Information on the Progress of Georgia regarding the Child Labour

January 25, 2013

Regarding the paragraph 2 of the appendix II (Laws and Regulation related to the worst forms of labour), it is notable that on April 10, 2012 Law of Georgia on the Fight Against Trafficking has been amended. Specifically, new Article on Social and Legal Protection, Assistance and Rehabilitation of the Child Victims of Trafficking has been added to the Law, which defines the issues related to the mechanisms of social and legal protection, assistance and rehabilitation of the child victims of trafficking and their status.

In connection with the paragraph 3 of the appendix II, it should be noted that the Department of Labour and Employment is planned to be established within the framework of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia at the beginning of 2013. The above-mentioned body will focus on solving the problem pertaining to labour and employment areas. Moreover, within the department activities, Labour Legislation of Georgia will be revised, as well as state policy and national legislation will be harmonized with international standards.

With regard to the paragraph 4 of the appendix II, is noteworthy that under the Order of the Government of Georgia N762, dated April 24, 2012 "2012-2015 Action Plan for Child Welfare and Protection" has been approved. The Action plan includes specific measures for different target groups of children under the age of 18 living in Georgia, among them for homeless children (so called "street children").

Within the framework of the child welfare reform carried out in the field of child care, 5 large residential institutions were closed in 2012. Based on the state policy on the matter, all residential institutions will be closed by the end of 2013. With the financial aid of donor organizations (USAID), 25 small group homes were opened in 2011-2012. As for the activities which were carried out within the framework of the state funded program, 17 new small group homes and 5 day centers of children have been opened. It is notable that a Crisis Center operates in Tbilisi, which serves approximately 40 "street children".

The implementation of the following activities has been planned by the Interagency Advisory Council within the margins of the project "Assistance of Extremely Vulnerable Children, Especially Children Living and/or Working in the Streets": within the framework of the State Program on Social Rehabilitation and Child Care, 2 crisis intervention centers and 3 day centers will be financed for the abovementioned targeted group. The above institution will provide shelter for children who are in crisis conditions (it will provide meeting of children's primary needs and define possible forms of long-term care). Mobile groups will provide finding and identification of the children living and/or working in the streets. They will provide data collection and redirection of the children to relevant services.

Within the framework of the project "Assistance of Extremely Vulnerable Children, Especially Children Living and/or Working in the Streets", a Memorandum of Understanding has been concluded between the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The Parties of the Memorandum have defined specific obligations regarding the activities which should be carried out within the framework of the project.

During the reporting period "2011-2012 Action Plan in the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings" has been adopted. For the purpose of implementation the Action Plan the Government allocated 468 307 USD in 2011, 485 000 USD in 2012. International organizations has made their input as well, specifically, 68 313 USD has been allocated in 2011 and 130 230 USD in 2012. The implementation of the Action Plan has already started. Within the framework of the Action Plan discussions have been held in regions and 320 young people were trained on issues of trafficking. Preventive issues had been also discussed.

At the beginning of 2012, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government and non-governmental organizations, which are evolved in fighting against human trafficking.

In connection to the paragraph 5 of the appendix II, it is notable that the shelters and Day Centers opened in 2013 within the framework of the project "Assistance of Extremely Vulnerable Children, Especially Children Living and/or Working in the Streets" will be financed within the margins of relevant state program.

Information on recommended measures

Field - Laws and Regulations

The Government has elaborated a list of professions considered as a heavy, hazardous and harmful for all workers; nevertheless, begging and street works cannot be included in that list. According to the Criminal Code of Georgia (Article 171) engagement of minor in begging or anti-social behavior shall be punishable.

According to the law on General Education, primary (6 years) and basic (3 years) education is compulsory in Georgia and in this regard specific age restrictions are not established. After receiving basic education a person can receive professional or full basic education.

Field – Coordination and Implementation

After the creation of the Department of Labour and Employment within the framework of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, the Department will consider and solve the problems and concerns connected with the worst forms of child labour.

Field – Politics

Mobile groups working within the framework of the project "Assistance of Extremely Vulnerable Children, Especially Children Living and/or Working in the Streets" will collect information on children working and/or living in the streets and accordingly form a database.

235 Social Agents of Social Service Agency of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, within their competence, will respond to the notification/information related to minors (including children working and/or leaving in the streets) and will ensure their further involvement in different social programs and services.

Field – Social Programs

Currently, the Ministry Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia carries out relevant measures in order to change methods of evaluation the social-economic condition of the family. Amendments contain changes of the evaluation criteria of minor children families, which will reflect on the rating score of the family's social-economic condition.