of social, economic and cultural affairs, decisions concerning local referenda and the regulation of land.

20. Members of the Gengeshy are elected by direct and secret ballot by people within the territory and are accountable to their electorate. The Gengeshy also nominates and dismisses archins – the bodies of executive power in the area– approves budgets and has the power to rescind archin decisions. In 1995, the Law on Khakims expressly forbids the khakims to interfere in issues left exclusively to the Gengeshy.

Civil Society and the Private Sector

21. There is a small but emerging civil society in Turkmenistan. According to the Constitutions and the 1991 Law On Public Associations in Turkmenistan, civic organisations are to protect the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and freedoms, to encourage people's participation in state governance and to satisfy their professional interests and other needs. Under the legal framework it is mandatory for all civic organisation to be registered but due to the slow and cumbersome process many operate under the umbrella of the Youth and Women’s Unions and others have their registration pending with the Ministry of Justice. While there are many fledgling civic organisations (recent estimates put the number at between 50 and over 300) there are also experienced organisations that have their roots in the soviet period but have extensive infrastructure and government support as well as branches in each velayat and etrap. The Women’s Union and Youth Organisation of Turkmenistan are examples of such civic organisations.

22. Although the basic legislation for private sector development is in place and most prices have been liberalised apart from some commodities and public utilities, economic activity continues to be dominated by the state. The state sector represents 60% GDP and employs 45% of the workforce. The issues of private sector development and the privatisation process are discussed later in this section.

Human Rights

23. The constitutional law on the Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan (December 27 1995) states that “Turkmenistan recognises and respects the fundamental democratic rights and freedoms, accepted by the world community and fixed in international law. Turkmenistan provides political, economic, legal and other guarantees for their implementation”.

24. In December 1995 Turkmenistan also adopted the declaration “On International Obligations of a Neutral Turkmenistan in the Sphere of Human Rights”. It confirmed Turkmenistan’s adherence to the aims and principles of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. It states the fact that Turkmenistan ensures human rights and freedoms provided by the Constitution as well as standards of international law to all people irrespective of race, sex, language, religion, political and other

beliefs, nationality and social status. The final Part of this document – UN Conferences and Conventions – list the international conventions and other instruments ratified by Turkmenistan.

25. In 1996 the Turkmen National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights was established under the President. The Institute is responsible for developing the strategy of administrative decentralisation and strengthening the activities of local administrations. In addition, it acts as an ombudsman and will consider citizens appeals against officials as well as work to restore rights to individuals where they have been violated.

C. ECONOMIC TRANSITION²

26. The basis of economic transition has been guided by the three pronged strategy described in sections above that can be summarised as:

- An incremental stage by stage approach to economic reform
- The leading role of the state in the management of economic processes
- The provision of strong state support for the social needs of the population

27. The initial impact on the economy following independence was severe and output fell significantly until 1998. At the low point in 1997, real GDP was less than 60% of the level in 1999. Even with growth in 1998 and rapid growth in 1999 its level is only at 64% of 10 years earlier. It is important to note, however, that this performance is still better than all but two of the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Basic Economic Output Indicators									
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
% Change Real GDP	-5	-5	-10	-19	-8	-8	-26	5	16
Change in Real GDP (1989=100)	97.2	92.1	82.8	67.3	61.8	56.8			64

Source: EBRD Transition Report 2000

28. Turkmenistan has a highly specialised, trade-dependent economy based largely on natural gas, oil and cotton which together account for about 85% of total exports. Consumer and investment goods are largely imported. Exports of gas have been limited by restricted access to international markets leading to exports being directed to some countries that have difficulty paying for them. This has been a major contributing factor to the decline in the economy since the start of the transition. More recent economic developments have been heavily influenced by the decision to discontinue gas exports in 1997, followed by a resumption of gas exports to Russia in 1999.

29. At present the Ministry of Finance and the economy manages less than 20% of government revenues and expenditures within the state budget. As noted above, the public sector in Turkmenistan is large but due to its non-transparent nature accurate measurement is difficult. In addition to the state budget, public finance includes (i) five major extra-budgetary funds (ii) the off-budget activities of a number of government committees and associations (iii) the off-budget activities of self-financing ministries (iv) the quasi-fiscal activities of public financial institutions (v) certain donor grants (vi) cross-subsidisation for essential goods and services by non-financial public enterprises.

30. To finance its ambitious investment programme the state has undertaken significant amounts of publicly guaranteed external debt which has been growing rapidly. There is, however, evidence that many investments have not yielded the expected returns and lack of transparency applies to debt management. Turkmenistan maintains high levels of reserves, equivalent to about 15 months of imports, although it is not clear how much of these are pledged as collateral on foreign borrowings.

31. After the break-up of the Soviet Union, prices rose sharply in Turkmenistan. Thereafter, tight monetary policy contributed to a slow-down in inflation which was reduced from 1,000% in 1995 to 20% in 1998. More recently, official statistics indicate that annual inflation was 8% as of November 2000. This recent price deceleration is attributable, in part, to two factors (a) good output performance

² Sources: IMF "Turkmenistan Recent Economic Developments" (1999); EBRD "Transition Report" (2000)??

in agriculture and energy, and; (ii) continuing use of barter, artificial prices and price controls for commodities and public utilities.

32. The Government maintains significant control over monetary policy and commercial banks lending activities. Restructuring of the banking sector in 1998 strengthened the government already significant ownership of the commercial banks. The majority of banks' lending operations consist of onlending by state banks of directed credits and foreign loans contracted or guaranteed by the government. Interest rate policy is limited as almost all central bank credit is provide at a zero interest to banks and the government.

D. MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY

The Energy Sector³

33. Turkmenistan's per capita natural gas reserves are among the highest in the world. In terms of markets it should be noted that two of its neighbours, Russia and Iran have the world's largest and second largest reserves of gas respectively. In addition to natural gas, Turkmenistan has considerable oil reserves. According to official statistics the oil and gas sector represents approximately more than half of GDP.

34. Oil production has increased at a steady rate since 1995 largely due to the reworking of old wells. Much of the work is being undertaken by Moldovian and Ukrainian technicians as part of their countries' efforts to reduce their indebtedness to Turkmenistan. In 1998 output was 131,000 barrels a day. With foreign assistance, the oil and gas industry is being restructured. These efforts include introducing international accounting standards and unified rule for oil field development; spinning off non-core activities, and; establishing six separate oil and gas companies.

35. The key issue for the oil and gas industry concerns the development of adequate gas pipelines. The regional pipeline for export of gas is controlled, however, by the Russian Federation, the only existing alternative being a being a pipe to feed the northern provinces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. While progress is being made among the various alternatives being proposed the issue remains largely a political one.

36. Electricity production was 8.8 billion kilowatt hours (kwh) in 1998 of which 2.7 kwh was exported. With excess electricity generation capacity, Turkmenistan has the capacity to increase its electricity exports.

The Agriculture Sector⁴

37. Agriculture is the second most important sector in the economy, accounting for about 19% of GDP (including production of cotton fibre) and 46% of employment in 1998. The territory of Turkmenistan is largely desert with irrigated arable land constituting less than 4% of the total available land. The most important cash crops are cotton and wheat; cotton is exported after processing into fibre while wheat is consumed domestically. Turkmenistan also produces livestock, fruit and vegetables for domestic consumption.

38. Cotton represented about 40% of total sown area in 1998. Raw cotton yields have declined in the 1990 from a level of 2.3 tons per hectare in 1990/95 to approximately 1.3 tons/hectare in 1997/98. These yields are significantly lower than those in other producers in the region. Wheat is the second most important crop and land used for wheat production has grown significantly in the 1990s in response to the government's programme to achieve self-sufficiency in grain. Yields have also declined and in 1998 were approximately 15% lower than in 1990.

39. Increased allocation of land for wheat has resulted in less land for other crops including grapes, melons, corn, potatoes and other vegetables, and animal feed crops. Livestock production by the

³ Sources: EBRD "Turkmenistan: Country Investment Profile" (2000); US EIA "Turkmenistan" (July 2000)

⁴ Sources: IMF "Turkmenistan: Recent Economic Developments" (1999), and; TACIS "Agriculture Sector: Summary of the Current Situation" (1999) .

state sector has declined in the last five years while production by individual households has increased.

40. Land Reform: At independence there were a total of 576 farms under the Ministry of Agriculture of which 372 were *kolkhozes* (typically 2,500 ha in size) and the remainder *sovkhozes* (typically 1,500 ha). Land reform started in 1993 with the conversion of subsidiary plots of land from inheritable possession to private ownership. These small plots are typically 0.01-0.25 ha in size and by early 1998 were held by over 470,000 families. At the same time virgin and unutilised land was transferred from the State Land Fund to private ownership and long-term lease (10-99 years, mainly 10-20 years).

41. In 1995 the *kolkhozes* and *sovkhozes* were converted to 570 farmers associations (*Daykhan Birlashik*) under a Presidential Decree. Although the state still owns land under farmer's associations, by the beginning of 1998, over 87% of land was under their control. Legislation was passed in 1996 facilitating the leasing of land from farmer's association to their members and in the following year there was a dramatic shift from collective farming in the associations to member leasing with the majority of farm association land now let to its members. Following a two-year period of probation, farmers may be given full ownership if the land has been used productively.

42. Pricing and the State Order System: State orders remain on the two most important crops, wheat and cotton with the government setting the procurement prices and providing inputs at subsidised prices and credit at below market rates. There are also small state orders for sugar beet and rice. State order procurement prices are lower than international prices although this is partially offset by the government subsidies.

43. Sectoral Agricultural Associations: Until 1996 all agricultural services, input supply, production, processing, marketing and research were the responsibility of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. In 1996 the Ministry was reorganised and became the Ministry of Agriculture and a number of associations previously under the control of the ministry were given autonomous status. Other associations became autonomous in 1997 and 1998.

- The state order system is managed by the bread and cotton associations who administer crop-planning to meet state orders, input supply, finance (with other state organisations), output marketing, processing, wholesaling, marketing and export.
- The Fruit and vegetable Association and the Food Industries association own and control the majority of food processing plants as well as administering the wholesale marketing system.
- The Livestock Association owns all cattle, sheep and camels and leases them to farmers with no charge. They also own and manage all other breeding and veterinary control services
- The Mechanical Services Association owns and manages all farm machinery previously owned by *kolkhozes* and *sovkhozes*

The Manufacturing and Services Sectors

44. After Agriculture and energy, most of the rest of the economy is related to the energy and cotton sectors: approximately one third of industrial production is oil and/or gas based while another third is based on cotton.

Communications

45. Transport: Turkmenistan has a well-developed transport network. The principle highway that connects the western and eastern parts of the country runs through all settled territories of the country. Rail links Turkmenistan to Europe, Afghanistan and through Iran to the Persian Gulf. From here transport is possible through Turkey to Europe. Turkmenistan's major port at Turkmenbashi is the biggest on the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea and provides sea and river links to Mediterranean and Baltic ports. Air transport is expanding and connects the country with the capitals and major cities of the CIS plus Europe, the Middle East and South Asia. While the overall national communications system may be good, a number of localities continue to be serviced by unpaved roads.

46. Telecommunications:

47. The Internet⁵: Penetration of the Internet is limited in Turkmenistan with only 1,200 registered users and an estimated 2,000 people with access. By international and regional standards this is comparatively low. Over 95% of registered Internet users are in Ashgabat and commercial ISPs have shown little interest in extending their services beyond the capital. In addition, technical problems mean that even if people outside Ashgabat would like dial-up access the connection would be very poor. Educational, medical, public and scientific institutions have limited access to the Internet largely due to budgetary constraints. Only one education institution, The Turkmen-Turkish University (representing approximately 3% of the student population) provides Internet access and instructs its students in these matters. Additional problems concern the lack of sites in the Turkmen language and the problem of developing a standard Turkmen language option for computers. Once this has been addressed, there will be a need to develop Turkmen content so as to increase demand for use of the internet.

48. Postal Services: Postal services play an important role in the communications sector of the country by using the well-developed transport network to distribute letters, postcards, parcels and newspapers, provide express mail services and transfer money through money orders. For the majority of the population outside the capital, access to other means of communications is restricted due to the poor quality of the telecommunications network. The postal service is socially oriented, easily accessible and has a solid reputation among the population. In line with the overall reform, the postal system is undergoing change by streamlining administration and improving its financial performance. As an extension of Internet penetration in the country the postal service can offer its well-developed network of post offices to create “communications centres” with a potential to provide public Internet and other global communications services within postal facilities.

E. PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Private Sector Development⁶

49. As noted in the above section on Governance, the private sector is limited in Turkmenistan by international, and even regional, standards. According to official statistics the private sector's share of GDP is approximately 25%. This is the lowest level among the transition countries of the FSU and CEE apart from Belarus but consistent with the government's transition strategy.

50. Estimates to its extent vary however, due to debates concerning what is the private sector – how is it defined. Turkmenstatprognoz defines “Non-state Enterprises” in the following way

- Private businesses
- Cooperatives
- Public Organisations
- “mixed-ownership” (state and non-state) entities without foreign capital
- “mixed ownership entities with foreign capital
- foreign businesses

51. There is evidence that the growth in individual entrepreneurs is greater than the growth in legally registered business entities, indicating the importance of private sector development in Turkmenistan. Entrepreneurs are defined as single persons who engage in business “without creating a legal person”. It should also be noted that trading activities represent the largest and fastest growing sector of private sector business.

⁵ UNDP “ Report on the Status of the Information Technology Development in Turkmenistan” (2000)

⁶ USAID “Administrative and Regulatory Environment for Business in Turkmenistan” (2000) plus update statistics from??

52. Whatever the number of private sector businesses, there are a number of barriers to development faced by most, if not all of them. These include a number of administrative constraints, the key ones being:

- Registration of import/export contracts with the State Commodity Exchange
- Restrictions on access to hard currency
- Business licensing
- Business registration
- Inspection and audits by government bodies
- Customs and product certification

Privatisation⁷

53. Consistent with the overall economic development strategy the approach to privatisation has been gradual and aimed at avoiding abrupt economic changes. The 1993 Law on Denationalisation and Privatisation of State Property was followed by a National Privatisation Programme that listed 4,343 enterprises to be privatised. By end 1998 only 1,948 enterprises had been privatised and most of these had been sold early in the process. The process has since slowed down so that by mid-1999 only 52 additional enterprises had been privatised.

54. Most of the enterprises sold have been small-scale, mainly in the trade and catering businesses. Privatisation of larger entities has been even slower with only 43 (update) sold. Approximately 75% of enterprises were sold directly to management and employees while the remainder were sold through auctions. Only a few were sold directly to outside buyers. A number of factors have resulted in the slow progress

- *Limited set of enterprises eligible for privatisation:* Other than the small scale enterprises many were non-operating or loss-making units often with obsolete technologies. In addition, the privatisation process excluded enterprises in the oil and gas, transportation, communications and social sectors.
- *Lack of a coherent institutional framework:* There are three agencies involved in the privatisation process none of which has ultimate responsibility for execution of the programme and all of which report to different deputy-Chairman in the Cabinet of Ministers. In addition various other state organisations could effectively veto the selection of organisations for privatisation.
- *Reservation prices:* The reservation prices for enterprises offered for sale at book value rather than at a realistic price that would attract buyers.
- *Restrictions imposed on buyers:* Such restriction include maintaining the business profile for a number of years or retaining a certain number of employees. The government has also exercised residual control in many of the larger enterprises through retaining a controlling equity share
- *Lack of transparency and consistency:* Investor confidence has been undermined by arbitrary cancellation of tenders and auctions and the interference of government agencies in the privatisation process.

Foreign Direct Investment⁸

55. According to official statistics, over \$800 million of foreign direct investment (FDI) has been made over the last nine years, accounting for approximately half of total new investment. The total FDI for 1999 was US\$ 125 million compared to US\$62 million in 1998.

56. FDI can take several forms including limited liability companies, various forms of partnership, open and closed joint-stock companies and representative offices. Due to limited privatisation most foreign companies have joint ventures with the government. Before a foreign company can begin

⁷ IMF "Turkmenistan Recent Economic Developments" (1999)

⁸ EBRD "Turkmenistan: Country Investment Profile" (2000)

operations it must be registered by the State Agency for Foreign Investment (SAFI) which assesses the feasibility of the project and its likely economic impact. Preference is generally given to so-called "priority projects" as defined by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. These include gas, communications, telecommunications, transportation, industry, irrigation, agricultural investments, textiles and health.

57. The Law on Foreign Investment is the principle piece of legislation concerning FDI in Turkmenistan. There are however no rules governing either the protection of property rights or contractual rights. In 1995 Turkmenistan signed the World Intellectual Property Organisation's (WIPO) 1883 Paris Convention on Industrial Property Rights and the International Treaty on Patent Cooperation. Turkmenistan also joined the Eurasian Patent Organisation that was created for the CIS countries as part of WIPO.

58. In 1992, ten free economic zones were established but only the one at Ashgabat Airport is fully operational and actively conducting business. Lack of government financial support and the slow development of the private sector are the main reasons for the slow development and weak performance of the other free zones and ports.

PART IV: THE HUMAN DIMENSION

A. INTRODUCTION

59. Although Turkmenistan benefited from many of the social achievements of the Soviet system, at the time of independence it was one of the poorest republics. Based on the 1989 Family Budget Survey about 12% of the population had a month per-capita income below the level of 75 Rubles, which was identified as the “socially acceptable minimum”. In addition life expectancy at 66 was the lowest in the region and its infant mortality rate of 55 per 1,000 live births the highest.

60. As noted in the previous section, a key element of the Government's strategy has been to ensure the social protection of the population during the transition period. It has attempted to do this in the face of declining economic output already described. Turkmenistan has managed to keep the vast majority of the population out of poverty, although recent surveys indicate that many are living just above the poverty line. These surveys suggest that the elasticity of poverty reduction with respect to growth is approximately 1.75 or in other words 5% growth would reduce those living under the poverty line by 9%. For that to happen it is essential that the government ensures that it has a well-educated, healthy population and that it facilitates the development of productive opportunities for as many of the people as possible. The current situation in terms of the human dimensions of the transition is described below.

B. HEALTH

Health Status

61. Infant and maternal mortality rates have been decreasing but remain high: 32.9 per 1000 live births (1998) and 64.5 per 100,000 live births (1998) respectively. One of the determinants of maternal mortality is the poor health status of women. In 1996 52.3% of pregnant women were anaemic, which is often related to frequent childbirth, small birth space and inadequate nutrition. The main causes of infant mortality are respiratory diseases (19.9 per 1000 born), infectious diseases (11.4 per 1000 born) and perinatal conditions (6.1 per 1000 born)

62. General mortality rate in 1998 was 6.35 per 1000 population. The main causes of death were cardiovascular disease (229.6 per 100,000 population), respiratory disease (142.3), parasitic diseases (70.6) and injuries and poisoning (48.9). The number of cardiovascular, respiratory and endocrine system and blood diseases continues to increase while mortality from cancer and from injury and poisoning has been falling. Overall life expectancy is low and has been stagnant since the start of the transition.

63. The syphilis morbidity rate in 1998 is seven times higher than in 1992. It should be noted however that these figures probably underestimate the real problem since estimates of health care seeking behaviour is about 30%. At present there are only two official cases of HIV/AIDS registered in Turkmenistan. Given the rapid increase in the incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the last 8 or so years and the common way in which they can be transmitted the risk of considerably higher levels of HIV/AIDS is realistic. A major issue concerns the lack of equipment to test for HIV/AIDS. The National Programme on the Prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs was adopted in September 1999 for a 5-year period aiming to the decrease morbidity from STIs and to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. The programme still requires significant support through improved public awareness.

Reproductive Health Services and Family Planning

64. Most women (94% in 1996) deliver in a health facility although the number of women delivering at home has increased significantly since 1990 (from 1% to 6%.) The IUD remains the most widely used form of contraception largely as a result of its availability and familiarity of women and providers. Although in 1990 IUD accounted for 96 of contraceptive use, by 1996 this had fallen to 85% with the prevalence rate for modern contraceptive methods growing to 15%. One major reason for the low use of modern contraception is the unreliable supply together with inadequate or erroneous knowledge of consumers or providers. In addition there appears to be some reluctance by health practitioners to

encourage oral contraceptives as a result of research undertaken in the Soviet-era. Induced abortion appears to be a major means of family planning in Turkmenistan although the country has a whole has witnesses a decline of about 10% over the last 5 years.

The Health System

65. Operation of the health system is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry (MOHMI) although management of health services is effectively undertaken at two levels: the MoHMI and the Velayat Health Administrations. Each Velayat Health Administration reports to both the Velayat Khakim and the MOHMI. Generally, policy is made at the national level and administered locally. At the level of etrap, the director of the etrap hospital is responsible for health service delivery including primary health care services

66. Turkmenistan inherited the health care legacy of the former Soviet Union, a colossal and highly specialised system. There was excessive use of hospital services with 17.5% of the population hospitalised in 1995 with an average stay of 15 days. The medical system was mainly oriented towards curative care and was of declining quality.

67. In order to increase efficiency and quality of health care, the Presidential Health Programme was initiated on 21 July 1995. In 1999 the government prepared a plan for the realisation of the Programme. The main elements of the programme are to:

- Establish the family doctor system
- Implement medical insurance systems
- Reform health care system financing
- Strengthen primary health care and rationalise the number of beds
- Increase the production of pharmaceuticals

68. In addition to the overall health reform programme, the government has developed strategies and programmes to address specific issues including a National Strategy on Reproductive Health in Turkmenistan 2000 and a National Programme for the Prevention of AIDS/STIs (1999-2003).

Financing the Health Sector

69. The Health care system is largely financed from the Government budget and from the State Fund for Health Development which is financed from contributions for Voluntary Medical Insurance as well as some fees and co-payments. Resources from the SFHD are then used to pay compensation for insured persons, purchase essential drugs and medical equipment, finance research and social programmes, and purchase modern medical technology. Insurance coverage was about 90% in 1999. Overall budget contributions to the health sector have varied significantly since the start of the transition. Health care expenditure fell from 3.2% of GDP at the start of the transition in 1991 to 0.8% of GDP in 1994, increasing to 4.6% in 1997. The Presidential target is to increase it to 5.5% by the year 2000.

Progress towards UN health goals and obligations

70. According to official statistics, Turkmenistan has already met some of the key UN health goals and is progressing well towards others

UN Health Goals			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal accessibility of primary health care (ICPD/WSSD/FWCW) • Universal access to reproductive health services and information by 2015 (ICDP) • Universal access to safe/reliable contraception methods (ICPD) • Reduction of IMR by 1/3 of 1990 level and below 35 per 1000 by 2015 (ICPD/WSSD/FWCW/WSC) • Mortality rate at ages <5 reduced by 2/3 of 1990 level by 2015 (ICPD/WSC) • MMR reduced by ½ of 1990 levels by 2000 and a further ½ by 2015 (ICPD/WSSD/FWCW/WSC) • Universal immunisation against measles (WSC) 			
	1990	1999	Goals
Access to primary health services (% of population)		100%	100%
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	114.1	64.5	57 (2000) 28 (2015)
Births attended by skilled personnel (% of total births)			
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	45.2	25.4	>30 by 2015
Under 5 Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)			> ? by 2015
1 year olds immunised against measles (%)		98	100%
Contraception prevalence rate			
HIV prevalence rate			
HIV prevalence in pregnant women < 25			

Sources and notes in the "Selected Tables from the CCA Indicator Database" section

C. EDUCATION

75. The individual's right to education is fixed with the Turkmenistan Constitution, which states that "Each citizen has the right to education. General Secondary education is compulsory: everyone has the right to obtain it free of charge from state educational institutions. The State ensures access to education for all – professional, secondary, vocational or higher education in conformity with individual capabilities".

Education Sector Overview

71. In 1993, a new Education Law was adopted that set out the basic areas of reform of the education sector. The law provides all citizens regardless of their ethnic origin, social status and gender with free education. It aims at improving the training process, quality of education, teacher training, development of individual abilities and vocational training. It is building on the high levels of education achieved during the soviet era. According to the 1995 census, literacy for the 9-49 age group was 99.8%. The system also provides a high degree of gender equality at all levels.

72. The education sector consists of a number of layers, namely:

- Pre-school
- Basic Compulsory (primary and secondary)
- Specialised Secondary
- Vocational
- Tertiary

Pre-school Education

73. Between 1991 and 1993 there was an increase in the number of pre-school institutions although enrolments were declining. After 1993, the number of pre-school institutions declined rapidly, mostly in rural rather than urban areas (decline of 46% and 1% respectively – and mostly in Dashoguz). A major cause of this was reform of the agriculture sector that led to closing of cooperative farms that previously supported the pre-schools.

74. Unlike other area of the education system cost recovery has been introduced into the pre-school system. Fees range from 20,000-40,000 Manat per month with more being charged to high-income earners (those earning more than 200,000 Manat per month). The high fees are a deterrent to using the system and a likely cause of the declining demand.

75. Children can start pre-school at virtually any age below 7 although 4 is usual. Pre-schools have nurses to look after the health of children up to the age of 3 in a nursery group. All children attending

receive four meals a day. In response to the issues in the pre-school sub-sector the Government has drafted a National Programme on Pre-school Education for 2000-2005.

Basic Compulsory Education:

76. Education is compulsory from the age of 7. A key reform of the 1993 education law was the reduction in the number of years of compulsory education from 10 to 9 in Turkmen schools, although it remains 10 years in Russian Schools (there are variations to this for example in Kazak and Turkish/Turkmen Schools.) Basic education is divided into two parts:

- "Literacy" or primary level (Grades 1 to 3)
- "General Knowledge" or secondary level (grades 4 to 9 or 10)

77. Access to basic education is good with 98% of all 7-year old children enrolled in school (1996) and 95% of all children ages 7-16 in school (1996). Repetition and dropout rates are low, less than 2% and 3% respectively. Females represent about 49% of enrolments.

78. Teacher student ratios remain low and teachers are generally well qualified with 72% having higher education. Teachers salaries are very low and the attrition rate high with the result that teacher shortages are becoming a severe problem. Physical deterioration of school buildings and facilities is also leading to problems. The combination of this and teacher shortages means that many schools (over half in 1996/7) have double and triple shifts. Student attendance is also comparatively low at an average of only four hours a day and 150 days a year compared to the norm of at least 5 hours a day for 180 days a year.

Specialised Secondary Education

79. These are post-secondary institutions for training of teachers, medical staff and artists (including musicians) plus one school for railway workers. There are six schools for training teachers and six for medical staff: in both cases one in Ashgabat and one in each of the five Velayats.

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

80. The VET system in Turkmenistan consists of three parts:

- Pre-employment for youth before they join the labour force.
- Up-dating and up-grading of workers during employment which is usually enterprise base.
- Retraining of adults for new occupations when they have, or are about to, become unemployed.

81. Responsibility for the system was removed from the State Association of Vocational Training and Education (SENET) in mid-1997. About 21 of the institutions became the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, while some 85 became part of the sectoral ministries. Those under the Ministry of Education are self-financing.

Tertiary Education

82. There are 15 public and one private higher education institutions in Turkmenistan (1997) all of which are permitted to award higher education degrees. Of these the majority (13) is in Ashgabat with one in Mary and one in Turkmenabat. The length of study varies from four to six years and over 32,000 students are enrolled (1996/7).

83. However higher education enrolment declined by 39% between 1991 and 1995 and the decline is also evident in data collected for the Turkmenistan Living Standards Survey (TLSS) which revealed an enrolment rate of 11% (18-21 year olds) versus the 37% of the population aged between 23 and 49 who should have completed higher education by the time of the survey in 1998.

Special education and orphans⁹

84. Data is not available on the number of orphans and disabled children in Turkmenistan. There are now only three schools for orphans, down from five in 1997/98, with 442 children. There are 15 schools for the disabled with 2,448 children, down from a high of 3,032 children in 1994/95. *Integration? - policy on/potential for.*

⁹ UNICEF "Situation Analysis of Basic Education in the Central Asian Republics and Kazakhstan" (2000)

Progress towards UN education goals and obligations

85. As noted above Turkmenistan inherited impressive educational achievements at the time of independence and, with some exceptions such as pre-school education, has managed to maintain these levels throughout the transition. Enrolment in primary education has fallen to 97.5% in 1999 but this is an increase from 92% in 1995. In this respect progress is being made and the goal of universal access to primary education should be met by 2015.

86. Literacy levels are very high with the 1995 census indicating adult literacy of 98.8 (15 years and older) with the rate among 15-24 year olds 99.8. Although technically, the targets may not have been met this is irrelevant with these extremely small levels of illiteracy.

Progress Towards UN Education Goals			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Universal access and completion of primary education by 2015 (EFA/FWCW/WSC/ICPD)• Adult illiteracy reduced by ½ 1990 level by 2015 (EFA/WSSD/FWCW)• Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 (ICPD/WSSD/FWCW)			
	1990	1998	Goals
Access to primary education	100%	97.5%	100% by 2015
Completion of primary education			100% by 2015
Illiteracy – adult	0.3%	0.2%	½ of 1990 by 2000
Illiteracy – 15-24 year olds		0.1%	½ of 1990 by 2000
Ratio of boys to girls in secondary education			1:1 by 2005

Sources and notes in the "Selected Tables from the CCA Indicator Database" section

87. Although Turkmenistan did not participate in the World Education Forum held in Jomtien in 1990 (it was still part of the Soviet Union), in 1999 the Ministry of Education appointed an Education for All Committee for reporting on progress made over the last decade. The Committee prepared the required report and submitted it to the Council of Ministers for approval in August 2000. In spite of the substantial assistance provided at the Government's request the report was never approved and sent to UNESCO. The Government has provided no explanation for this omission, which has made Turkmenistan the only country of the CIS and Caucasus region failing to fulfil this year's EFA reporting requirement.

The Government of Turkmenistan was represented by two senior education officials at the UN sponsored Global Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal in April 2000. Both were sponsored by UNICEF and UNESCO Offices in Ashgabat and Almaty respectively. As a direct outcome of the conference, the "Global Education for All (EFA) Framework for Action was unanimously adopted by all UN member countries. IN follow-up to the Dakar meeting, member states are encouraged to establish National EFA Working Groups with an aim to developing a National EFA Plan of Action for the period 2000-2015.

In support of national efforts and commitments agreed upon at the meeting, UNICEF, UNDP and UNESCO organised a National EFA Roundtable in Ashgabat in September 2000 at the request of the Turkmen authorities. The roundtable served to familiarise a core group of 12 senior Turkmen officials with the six major goals as set out in the Global EFA Framework for Action, and to discuss subsequent activities regarding the process and development of the National EFA Plan of Action

It is envisaged that the leadership of the National EFA Working Group will be entrusted to a recognised education official and that the Group will be multi-sectoral in its representation. The National EFA Plan of Action should then be completed in 2002. It is worth noting that Turkmenistan was the first Central Asian country that expressed concrete interest in pursuing and implementing follow-up activities to the Global Conference in Dakar. The National roundtable mentioned above is the first of these UN-sponsored EFA activities, with more planned in 2001 and beyond.

D. LIVING STANDARDS

88. The large decline in economic output described in Part I has inevitably had an impact on the living standards of the people in Turkmenistan. While the governments strategy has been to protect the people during the hardship the massive economic decline in the early 1990s has left a significant portion of the population with low standards of living.

Relative and Absolute Poverty

89. In 1998 the Turkmenmillyhasabat (then Turkmenstatprognoz) undertook a survey of living standards in the country. The Turkmenistan Living Standards Survey (TLSS) was undertaken with the technical and financial support of the World Bank and covered a representative sample households.

90. As in any country the estimates of living standards are sensitive to the selection of the methodology and the basis by which it is calculated. Among the many options, in Turkmenistan the measure of 50% of mean consumption is used to estimate the number of people with low living standard. Using this method the TLSS estimated that in 1998 29% of the population had low living standards.

91. Characteristics of the People with low living standards: The Turkmenistan Living Standards Survey revealed a number of characteristics of the poor, or more specifically the bottom 20% of the income or expenditure distribution. Key characteristics include:

- Low living standards are more common in rural areas – 80% of the bottom income quintile live in rural areas
- Households with low living standards have more children
- Households with low living standards have much less access to piped water – only 24% of the bottom income quintile have access to piped water.

92. It is also interesting to note that the share of the budget represented by food varies little across the income distribution and hardly any at all across the first three income quintiles. Average levels of education are also quite constant especially for the first four income quintiles.

Household Characteristics by Expenditure Quintile					
	% of Pop Living in Rural Areas	Dependent Ration of Children 17 or younger	Dependent ratio Of Old People 60 or Older	Average Years of Education of Household Head	Average Age of Household Head
Bottom 20%	79.5	51.0	4.5	9.6	47
II	66.6	46.7	6.0	9.9	46
III	64.7	41.4	6.1	9.9	48
IV	46.8	39.6	9.7	9.7	47
Top 20%	27.9	27.8	19.5	10.4	50
	Mean expenditure per capita (Manat/month)	Food Budget Share	Number of Persons per Room	Square meters per person	Percent of Population with Piped Water
Bottom 20%	63,476	54.5	0.49	12.2	24.0
II	107,228	54.7	0.53	12.6	32.4
III	151,124	54.8	0.61	14.1	39.3
IV	224,523	51.6	0.67	15.0	60.3
Top 20%	494,496	44.4	0.79	15.5	74.2

Source: World Bank (2000) A Profile of Living Standards in Turkmenistan

93. Inequality: The Turkmenistan Living Standards Survey revealed a Gini Coefficient of 0.41 (where 0 indicates equal distribution)

94. Household Food Security: According to official statistics the per capita consumption of calories (kkal) has increased steadily from 2118 in 1995 to 2270 in 1999. This is equivalent to 99.6 of the estimated required amount.

95. Progress towards UN World Conference goals and obligations: Progress towards UN poverty goals has been difficult to measure due to difficulties with comparing the data from different periods.

Employment

96. Turkmenistan officially guarantees employment to every citizen and as a result unemployment figures remain low. Estimates made from the 2000 Workforce Survey conducted by Turkmenmillyhasbat and the TLSS are similar with unemployment at around 15%. The TLSS estimates that unemployment was 19% in urban and 11% in rural areas. Among the bottom income quintile in urban areas unemployment was considerably higher than the national average reaching 31% whilst in rural areas unemployment levels are similar across the bottom four quintiles. This may suggest a high level of underemployed people in rural areas.

97. Employment status is closely linked with educational level as those with higher education have a better chance of being employed. The difference between those with and without secondary education is small but increases when comparing those with secondary and those with higher education. In addition the 2000 Workforce Survey revealed that almost one third of the unemployed believed that they needed vocational training or retraining in order to get a job or start a private business.

98. The government sets a minimum wage and calculates an official average wage as the basis for the computation of social benefits. The private sector is free to set its own wages but such enterprises are subject to an excess wage tax in an attempt to control wage increases. A tax of 50% is levied on wages paid in excess of 1.5-2 times the "official average economy wide range".

The Social Protection System

99. Effective social protection of the population is one of the cornerstones of the Governments transition strategy. The Social Protection System in Turkmenistan consists of 6 basic components:

- Pensions
- Subsidies
- Social Allowances
- Social Assistance
- Employment Services
- Social Services

100.Pensions: The pension system provides protection for old age, disability and for the loss of a breadwinner. The basic retirement age is 62 years for men (after 25 years of work) and 57 for women (after 20 years of work). While the amount of pension depends on the length of work experience, type of employment and salary, it is independent of the recipients' additional income. Reform of the pension system to make it more appropriate for the new economic and social environment started in 1999.

101.Subsidies: Flour, bread and baby-food are provided at highly subsidised prices and salt is available free of charge. Of these only subsidised flour is rationed and ration coupons are available only to those households with a monthly income below a certain limit. Electricity, water and gas are provided free of charge up to a generous limit and at highly subsidised prices thereafter. Housing and related communal utilities such as hot water, heating and sanitation are also virtually free of charge.

102.Social Allowances: These allowances are also paid from the Pension and Social Security Fund and include payments to low-income families and to families with children (irrespective of income), allowances for persons who take care of disabled people, and death, disability and veterans benefits.

103.Social Assistance:¹⁰ In late-1999 the government launched a system to provide assistance to the most needy in local communities. Commissions have been established at the etrap and town level to identify beneficiaries of the on-off payments to people in particular need. The commissions consist of representatives of the local government; the ministries of economics, health and education; and the council of elders.

¹⁰ World Bank Living Standards

104. **Employment Services:** In 1997 Labour Exchanges were established by Presidential Decree to be headed by the Velayat Khakims and the City of Ashgabat. The exchanges were quickly established and bring together the unemployed looking for work with employment opportunities. In 1998 24,000 people, 30% of those who applied, received employment opportunities through the labour exchange. There was less demand from rural population for employment services and the TLSS reveals that only 29% of the rural unemployed are looking for work versus 48% in urban areas. In addition, the TLSS revealed that many respondents did not know of the existence of the Labour Exchanges.

105. **Social Services**¹¹: Social care is underdeveloped in Turkmenistan. More often it is within the traditional extended family that the burden of social care lies. Hospitals are often housing people who would be better placed in social care institutions. Social services, where available, are provided free of charge to the elderly, either in their homes or in institutions.

106. Additional elements of the Social Safety Net described elsewhere include (i) free access to basic education and primary health care (ii) the minimum wage, and (iii) access to land and other productive assets

107. The idea of free health care needs to be qualified as fees for specific services have been introduced incrementally since independence. Charges are made for all pharmaceuticals prescribed for out-patients unless covered by voluntary medical insurance or otherwise exempt. Services for which fees are payable include self-referred patients, dental care and physical therapy. Certain groups have complete access to free medical services including disabled persons, [pregnant women, children under one year.

108. According to the TLSS people often need to use their own resources to purchase medicine and medical equipment often unavailable in health facilities. The proportion of household budgets spent on such items is quite high at 10% for urban dwellers and 8% in rural areas. However only a few poor people cited "too expensive" as the reason for not seeking medical care with the majority of poor respondents (80%) citing self-medication.

E. HOUSING AND DOMESTIC UTILITIES¹²

Water and Sanitation

109. Only 42% of the rural population and 85% of the urban population have access to safe drinking water. Water supplies with high rates of chemical and bacterial contamination on surface waters are used. Only 45% of urban and 2% of the rural population have toilets connected to the central sewerage system and about 75% of urban sewerage discharges are not purified at the purification stations. The President of Turkmenistan initiated the programme on Development of Water Supply to the People in 1998-1999 to address this issue.

Housing¹³

110. Current legislation provides every citizen with the right to housing. The share of private housing at the national level is approximately 70% with 95% of the rural population and 37% of urban people owning private houses or apartments. According to official statistics the average floor space per person in urban areas is 11.8 m² while in rural areas it is 12.2 m². The TLSS reveals slightly higher figures at 13.3m² and 18.4 m² respectively.

Progress towards UN goals and obligations for basic household amenities and facilities

111. Although Turkmenistan is making progress towards achieving the UN Goals of 100% sustainable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation it has some way to go to achieve them in particular in rural areas.

¹¹ WHO "Health Care Systems in Transition: Turkmenistan" 2000

¹² Turkmenistan NHDR 1999

¹³ Turkmenistan NHDR 1999

UN Goals for Basic Household Amenities and Facilities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of sufficient living space and avoidance of overcrowding (HABITAT II) • Universal access to safe drinking water: full coverage of drinking water supply by 2025 (WCW/WSSD/UNCED) • Universal sanitary waste disposal (WCW/WCS/WSSD/UNCED) 			
	1990	1999	Goals
Number of persons per room			N/a
Average floor area per person		12m ²	N/a
Sustainable access to safe drinking water (% of pop.)		60???	100% by 2025
Access to adequate Sanitation (% of population)		58.6	100%

Sources and notes in the "Selected Tables from the CCA Indicator Database" section

F. NEW PROBLEMS FOR SOCIETY

14 Crime

112. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs the number of registered crimes has fallen consistently since 1992 and by approximately 17% over the past few years. The most widespread crime is larceny representing approximately 27% of the total although it fell at the same rate as total crime. In the same period there have been significant increases in fraud, embezzlement and bribery. Official statistics suggest that the situation does not vary significantly by *Velayat*.

113. These statistics are, however, limited to registered crime. The 1997 Turkmenistan Living Standards Survey revealed that approximately one third of crimes go unreported. While all serious crimes are reported in the case of robberies only 33% are. For over half of respondents the reason of underreporting was due to a belief in the ineffectiveness of the law enforcement agencies. For 11% it was due to lack of access to law enforcement bodies at the time or near the place of incident.

Drug Trafficking and Abuse¹⁵

114. According to the Turkmenistan Ministry of Health the number of drug addicts increased dramatically in the previous years. While in 1987, there were only 21 drug addicts registered within a population of 100,000, by 1997 this number had already doubled. According to Turkmen officials in 1996 4,087 drug users were registered. This figure increased to 5,809 in 1997. In 1999 16,103 drug addicts were registered, 10,445 out of them have the diagnosis "drug addict". Around 80% of the registered drug users and addicts use opiates and 20% are using cannabis. Although there are no figures available for the total addicts and it is hard to obtain it, the health authorities assure that the use of heroin is increasing dramatically. Also the demographic structure of opiates users has changed. The Government of Turkmenistan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 1996 pledging cooperation with its Central Asian neighbours (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) in the fight against drugs. On February 21, 1996, Turkmenistan acceded to the 1988 UN drug convention, the 1961 UN Single Convention and its 1972 Protocol, and the 1971 UN Convention Psychotropic Substances.

A new Penal Code entered into force on 1 January 1998, stipulating in Articles 292 to 301 penalties for drug trafficking, use of precursors and illicit cultivation. The manufacture, possession, sale and use of illicit narcotics are illegal under the new criminal code. The efforts that have been undertaken to date and the efforts we will have to mount if we are to reduce the illicit drug trafficking into Western Europe and elsewhere. As you know, the production of opium has increased. In this connection drug traffickers are seeking for new routes to distribute drugs. Recently they are trying to use the territory of Turkmenistan for transit. Turkmenistan, like all countries in Central Asia is facing an increasing domestic drug problem. The border guards, customs service share responsibility for stopping the flow of drugs. Well-armed smugglers use advanced communication systems to evade Turkmen border forces. Drug smugglers have stepped up their activities on the borders of Turkmenistan. Previously, opium had been the most common opiate drug seized in Turkmenistan. At the end of 1997, however, the Turkmen Security Service seized large quantities of heroin – nearly 2,000 kg.

¹⁴ Reported in draft NHDR 2000

¹⁵ UNOPCCP

Annual Drug Seizures (Kgs)				
	1996	1997	1998	1999
Opium	1,750	1,410	1,412	2,600? <i>Fax unclear</i>
Heroin	89.2	1948.6	495	240
Cannabis	12,270	37,857	22,249	10,413
Others				
Total(in Kgs)	14109	41216	24157	33,096

Source: Turkmenistan Authorities

This trend is expected to continue with the expansion of international air and rail links. It has also been observed that many clandestine laboratories for heroin are situated along the traditional smuggling routes of Central Asia.

PART V: SUMMARY THROUGH CROSS CUTTING THEMES

A. INTRODUCTION

115. From the previous description of the development situation several key cross-cutting issues appear. This provides the opportunity to summarise some of the findings in the previous sections and to add additional information related to these themes. Four such areas will be examined here:

- Youth and Children
- Gender
- Rural and Regional Livelihoods
- The Environment

B. YOUTH AND CHILDREN

116. According to the 1995 Census, children and youth under the age of 20 make up half the population of Turkmenistan. Although this group of people is extremely important for the future of Turkmenistan and although the government has done much to protect them during the transition they are now especially vulnerable to the changing economic and social environment.

Education and Health

117. While primary and secondary enrolment levels have not suffered drastically since the start of the transition and remain high, there are reasons to believe that the quality and delivery of education have declined. Pre-school enrolment has declined significantly in line with the number of pre-school institutions.

118. Infant mortality levels have fallen significantly over the last 10 years but are still high and remain a cause for concern. Acute respiratory infections are the first cause of infant mortality followed by perinatal conditions and diarrhoeal diseases. Increasing air pollution and poor water quality, especially in rural areas is a contributing factor to this situation.

Employment and Living Standards

119. According to the TLSS the younger generation are more likely to be unemployed than the older ones and have the highest unemployment ratio among all age groups. In urban areas 37% of young people aged 17-22 years were unemployed and in rural areas the rate was 19%. The TLSS also revealed that younger people are less confident about finding employment with only 17% of unemployed people aged between 17 and 22 years looking for a job in the last 7 days versus the average of 48% in urban and 19% in rural areas.

120. In addition, the TLSS results suggest that the most distinguishing characteristic of households with poor living standards is the large numbers of children. The dependent ratio of children 17 or younger was 51 for households in the poorest income quintile and steadily falling to 28 for households in the highest.

Youth and Society

121. The growing increase in STIs is a great concern for the country's youth. Although levels of HIV/AIDS are extremely low, Turkmenistan's youth are vulnerable to its spread. Related to the increased vulnerability for HIV/AIDS is the rapidly increasing levels of drug abuse. Again youth are the most at risk sector of the population for drug dependency.

122. Despite perceptions to the contrary, the crime rate has been steadily falling, since a peak in the early nineties; this is true for juveniles as well as adults. Juvenile offenders as a proportion of all offenders is also on the decline. The age of criminal responsibility is 14 years old, the same as in the other Central Asian countries.

123. There is a Juvenile Affairs Inspectorate (JAI) within the police, and the team includes a psychologist in some cases. Juveniles can be held in pre-trial detention for up to ten days; they are held separately from adults. There is no separate court system for juveniles, but certain conditions apply: parents or guardians must be present as does an official from the JAI. Neither judges nor JAI staff receive special training on dealing with juveniles. The Commissions on Juvenile Affairs (CJA), established at district, city and provincial levels, are responsible for developing and implementing preventive measures for juvenile offending and child neglect.

124. For convicted juvenile offenders, the CJA may order a public apology to the victim, issue a caution, impose fines, or place them in a special institution. For those aged 11-14, this is a special school, for older juveniles, it is a vocational school. Courts can impose a fine, probation or a custodial sentence. Official figures for 1997 show 602 juveniles deprived of liberty by the courts. Conditions in detention are generally poor, although juveniles have access to medical facilities and educational and vocational training courses.

Progress towards UN goals and obligations for children

125. Where data is available it is clear that Turkmenistan has made significant progress towards the UN goals for children. Infant mortality has declined sharply over the last nine years and is below the target of less than 35 per 1,000 live births by 2015. The goal of reducing 1990 rates by a third has also been met. Immunization rates are approaching the target of 100% coverage.

UN Goals for Children			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe/moderate malnutrition among children < 5 to ½ of 1990 level by 2000 (WSSD/FWCW/WSC/WFS) • Reduced IMR by 1/3 of 1990 level and below 35 per 1,000 by 2015 (ICPD/WSSD/FWCW/WSC) • Under 5 MR reduced by 2/3 of 1990 level by 2015 (ICPD/WSC) • Universal Immunization against Measles (WSC) • Elimination of Child Labour (WSSD) • Universal Access to, and completion of, primary education by 2015 (EFA/FWCW/WSC/ICPD) 			
	1990	1997	Goals
Children <5 suffering malnutrition (% of total)	N/a	N/a	> ½ 1990 by 2000
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	45.2	25.4	> 30 by 2015
< 5 child mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	64.8	?	> 22 by 2015
1 year olds immunized against measles (% of total)	62	98	100%
Child labour (%<15 in employment)	?	?	0%
Net primary or attendance ratio	?	?	100%
Pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 (% of total pupils)	?	?	

Sources and notes in the "Selected Tables from the CCA Indicator Database" section

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Turkmenistan is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child....

C. GENDER

126. In Turkmenistan, women make up 50.6% of the population and the male/female ratio has stayed constant for the last 15 years. The Constitution guarantees women equal opportunities to training, education, employment, remuneration and promotion, and equal rights in public and cultural spheres. Women also have equal rights to men with regards to their children, property and in divorce.

127. The state protects the interest of the mother and the child and provides assistance to families with many children and to single mothers. An extensive system of maternity houses, kindergartens and other institutions exist to protect the health of women and children although the number of kindergartens has declined significantly since the start of the transition.

128. Women can retire earlier than men, 57 versus 62 years old, although earlier retirement is possible in the case of women with 5 or more children or after 20 years of work (versus 25 years for men). Women are also granted 140 days paid maternity leave, receive maternity benefit equivalent to one month's salary and partially paid leave up to six years to allow them to raise their children.

129. The 1995 census revealed that the level of literacy among women aged 9 to 49 is high at 99.8%.
Female enrolment??

130. Female participation in the labour force is relatively high at 81%. In addition to constitutional rights the criminal code sets out punishments for the discrimination based on sex, groundless denial of job or dismissal of pregnant women among other actions that strengthen women's rights and freedoms. The percentage of seats held by women in parliament has increased from 18% in 1995 to 26% in 1999.

Progress towards UN gender goals and obligations

131. Turkmenistan inherited a system of gender equality by international standards.

UN Gender Goals			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 (ICPD/WSSD/FWCW) • Eliminate discriminatory practices in employment (FWCW) • Equitable access to political institutions (FWCW) • Reduction in MMR by ½ of 1990 levels by year 2000 and by a further ½ by 2015 (ICPD/WSSD/FWCW/WSC) • Universal access to safe/reliable contraceptive methods (ICPD) 			
	1990	1999	Goals
Ratio of girls to boys in 2dry education			1:1 by 2005
Female share of paid employment in non-agriculture activities			N/a
% seats held by women in national gov. including parliament	?	26	N/a
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 100,000 live births)			
Contraceptive prevalence rate			

Sources and notes in the "Selected Tables from the CCA Indicator Database" section

132. The Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW): Turkmenistan participated in the FWCW held in Beijing in 1995 and along with other participants adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Declaration embodies the commitment of the international community to the advancement of women and the implementation of the Platform of Action. The latter will ensure that a gender perspective is reflected in all policies and programmes at the national, regional and international levels.

133. In response to the conference, the government established an Inter-ministerial Task-force with members including senior ministerial officials and representatives of the media. Although activities aimed at implementing the Plan of Action had already started, the Government approved a National Plan of Action for Women in September 1999. This represents a major follow-up to the Beijing Conference and the commitments it made there. The government also reflected women's issues in key national programmes concerned with women's education, health and status. Eight of the twelve elements of the Plan of Action have now been implemented. The Inter-ministerial Task Force reports on the status of implementation on an annual basis.

134. At the Follow up conference (Beijing +5) participants reaffirmed their commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action as well as to the 12 critical concerns contained in the latter. Although the National Institute of Statistics and Forecasting (now Turkmenmillyhasabat) produced a document "Women of Turkmenistan and Gender Disaggregated Data" statistical disaggregation by gender is still limited however and has yet to be fully institutionalised especially in the area of employment. As such, measuring progress towards full compliance with conventions and full implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action is difficult. A report to the Beijing +5 conference was developed but has not yet been approved by government.

135. Convention on the Elimination of All Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): Turkmenistan ratifies CEDAW in 1996. A working group has been established to report on the implementation of the convention which includes members of the Inter-ministerial Working Group described above, members of parliament, media, civic organisations and the Women in Development Bureau. After a period of training and participation of relevant government agencies an initial report was developed. It is expected that the report will be finalised in the near future.

D. RURAL AND REGIONAL LIVELIHOODS

136. Where rural/urban and regional (Velayat) data is available it is often possible to identify key areas where there are significant rural/urban disparities that will affect people's livelihoods.

Living Standards

137. Rural Living Standards: A key feature of the living standards profile in Turkmenistan is the high levels of people with low living standards in rural areas versus those in urban areas. The TLSS found that in 1998 nearly 80% of those in the lowest income quintile were living in rural areas. Using the 50% of mean consumption poverty line, all 5 Velayats have larger proportion of people with low living standards in rural versus urban areas, in some cases considerably larger. In Lebap for example, 31% of the rural population has income under the 50% of mean consumption versus only 9% of the urban. Similarly in Balkan, the level of people with low living standards in urban areas is about a third of that in rural areas.

Rural Versus Urban Living Standards				
	Population income below 50% of Mean Consumption		Proportion of people with low living standards and Population	
	Rural	Urban	% of total	% of Total Pop
Dashoguz	53	41	30.5	18.2
Mary	39	27	27.1	21.7
Balkan	37	13	7.5	12.0
Akhal	35	22	18.1	17.0
Lebap	31	9	16.7	21.1
Ashgabat	0	0	0	10.1
Total			100%	100%

Source: World Bank (2000) A Profile of Living Standards in Turkmenistan

138. Regional Disparities: According to the TLSS there are no people living under the 50% of mean consumption in Ashgabat. This contrasts with large numbers of people with low living standards in most of the Velayats. Dashoguz has the highest rate of people with low living standards with over half the rural population and over 40% of the urban population with income under 50% of mean consumption. Dashoguz also has over 30% of the total number of people with low living standards in the country but only 18% of the population.

Health and Education

139. According to official statistics life expectancy is significantly lower in rural areas. Access to clean drinking water and sanitation is significantly lower in rural versus urban areas. Again it is Dashoguz that has the lowest level of people with access to sanitation in the country at 28% versus nearly 60% for the country as a whole.

140. The decline in pre-school education has affected rural areas disproportionately to urban ones and the disparity has become greater over the last ten years. In 1990 the pre-school enrolment rate in urban areas was 59% versus 18% in urban areas. By 1999 the urban figure had fallen to 53% while in rural areas it was just 6%.

Prices and Subsidies

141. Government policies aimed at import substitution have also been biased against agriculture and by default the livelihoods of the rural population. Farmers benefit from government subsidies such as soft credits, tax exemption, fixed charges for water, gas and electricity and 50% subsidies on the cost of inputs to wheat and cotton production. On the other hand, 50% of all sowing areas is allocated for grain production and wheat had to be sold to the government at pre-determined state prices. The TLSS found, not surprisingly, that among the households growing wheat and cotton, there were proportionately more in the bottom three income quintiles.

E. THE ENVIRONMENT

Status

142. Water is a major environmental issue in Turkmenistan. Serious pollution of surface and ground water from random drainage disposals, applications of chemicals to the fields and the diversion of household and industrial waste. According to the Ministry of the Environment the Amudarya river, by far the most important water source for Turkmenistan has been regularly listed among the most polluted water bodies in the Central Asian region. Drainage water is also the main source of pollution for the fresh groundwater under the riverbeds. Recent evidence suggests that as much as 25% of surface water does not meet the required sanitary standards and that 65% does not meet bacteriological standards.

143. In addition to water pollution, water use is an important issue. In the agricultural sector, water losses amount to approximately one third of the water drawn. Total water consumption is increasing, partly due to increasing population and partly due to the deteriorating irrigation system and the development of new land. Water shortages are not uncommon and official estimates suggest that reserves of underground water for consumption will only meet demand until 2020. The large amounts of water taken from the Amudarya river has contributed to the decline of inflows into the Aral Sea and the resulting acute environmental and health problems.

144. Air pollution is a growing problem in Turkmenistan with the main sources being the oil, gas, energy and chemical industries as well as transportation. By 1998 the discharge of hazardous substances into the atmosphere was 70% higher than in 1995. The increase in 1998 was largely due to the opening and operation of the new Chelekenneft oil field as well as gas discharges in Balkan Velayat. The Velayat as a whole is responsible for over 90% of all hazardous discharges into the atmosphere. Although the main industrial enterprises that could pollute the atmosphere are equipped with purification equipment most of it is out of date with over half more than 20 years old.

145. Improper land use including overgrazing, over-intensive crop production and poor management of irrigation systems has led to serious problems. Of the total irrigated land in Turkmenistan (less than 4% of the total) only 17% is considered to be in good condition with 47% only satisfactory. The development of new land and intensification of agriculture have led to problems that include loss of fertility and salinisation, submergence and water-logging, wind and water erosion and deforestation.

Progress towards UN environmental goals and obligations

146. Although the government is committed to environmental protection the deteriorating environmental situation described above is making progress towards reaching the goal of a clean and healthy environment is slow. As already mentioned progress towards reaching universal access to adequate sanitation and clean drinking water is being made.

UN Goals for the Environment			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and Healthy environment and reversal of current trends in loss of environmental resources (UNCED) • Universal access to safe drinking water; full coverage of drinking water supply by 2025 (WCW/WSSD/UNCED) • Universal sanitary waste disposal (WCW/WCS/WSSD/UNCED) 			
	1990	1999	Goals
Carbon dioxide emissions (? per capita)			N/a
Land protected area (% of total land area)			N/a
Energy use (GDP per unit of energy used)			N/a
Arable land (ha per capita)			N/a
Change in forest land (% of total area per annum)			N/a
Population relying on traditional fuels (% total population)			N/a
Sustainable access to safe drinking water (% total population)	Ok	Ok	100% by 2025
Access to adequate sanitation (% total population)	Ok	Ok	100%

Sources and notes in the "Selected Tables from the CCA Indicator Database" section

147. Turkmenistan has ratified a number of key international environmental conventions including:

- UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1996)
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1993)

- Montreal Protocol on Substances Depleting the Ozone Layer (1993)
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1995)
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (1995)
- Basel Convention on Trans-boundary Movement on Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1996)

148. The National Commission for Implementation of UN Environmental Conventions and Programmes (CIC) was established in March 1999 by Presidents Decree under the chairmanship of the Vice-premier of the Cabinet of Ministers. Six working groups have in turn been established under the commission, each dealing with a specific convention or other instrument ratified by the Government of Turkmenistan. The CIC therefore enables the government to fulfil its obligation concerning reporting on the implementation of these UN instruments for the environment. In addition, the CIC has been given responsibility to prepare and endorse national action plans and programmes in the area of environmental protection and rational resource management.

ANNEX I

THE UNITED NATIONS IN TURKMENISTAN AND UN REFORM

The UN is represented in Turkmenistan with a number of organisations working in partnership with its government and people. Since the UN Office opened in Ashgabat in December 1994, the UN System presence in Turkmenistan has grown to include:

- The United Nations Development Fund (UNDP)
- The United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF)
- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- The World Health Organisation (WHO)
- The United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNODCCP)
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- The World Bank
- The International Office of Migration (IOM) (UN affiliated)

Other Agencies also support Turkmenistan including ILO, UNESCO, FAO, UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNIFEM and UPU.

During the past few years the UN has enacted major reforms to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness. A major part of the reform process is to improve the cooperation and coordination of UN agencies at the field level. For example, placing the country operations of the different UN funds and programmes under a single UN office, recognised by the Secretary General as the UN House in 1998, thus establishing common premises for all operations, increasing coordination and reducing costs.

It is recognised that the government has the primary responsibility for coordinating external assistance, including assistance provided by the UN System, in support of national strategies and priorities. The Resident Coordinator System, however, seeks to support the government in exercising this responsibility.

SELECTED TABLES FROM THE CCA INDICATOR DATABASE

A. POPULATION

1. Population ÛÛ
2. Rural Population ÛÛ
3. Etc waiting UNFPA

B. ECONOMY

4. Economic Output
5. Inflation and Exchange Rate
6. Agricultural Output ÛÛ
7. Energy and Industrial Output
8. Basic Trade Indicators
9. Direction of Trade
10. Goods Traded
11. Foreign Direct Investment

C. SOCIAL SECTORS

12. Social Sector Expenditures
13. Health Services
14. Life Expectancy
15. Infant Mortality Rates ÛÛ
16. Under-5 Mortality Rates ÛÛ
17. Immunisation ÛÛ
18. Maternal Mortality Rates ÛÛ
19. Contraceptive Prevalence
20. HIV/AIDS
21. Nutrition and Food Security
22. Access to Drinking WaterÛÛ
23. Access to Sanitation ÛÛ
24. Pre-school Enrolment Rate ÛÛ
25. Primary Enrolment Rate ÛÛ
26. Primary Completion Rate
27. Literacy Rates
28. Gender and Education
29. Poverty???
30. Household Information

D. ENVIRONMENT

31. Greenhouse Gas Emissions
32. Other Pollution
33. Endangered Species
34. Energy Use
35. Water Consumption
36. Land Use
37. Salinization
38. Natural Disasters

A. POPULATION

		A1: Population									
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Turkmenistan	Thousands	3,668.1	3,839.3	3,995.5	4,149.8	4,320.6	4,480.6	4,587.4	4,710.4	4,846.8	5,115.0
Ahal	Thousands	548.7	578.8	625.4	640.6	655.2	680.1	701.8	722.8		
Balkan	Thousands	365.5		391.3	396.6	398.4	395.5	397.2	411.5		
Mary	Thousands	847.6	883.4	972.3	996.2	1,019.0	1,050.2	1,081.5	1,113.1		
Lebap	Thousands	764.5	795.4	886.2	911.2	930.6	952.0	974.3	1,002.7		
Dashoguz	Thousands	728.0	759.2	861.6	893.7	921.1	958.2	995.9	1,028.4		
Ashgabat	thousands	413.8	416.7	517.2	523.0	525.5	551.4	559.7	568.3		

Source: Turkmenstatprognoz Annual Year-book 1997, 1999 from Turkmenstatprognoz September 1999 bulletin.

		A2: Population									
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Ahal	% of total	14.96	15.2	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.8	14.9	14.9		
Balkan	% of total	9.96	9.9	9.2	9.1	9.0	8.6	8.4	8.5		
Mary	% of total	23.11	23.2	22.9	22.8	22.9	22.9	22.9	23.0		
Lebap	% of total	20.84	20.9	20.8	20.9	20.9	20.8	20.7	20.7		
Dashoguz	% of total	19.85	19.9	20.3	20.5	20.7	20.9	21.2	21.2		
Ashgabat	% of total	11.28	10.9	12.1	12.0	11.8	12.0	11.9	11.7		

Notes: Turkmenstatprognose Annual Year-book 1997

		A3: Rural Population									
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Turkmenistan	% of total	54.70	54.90	54.60	54.60	54.90	55.10	55.50	55.50	55.30	
Ahal	% of total	69.40	69.70	68.50	68.00	68.20	68.30	68.40	68.30		
Balkan	% of total	21.80	21.20	21.70	20.80	21.00	21.40	21.80	22.10		
Mary	% of total	72.80	73.10	73.70	74.60	74.80	74.10	74.30	74.00		
Lebap	% of total	56.40	56.60	57.70	56.70	57.20	57.00	57.70	58.00		
Dashoguz	% of total	68.00	67.40	67.30	67.20	67.20	68.40	68.40	68.10		
Ashgabat	% of total	0.40	0.40	0.30	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20		

Notes: Turkmenstatprognose Annual Year-book 1997

B. ECONOMY AND ECONOMIC SECTORS

Agriculture Output and Yield											
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Agriculture output	trill. manats										6 (a)
Cotton											
Land used	1,000 ha				579	557	563	530	482	544	
	1,000 metric tons										
Output	tons	1,457	1,433	1,301	1,341	1,283	1,000	437	630	707	
Yield	Ton/ha	2.34	2.38	2.29	2.32	2.30	1.78	0.82	1.31	1.30	
Wheat											
Land used	1,000 ha				260	431	547	536	511	652	
	1,000 metric tons										
Output	tons	449	517	737	807	1,091	850	400	639	1,240	
Yield	Ton/ha	2.4	1.9	1.94	2.13	1.82	1.42	0.66	1.6	1.98	2.3

Source:

B. SOCIAL SECTORS

B1: Social Sector Expenditures (a)										
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 1999(b)
Health	% GDP						1.8	2.2	3.5	2.9
Primary Health	% Total Health									
Education	% GDP						3.2	2.1	4.5	5.5
Primary Educ.	% Total Educ.						59.5	58.2	65.1	66.3
Social Welfare	% GDP						2.9	2.8	3.6	3.5
<i>Source: NHDR 2000</i>										
<i>Notes: (a) excludes investments (b) estimate</i>										

B2: Infant Mortality Rate ^(a)										
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 1999
Turkmenistan	1,000 live births	45,2					42,2	40,5	37,8	25,4
Ahal	1,000 live births						42,0	41,0	35,9	28,3
Balkan	1,000 live births						37,2	40,2	40,9	27,3
Mary	1,000 live births						42,5	37,1	36,6	23,5
Lebap	1,000 live births						39,4	39,0	35,0	23,6
Dashoguz	1,000 live births						37,2	43,6	38,8	24,8
Ashgabat	1,000 live births						42,0	47,6	44,2	30,5
Rural	1,000 live births	45,7					39,5	35,8	33,6	20,9
Urban	1,000 live births	44,8					48,2	49,4	45,9	33,3
<i>Source: Ministry of Health, Medical Bureau of Health Statistics and Turkmenmillihasabat. Quoted in "NHDR 2000" (1995-1999 by Velayat) and UNFPA "Indicators of Reproductive Health in Turkmenistan" 2000 (1990 data and Rural/urban)</i>										
<i>Summit Goals: Reduction of Infant Mortality by 1/3 of 1990 level and below 35 per 1,000 by 2015 (ICPD/WSSD/MCW/WSC)</i>										
<i>Notes: (a) Turkmenistan still uses the Soviet definition of live birth which leads to an underestimate of infant mortality by up to 25% (compared to that identified using international standards)</i>										
<i>International Conventions: Turkmenistan signed the Universal Declaration on Protection and Development of Child Survival December 28 1993</i>										

Under 5 Mortality Rate										
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 1999
Turkmenistan ^a	1,000 live births	64.1	64.2	60.3	67.6	70.3	67.9			
Ahal	1,000 live births									
Balkan	1,000 live births									
Mary	1,000 live births									
Lebap	1,000 live births									
Dashoguz	1,000 live births									
Ashgabat	1,000 live births									
Rural	1,000 live births									
Urban	1,000 live births									
<i>Source:</i>										
<i>UN Source: UNICEF MONEE Regional Monitoring Report #6 1999</i>										
<i>Reference Points: World Summit for Children 1990. Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989: Ratified by Turkmenistan through Government Resolution</i>										
<i>UN Global Summit Goals: Reduced by 2/3 of 1990 level by 2015 (ICPD/WSC)</i>										
<i>Notes: (a) UNDP NHDR 1999 shows a considerable lower mortality rate</i>										

		Maternal Mortality									
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Turkmenistan ^a	100,000 live births	114.4	106.9	132.3	105.3	98.8	99.5	97.0	81.9	64,5	
Ahal	100,000 live births			140.2			102.2				
Balkan	100,000 live births			163.7			159.6				
Mary	100,000 live births			132.6			92.1				
Lebap	100,000 live births			133.4			107.1				
Dashoguz	100,000 live births			93.6			77.0				
Ashgabat	100,000 live births			191.1			89.5				
Rural	100,000 live births										
Urban	100,000 live births										
Source:											
UN Source: UNFPA Country Population Assessment 1998; WHO Country Health Report Turkmenistan; UNICEF CARK Situation Assessment 1999											
UN Global Summit Goals: Reduction by 1/2 of 1990 levels by the year 2000 and a further 1/2 by 2015 (ICPD/WSSD/FWCW/WSC)											
Notes: (a) Data from UNICEF and UNDP NHDR 1997/8 show a significant lower rate than data from UNFPA and Who.											

		Immunisation									
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Measles	% of 1 year olds	79.6	62.6	76	85.1	90.2	91.9	93.8	99.6		
Tuberculosis	% of 1 year olds								97		
DPT ^b	% of 1 year olds	82.2	80.9	84.1	72.8	89.7	92.6	93.6	98.6		
Polio	% of 1 year olds	92.2	91.1	90	91.8	94.4	96.7	95.6	99.2		
Source:											
UN Source: UNICEF MONEE Regional Monitoring Report #6 1999; HDR 1999											
UN Global Summit Goals: Universal immunization against measles (WSC)											

Primary Education Gross Enrolment Ratio											
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Turkmenistan	% of relevant pop	117.0	108.1				92.0	92.6	93.4	93.5	97.5
Ahal	% of relevant pop	117.8	115.0				96.5	95.3	97.4	94.0	96.5
Balkan	% of relevant pop	112.0	104.9				95.1	95.0	93.6	92.4	96.6
Mary	% of relevant pop	116.8	109.4				90.8	93.0	93.2	93.9	98.7
Lebap	% of relevant pop	110.1	106.1				94.9	95.6	95.5	94.5	97.0
Dashoguz	% of relevant pop	115.0	108.5				89.5	89.9	90.3	91.9	98.0
Ashgabat	% of relevant pop	101.6	98.8				83.9	86.6	88.7	93.6	96.8
Rural	% of relevant pop	124.2	106.3				94.3	93.4	94.0	92.8	
Urban	% of relevant pop	101.0	110.8				93.0	90.3	92.4	94.5	
Source: Turkmenistan Education for All Report (2000)											
UN Global Summit Goals: Universal access, and completion of primary education by 2015 (EFA/WCW/WSC/ICPD)											

Pre-school Education Gross Enrolment Rate											
0		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998(a)	1999
Turkmenistan	% of relevant pop	34.3	33.9				25.3	22.1	21.1	19.0	25.3
Ahal	% of relevant pop	12.8	16.4				19.6	14.5	14.0	11.9	14.2
Balkan	% of relevant pop		37.6				33.9	39.3	35.0	32.1	44.5
Mary	% of relevant pop	27.1	28.5				20.3	18.0	16.1	12.6	17.9
Lebap	% of relevant pop	43.1	46.3				38.1	28.9	30.6	29.6	40.3
Dashoguz	% of relevant pop	28.5	28.9				12.0	10.7	9.2	7.9	11.7
Ashgabat	% of relevant pop	64.7	60.9				44.6	45.0	44.7	42.0	50.2
Rural	% of relevant pop	18.0	18.6				9.4	5.1	5.1	5.4	6.1
Urban	% of relevant pop	59.3	57.4				50.1	49.2	47.3	39.1	52.9
Source: Ministry of Education "Turkmenistan Education for All Report " (2000)											
Notes:(a) According to the 1998 TLSS Pre-school GER were 59% in urban areas and 17% in rural areas											

		Education Institutions									
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998/99	1999/00
Pre-schools	number	1,570	1,607	1,630	1,628	1,617	1,357	1,162	1,135	1,097	
<i>of which</i> Rural	number	882	916	904	817	803	552	371	405	401	
Students	number	204,600	202,200	200,100	205,400	190,900	177,800	162,700	145,600	130,600	
<i>of which</i> Rural	number	62,700	64,600	62,200	59,100	45,700	40,300	21,100	21,500	22,800	
Teachers	number	15,702	16,084	16,487	17,990	16,067	16,596	15,101	14,581	15,837	
Teacher/pupil ratio	number	13	13	12	11	12	11	10	10	8	
Basic Edu. Schools	number	1,811	1,827	1,858	1,899	1,924	1,946	1,947	1,958	1,948	
<i>of which</i> Rural	number	1,336	1,343	1,369	1,398	1,422	1,441	1,445	1,452	1,458	
Source: Turkmenstatprognoz Annual Year-book 1997											

Source: Turkmenstatprognoz Annual Year-book 1997

		Access to Safe Drinking Water									
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Turkmenistan	% of Population	30									
Ahal	% of Population										
Balkan	% of Population										
Mary	% of Population										
Lebap	% of Population										
Dashoguz	% of Population										
Ashgabat	% of Population										
Urban	% of Population								65.2	79.1	85.4
Rural	% of Population								24.9	38.7	42.1
Source: ? As quoted in (draft) NHDR 2000											
UN Global Summit Goals: Universal access to safe drinking water; full coverage of drinking water supply by 2025 (WCW/WCS/WSSD/UNCED)											
Notes:											

Source: ? As quoted in (draft) NHDR 2000

UN Global Summit Goals: Universal access to safe drinking water; full coverage of drinking water supply by 2025

(WCW/WCS/WSSD/UNCED)

Notes:

		Access to Sanitation										
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Turkmenistan	% of Population						56.5	56.8	58.1	57.6	58.6	
Ahal	% of Population						57.0	57.0	57.0	59.0	59.0	
Balkan	% of Population						62.0	62.0	62.0	62.0	62.0	
Mary	% of Population						46.0	46.0	46.0	44.0	44.4	
Lebap	% of Population						54.0	56.0	56.0	58.0	60.0	
Dashoguz	% of Population						21.0	21.0	29.0	24.0	28.0	
Ashgabat	% of Population						99.0	99.0	99.0	99.0	99.0	
Urban	% of Population											
Rural	% of Population											

Source: Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan as quoted in (draft) NHDR 2000

Reference Points: Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements 1996, with participation of Turkmenistan

UN Global Summit Goals: Universal sanitary waste disposal (WCW/WCS/WSSD/UNCED)

Notes:

UN CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS

1. UN WORLD CONFERENCES

Education For All (EFA), Jomtien, 1990

- Did not participate (before independence)
- Did participate in the follow-up conference in Dakar. A report was prepared but not presented at the meeting

World Summit for Children (WSC), New York, 1990

- Did not participate (before independence)

UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio de Janeiro, 1992

- Did not participate ?

World Conference on Human Rights (WCHR), Vienna, 1993

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Int. Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Cairo, 1994

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Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995

- Turkmenistan participated in the FWCW in Beijing and was a signatory to the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action.
- Turkmenistan participated in the follow-up meeting

World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 1995

- Turkmenistan participated in the WSSD in Copenhagen
- Turkmenistan participated in the follow-up meeting in New York

Second World Conference on Human Settlements, Istanbul, 1996

- Turkmenistan participated in the HABITAT II Conference in Istanbul?
- A follow-up meeting will be held in June 2001

World Food Summit, Rome, 1996

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2. UN CONVENTIONS AND DECLARATIONS

UN Conventions and Declarations aim at protecting the people's rights – economic, political and social. These are signed by Member States who are held responsible for implementation and compliance. Turkmenistan has ratified the following UN Conventions and Declarations through Government Resolutions:

KEY HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS	DATE OF RATIFICATION
A. International Bill of Rights	
Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948)	
International Convention on Civil and Political Rights – ICCPR (1966)	20 December 1996 Mejlis Decree on Affiliation
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – ICESCR (1966)	20 December 1996 Mejlis Decree on Affiliation
B. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination – ICERD (1995)	23 September 1994 Mejlis Decree on Ratification 972-XII
C. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – CEDAW (1979)	20 December 1996 Mejlis Decree on Affiliation
D. Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment – CAT (1984)	20 April 1999 Mejlis Resolution
E. Convention on the Rights of the Child – CRC (1989)	23 September 1994 Mejlis Decree on Ratification 970-XII
OTHER UN CONVENTIONS OR AGREEMENT	DATE OF RATIFICATION
Universal Declaration on Ensuring Survival, Protection and Development of Children (New York, 30 September 1990)	28 December 1993 Mejlis Decree on Affiliation 920-XII
UN Convention on Prohibition of Development, Production and Accumulation of Bacteriological (Biological) and toxin weapon reserves and on Their Elimination (New York, 10 April 1972)	24 November 1995 Mejlis Decree on Affiliation 93-I
International Convention on Fight against Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Hirelings (New York, 31 January 1990)	18 June 1996 Mejlis Decree on Affiliation 158-I
UN Convention on Combating Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Draught and/or Desertification, especially in Africa (Paris, 17 July 1994)	18 June 1996 Mejlis Decree on Affiliation 133-I
UN Convention on Slavery (New York, 1 April 1927)	20 December 1996 Mejlis Decree on Affiliation
Supplementary UN Convention on Abolishment of Slavery, Slave-Trade, Institutes and Traditions Advocating Slavery (New York, 7 September 1956)	20 December 1996 Mejlis Decree on Affiliation
UN Protocol on Incorporating Changes into the Convention on Slavery approved by Resolution 794/8 of the UN General Assembly (New York, 23 October 1953) Effected on 7 December 1953	20 December 1996 Mejlis Decree on Affiliation
Optional Protocol to the International Treaty on Civil and Political Rights (New York, 16 December 1966)	20 December 1996 Mejlis Decree on Affiliation
UN Convention on Refugee Status (Geneva, 28 July 1951)	10 July 1997 Turkmenistan President's Letter on Affiliation to the UN Secretary-General

OTHER UN CONVENTIONS OR AGREEMENT	DATE OF RATIFICATION
Protocol on Refugee Status (Geneva, 31 January 1997)	10 July 1997 Turkmenistan President's Letter on Affiliation to the UN Secretary-General
Convention on Security of the UN Staff and UN Related Personnel (New York, 9 December 1994)	24 September 1998 Turkmenistan President's Letter on Affiliation to the UN Secretary-General
Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	10 December 1998 Mejlis Decree on Ratification 333-1
International Convention on Fight against Bomb Terrorism (New York, 15 December 1997)	30 April 1999 Mejlis Decree 365-I
Convention on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Persons under International Protection including Diplomatic Agents (Adopted by the UN General Assembly on 14 December 1973)	30 April 1999 Mejlis Decree 371-I
International Convention on Fight against Capture of Hostages (Adopted by the UN General Assembly on 17 December 1979)	30 April 1999 Mejlis Decree 373-I
Convention on Political Rights of Women (New York, 20 December 1952)	15 September 1999 Mejlis Decree 396-I
Second Optional Protocol on Abolishment of Death Punishment to the International Treaty on Civil and Political Rights (New York, 15 December 1989)	29 December 1999 Turkmenistan People's Council Decree
UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances (Vienna, 21 February 1971)	18 June 1996 Mejlis Decree on Affiliation 149-I
UN Convention Against Illegal Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Vienna, 19 December 1988)	18 June 1996 Mejlis Decree on Affiliation 150-I
Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961) as amended by the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961	1996 Mejlis Decree

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A. UN AGENCY REPORTS ON TURKMENISTAN

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National Development Plans and Programme

The National Programme of the President Of Turkmenistan to 2010
10 years of stability
1000 days
Basic Trends of Social and Economic Development in the Country 1997-2001

Sectoral Programmes

National Strategy of Reproductive Health in Turkmenistan (2000) **dates**
Plan for Realisation of the State Programme on Health (1999) **dates**
President's State Programme of Turkmenistan "Health" (1995) **dates**
National HIV/AIDS/STI Prevention Programme (1999-2003)
National Pre-school Programme **dates**
National Programme on Implementing Educational Reforms **dates**
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Education for All (2000)
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Women's Rights in Turkmenistan
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Women Status Report *draft* Beijing Follow-up?
Augmented Accounting System of Gender Factors in Statistics of Turkmenistan (1998)
Women's Legal Status Review According to the Existing Legislation of Turkmenistan (1998)

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US Energy Information Administration
Turkmenistan (www.eia.doe.org)