2016 NATIONAL REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN ON THE APLICATION OF THE 1960 CONVENTION AND RECOMMENDATION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION

I. Information on the legislative, judicial, administrative and other measures taken by the State at the national level

1. Ratification of the Convention

On 8 December 1997, the Republic of Uzbekistan deposited with the Director-General of UNESCO its instrument of ratification of the Convention.

The Republic of Uzbekistan does not have plan to ratify 1962 Protocol instituting a Conciliation and Good Offices Commission to be responsible for seeking the settlement of any disputes which may arise between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education. UNESCO can assist through organization of capacity building activities on implications of the 1962 Protocol.

2. Legal framework governing the protection of rights guaranteed in the Convention and the Recommendation in the national legal system

Convention is directly applicable in country's domestic law following its ratification. The provisions of the Convention are guaranteed in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and National Law on Education.

The list the principal national laws and regulations adopted in order to implement Convention:

- The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan (adopted on 8th December 1992);
- The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Education" (adopted on 29th August 1997);
- National Programme on Personnel Training of the Republic of Uzbekistan (adopted on 29th August 1997);
- The Law on Guarantee of Child Rights (adopted on 7th January 2008);
- The Law on Social Protection of People with Disabilities (adopted on 11th July 2008).

II. Information on the implementation of the Convention or Recommendation

1. Non-discrimination in education

The article 41 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan: "*Everyone shall have the right to education. The state shall guarantee free secondary education. Schooling shall be under state supervision*".

The article 4 of the Law on Education: "*Each person has a guarantee to equal rights to education regardless the person's gender, language, age, racial, ethnic background, beliefs, faith, social background, type of activity, place of residence, and the duration of residence in the Republic of Uzbekistan*".

The article 23 of the Law on Guarantee of Child Rights: "*Every child has right to education. State guarantees for every child free compulsory general secondary education, as well as secondary special, vocational education*".

The article 17 of the Law on Social Protection of People with Disabilities: "*General secondary, secondary specialized and professional, higher education for people with disabilities organized in all educational establishments, in case of necessity – in specialized educational establishments. Educational programmes for children with disabilities under the medical treatment organized within hospitals or*

rehabilitation centers".

2. Equal opportunities in education

According to the article 46 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan "Women and men have equal rights". State policy of the Government of Uzbekistan directed to ensure constitutional rights of everyone to education and implementation of equal opportunities and attitude in the field of personnel training. Education is proclaimed as a priority in the field of social development of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Every person living in the territory of Uzbekistan (citizens, non-citizens; and in accordance with established procedures, the citizens of foreign countries and families with "refugee" status from respective international organizations) has rights to receive secondary education and has free access to secondary educational institution.

Secondary education is taught and textbooks are published in seven languages (Uzbek, Karakalpak, Russian, Tajik, Turkmen, Kyrgyz, and Kazakh). The state guaranteed free secondary (including primary) and secondary specialized and professional education to everyone.

National Programme on Personnel Training established strategy and programmes to ensure equality of educational opportunities for all in terms of gender, access, participation and completion.

There is national strategy concept on "Family – Local Community (Mahalla) - Educational Institutions" networking. The strategy provides mechanism for 100% coverage of all by compulsory educational process.

3. Progress made with respect to implementing the right to education

3.1 Universal primary education

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Law "On Education" the primary education in Uzbekistan is free of charge and compulsory for all.

3.2 Secondary education, including technical and vocational education

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Law "On Education" the secondary education in Uzbekistan is free of charge and compulsory for all.

According to the Law "On Education" and National Programme of Personnel Training the secondary specialized and professional education is available free of charge and compulsory for all. National Programme, adopted in 1997, introduced 12 years universal compulsory free education on scheme Uzbekistan 9+3: 9 years of general secondary education (which includes 4 years primary education and 5 years secondary education) and 3 years secondary specialized and professional education (in professional colleges or academic lyceums). Annual expenditure for education accounts for 10-12 % of the GDP in Uzbekistan. Up to date in the field of public education (covering preschool and general secondary education), there are 4916 preschool educational establishments, 9692 general secondary schools, 281 music and arts schools, 211 non-formal educational centers on "Harmoniously Developed Generation", 23 orphanages, 4 pedagogical universities, 17 teacher training institutes

in Uzbekistan. There are 385,364 teachers and 4,654,051 pupils involved in general secondary education programme. Regarding the secondary specialized and professional education, so far, 1556 educational institutions of a new type, including 144 academic lyceums and 1412 vocational colleges have been established in the country, as well as 30 branches of professional colleges in remote areas of the countryside.

3.3 Higher education

Women and men have equal rights to enter to the higher educational establishments. For the time being there is no private higher educational institution in Uzbekistan (on terms of ownership). However, there are 7 branches of foreign higher educational institutes accredited in Uzbekistan, which have independent academic programme and management. Higher education is consisting of two level degree studies: Bachelor's Programme and Master's Programme.

An admittance criterion to the higher educational establishments is based on merit. The admission of students into higher education institutions is carried out by means of identifying the level of an applicant's knowledge on result of conducted tests. The tests are developing by the State Testing Center under the Cabinet of Ministers (independent governmental agency, in charge for quality assurance). Entrance capacity of the higher educational institutes of Uzbekistan for 2016-2017: Bachelor's Degree programme – 57907 applicants (19120 of which eligible for state stipend support), Master's Degree programme – 5000 applicants (1548 of which eligible for state stipend support). There is also system of incentives for disabled persons, applicants from orphanages and low-income families.

3.4 Adult education and lifelong learning

Literacy rate in Uzbekistan is 99.34 %. The current modern system of continuous education in Uzbekistan consists of preschool, general secondary, specialized secondary and vocational, higher and postgraduate education, training and retraining, as well as extra school education. In this continuous chain of links there is a fundamentally new specialized secondary and vocational education, realized in educational institutions of a new type - the academic lyceums and vocational colleges. This system provides young men and women with an opportunity to get along with general subjects on 2-3 professional skills which are in demand in labor market, as well as the study of one or several foreign languages. Law on Education contains provisions related with adult education in both formal and non-formal system of learning. In formal system, adult education program based on state educational standards, while non-formal adult learning programmes is provided in accordance with state educational requirements. National legal framework supports the establishment of the non-governmental organizations for providing supplementary lifelong programs for public at large. Activities of the non-governmental educational organizations are subject for licensing and monitoring by the State Testing Committee.

3.5 Quality education

State Testing Center is in charge for quality assurances in all levels of education. The staffing in secondary schools by pedagogical personnel is about 99,6 %. Nowadays all reforms devoted to promote the quality of learning process with introducing ICT technologies. Textbooks provided for 100% of pupils of schools (2-9

grades) on small-scale rental basis (except first grade pupils, disabled children and pupils from low-income families, who receives textbooks for free). About (to date) 493 electronic textbooks and learning materials were elaborated by Multimedia Center of the Ministry of Public Education. All schools are connected through free local computer network for exchange of information and access to information-resources centers.

For the purpose of quality education the National Program for Personnel Training, inter alia, covers issues on:

- modernization of the education content (development of the state educational standards, improving the curricula, and developing the new generation of textbooks);
- improving the capacity of personnel (revision of the system of in-service training of pedagogical personnel, introduction of innovative technologies, forms and methods of teaching and training);
- introducing new pedagogical technologies;
- strengthening the technical facilities and resources of educational institutions.

The educational standards (elaborated within National Programme on Personnel Training) identify requirements for the level of knowledge and skills of students (i.e. through learning assessments) and regulate the content of curriculum. In addition, there are also standards regarding the availability of resources and the prevailing conditions of the educational process (requirements for school facilities, sanitary standards, equipment and furniture, etc.), as well as qualification requirements for managers and teaching staff of educational institutions.

3.6 Teaching profession

"Online School of Pedagogical Skills", created on the basis of 193 secondary schools, provides opportunity to exchange experiences among all teachers of the country. Capacity-building trainings of school teachers regularly organized in the Central In-Service and Retraining Institute of the Ministry of Public Education and its 14 provincial branches. There is 30% incentive for teacher's salaries in rural areas and 15% incentive for teacher salary that is fluent in one of the foreign language. There is also system of regular encouragement (annual award ceremony) of best practices of teachers. 4065 teachers were awarded by government for their innovations in delivering educational programmes during last 25 years.

The Principal Scientific-Methodical Center has been established under the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education for the purpose of organization of retraining and advanced training of teaching and managerial personnel of higher education system. The Center, consisting of 10 sectoral and 5 regional institutions, provides training and professional development of teaching staff of universities. A unified system of improvement of the quality of educational process in the regional centers is being formed. Target activities on the introduction of distance learning in the process of training has been organized, as well as remote training of teaching staff with on-line and off-line technologies based on the national network of e-learning has also been implemented.

3.7 Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms

In order to promote human right education the following subjects included into curriculum. In primary education - "ABC of Constitution" (1-4 grades); in secondary

education - “Trip to the World of Constitution” (5-7 grades), “Basis of the Constitution” (8-9 grades), “Convention on Child Rights” (9 grade); in secondary specialized and professional education (academic lyceums and professional colleges) - “Person and Society”, “Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan”; in higher education - “Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, “International Law”, “Human rights”, “International Public Law”, “International Humanitarian Rights”, “Child Rights”.

Nation-wide NGO “Kamolot” Youth Civic Movement of Uzbekistan regularly organizes the activities among pupils, student and community on the following subjects: “Do you know your rights?”, ‘Constitution is basis of our life”, “My rights”, “Youth and Law”. Nation-wide newspapers of the Ministry of Public Education – “Ma’rifat” and “Teacher of Uzbekistan” – have special columns heading “Rights and Responsibilities”. “Uzteleradio” National Broadcasting Company through several TV and Radio channels organizes discussion programmes devoted to protection of various aspects of human rights.

3.8 Private education and religious and moral education

Article 29 of the Law on Education: “*The state education agencies monitor the activities of the private educational institutions compliance with requirements of the education laws. In case of violating the education laws, the activities of the private educational institutions may be suspended by state accreditation bodies. Admission procedure to the private educational institutions is similar to the state educational institutions*”.

There are 161 non-governmental preschool education establishments, 33 non-governmental general secondary schools, 85 non-governmental out of school education establishments and 431 non-governmental re-training educational establishments in Uzbekistan.

The article 7 of the Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations (adopted in 1998): “*The system of education in the Republic of Uzbekistan is separated from religion. It is inadmissible to include religious subjects into the curriculum of educational system. Rights to secular education are provided for citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan regardless of their relation to religion*”.

3.9 Rights of national minorities

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan does not contain the term “national minorities”. The article 4 of the Law on Education: “*Each person has a guarantee to equal rights to education regardless the person’s gender, language, age, racial, ethnic background, beliefs, faith, social background, type of activity, place of residence, and the duration of residence in the Republic of Uzbekistan*”.

III. Methods used to draw the attention of the various authorities in the country to the instruments and to remove the obstacles encountered

There is challenge with modernization Uzbekistan’s higher education system to better adapt to the needs of the country’s economy, to better link the supply of employee skills to the demands of the country’s evolving labor market through improved access to quality education. Modernization strategy will focus on expanding equitable access to higher education for all and allowing for greater autonomy among individual universities in enrolling students in line with market demand.