



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

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the Latter's Note dated 10 November 2017, concerning the State contributions to the report of the High Commissioner, pursuant to resolution HRC/35/14 entitled "Youth and Human Rights", has the honour to enclose herewith an information note compiled by relevant Turkish authorities.

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

Geneva, 22 December 2017



Encl: As stated

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais des Nations  
1211 Geneva 10



**1-Is there a national law on youth in your country? If yes, please describe it.**

In Turkish legislative system, there are several regulations on youth, some of which are explained below.

Article 58 under the Title "IX. Youth and sports" of the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey states that "The State shall take measures to ensure the education and development of the youth who are entrusted with keeping our independence and our Republic, in the light of positive science, in line with the principles and reforms of Atatürk, and in opposition to ideas aiming at the destruction of the indivisible integrity of the State with its territory and nation. The State shall take necessary measures to protect youth from addiction to alcohol and drugs, crime, gambling, and similar vices, and ignorance."

**Decree Law No 638 on the Organization and Duties of the Ministry of Youth and Sports** established the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Turkey and regulated the duties, powers and responsibilities in this area. In this context, the duties of the Ministry of Youth and Sports are as follows:

- a) To identify the policies that support the personal and social development of youth, to enable young people to realize their potential considering the needs of different youth groups, to develop recommendations that will ensure active participation of young people in all areas of social life as well as in the processes of decision making and implementing and to carry out activities for this purpose, and to ensure coordination and cooperation in the youth-related services of the relevant institutions.*
- b) To conduct study and research on the needs of young people and the services and opportunities provided for them, to develop recommendations for this purpose, and to provide information, guidance and counselling in the field of youth.*
- c) To determine the procedures and principles regarding the youth studies and projects.*
- ç) To carry out youth work and projects, to support such work and projects, and to supervise their implementation and results.*

**"National Youth and Sports Policy Paper"** dated 27.01.2013 and numbered 28541 that came into force with the Decree No 26/11/2012 of the Council of Ministers was prepared with the contribution of the youth, representatives of the nongovernmental organizations and public institutions active in the field of youth. The document is a national guide with a common understanding, vision, policies and goals in the field of youth.

**Policy areas in the National Youth and Sports Policy Paper:**

- 1-Education and Lifelong Learning
- 2-Family
- 3-Ethics and Humanitarian Values

- 4-Employment, Entrepreneurship and Vocational Training
- 5-Disadvantaged Youth and Social Inclusion
- 6-Health and Environment
- 7-Democratic Participation and Civic Consciousness
- 8-Culture and Arts
- 9-Science and Technology
- 10-Youth in the International Arena and Intercultural Dialogue
- 11-Utilizing Leisure Time
- 12-Youth Information
- 13-Voluntary Work and Mobility

**Definition of the Youth in the National Youth and Sports Policy Paper:** Youth is a concept that needs to be addressed in a sociological sense rather than a biological one. The definition of youth is made according to the present time, socio-economical development, culture and traditions of the societies. Hence, there is not a single, universally accepted age bracket for the definitions of youth involving subjectivity. Considering the circumstances in Turkey, the target group of our youth policy is accepted as the individuals aged between 14-29.

**2- What are the main challenges that young people face in your country?**

- Inadequacy of youth related activities of nongovernmental organizations
- Lack of awareness on healthy nutrition
- Overuse of social media

**3- What measures is the Government taking to ensure the full implementation of young people's right (civil and political rights and economic and social rights)?**

Young people's economic, social, civil and political rights are guaranteed by various legislative regulations in our country. Accordingly, Ministry of Youth and Sports, other stakeholder institutions and organizations and also local administrations contribute young people to use their economic, social, civil and political rights, and support projects and activities.

**4- Could you please give examples of policies and programmes adopted to support and empower young people in the exercise of their rights?**

**Youth Centres and Camps:**

Educational, artistic, cultural, sportive and social activities are carried out in youth centres and youth camps in 81 cities of Turkey whose number have reached respectively 279 and 36 in 2017 for the purpose of supporting young people in social, economic and political fields, and enhancing their personal development.

### **Youth Projects Support Program:**

Within the "Youth Projects Support Program" we provide nongovernmental youth organisations with financial assistance and support the development and implementation of youth programs.

### **Social Cohesion and Youth Participation Project**

"Social Cohesion and Youth Participation Project" was signed between our Ministry and UNICEF Turkey Office in order to ensure the social cohesion of Syrian young people in our country. Cultural activities, social responsibility activities and also social cohesion trainings are carried out in 19 cities selected within this framework (Ankara, Adana, Adıyaman, Batman, Bursa, Gaziantep, Hatay, İstanbul, İzmir, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Mardin, Mersin, Osmaniye, Şanlıurfa, Kayseri, Konya, Kocaeli, Malatya). The target is to reach 53,000 young people within 2017. We aim to develop culture of tolerance and empathy among young children, increase awareness of social responsibility and volunteerism, and enhance cooperation and assistance among societies.

### **Credit and Accommodation Opportunities:**

Our Ministry, on the basis of equal opportunities in education, provides scholarship for successful students in need, loan for students who demand and also accommodation facilities meeting the needs of the time for the aim of making the lives of higher education students easier and contributing their personal development.

### **5- How are youth organisations or youth-led structures involved in developing, implementing, monitoring and/or evaluating policies and programmes on youth in your country?**

The authorized entity for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth policies and programs is the Ministry of Youth and Sports. However, it operates in cooperation with young people, nongovernmental organizations and other public institutions and organisations in all the works in the field of youth.

Accordingly, "National Youth and Sports Policy Paper" that is a national guide in the field of youth and sports was prepared with the contribution of the youth representatives, the relevant public institutions and organisations, sports federations and nongovernmental organizations for the purpose of achieving a common understanding, vision, policies and goals in the field of youth and sports, ensuring coordination and cooperation in the services and activities of the relevant public institutions, organisations, nongovernmental organisations, and other stakeholders. The Paper is updated every four years.

