**MONGOLIA’S RESPONSE TO THE INQUIRY OF THE CEDAW COMMITTEE REGARDING THE ARTICLE 10, 12, 15 AND 16 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN**

***Article 10:***

***10.1*** In cooperation with the “National Research Institute of Labor and Professions” under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, 68 teachers participated in 3 online courses trainings.

Within the effort of providing career guidance to students, 18,700 high school students were provided with career choice knowledge, group and individual training and counseling.

In order to provide career guidance to high school graduates, the “Choose the Right Career” event was organized in 2022 with multi-stakeholder participation. More than 140 9th and 12th-grade students attended the event which provided them with information on how to choose the right profession, career, employment, career guidance, and choosing the right profession.

For the first time, the concept of a “National Qualification framework” was enshrined in the revised Labor Law of Mongolia. Together with Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Education, Science has started to develop National Qualification Framework in order to classify, rank, recognize and certify the knowledge, skills and attitudes of citizens.

***10.2 Mandatory*** pre-school education, as well as elementary and secondary education standards are followed by all types of kindergarten and schools. In the academic year of 2019-2020, within the framework of the improved primary, basic, and upper secondary education curricula during the school year, children were able to choose technology subjects that were different for boys and girls, regardless of gender.

***10.3*** In 2021, a professional team was appointed by order of the Minister of Education and Science to analyze the content and design of 137 general education textbooks and develop recommendations. The result of the research shows that pictures and graphs expressing gender stereotypes have been widely found in the textbook, whereas role models such as women, ethnic minority historical heroes, composers, and poets that could change gender stereotypes are less likely to be portrayed in textbook. These findings are to be taken into consideration in the development of textbook policy, curricula, and new textbooks.

***10.4*** In the academic year of 2021-2022, following students who meet the criteria have received grants:

* 58.6% of students with disabilities,
* 71.7% of full-orphans students;
* 70.3% of students, whose parents are disabled,
* 69.7% of students in bachelor's programs in a family with a member who has completely lost his/her ability to work,
* 66.7% of students with 3 or more children from the same family studying at the same time in bachelor's programs at a higher education institution,
* 71.4% of Tsaatan household undergraduate students,
* 90.7% of students who received more than 650 points in the general entrance exam and received scholarships and scholarships to enter the state-owned universities and colleges as teachers,
* 93.9% of students who received scholarships for enrollment in higher education diploma and bachelor's programs as nurses in state-owned and non-state-owned higher education institutions are female students.

Moreover, 83.7% of students who successfully complete a teaching internship at a state-owned teacher training university in rural areas receive a living wage equal to 30 percent of the school's annual tuition fee. In addition, the Government has subsidized transportation fee for the students who traveled to hometown during the winter vacation and who’s the university and college located 500 kilometer or more from hometown. In order to receive the transportation fee, the student has to be enrolled in the university and college according to the relevant regulation and out of total students, 70.3 percent is female students.

In the academic year of 2021-2022, Student Development Loans were issued to 7,168 students of Mongolian accredited higher education institutions studying in priority specialties in Mongolia, of which 74.2% are female students.

Female students make up 83.9 percent of those eligible for the Presidential Scholarship or foreign scholarship. Female students constitute 75 percent of total scholarship grant holders of The Prime Minister's Scholarship, which is dedicated for students who has qualified to study in the domestic university.

**10.5** In the first half of 2022, 1,675 people were involved in literacy training, of which 1,141 were men and 534 were women, 256 of whom were under the age of 18 and 1,419 were over the age of 18.

***10.6*** In the 2021-2022 school year, a total of 1,931 students nationwide are at risk of dropping out of school, of which 1,391 or 72 percent are male and 540 or 28 percent are female. This suggests that there is a high risk of boys dropping out of school and that attention needs to be paid to boys' education. In addition, the employment status of parents of such students shows that 24 percent of all parents are employed, 39 percent are unemployed, and 33 percent are herders.

In the 2021-2022 academic year, 5313 students aged 8-46 are enrolled in 355 Lifelong Learning Centers nationwide, of which 1321 are women and 3992 are men.

In order to overcome the difficulties caused by Covid-19 pandemic and to compensate for the learning delays of students, in 2021, the Minister of Education and Science issued Order A/190 “A comprehensive plan to compensate for the learning delays of secondary school students /2021-2023/.

650 public schools provide extra curriculums and activities based on subjects and demands/interests of their students. These are: Arts/Music extra activities - 131 schools (20%), Fine Arts, Design and technology- 42 schools (6%), Physical Activities, Health - 347 schools (53%), Others /eco club, old scripts, information technology, debating, IQ, traditional writing, soroban and reading clubs etc/- (20%).

***10.7*** In the academic year of 2021-2022, 29,455 people were involved in family education training and 31,062 people were involved in advocacy work and services.

***Article 12:***

12.1. In accordance with Article 4.1.2 of the Health law, doctors and health workers shall provide equal access of health care services to the population without discrimination and based on the age, sex and health risks of the population the Government of Mongolia has launched early detection examination and diagnosis campaign. In addition, the Government of Mongolia is implementing the “Policy on gender equality in the health sector”.

12.2. Article 2.1.1.3 of the Action Plan of the Government of Mongolia for 2020-2024 calls for the implementation of an action plan on “Maternal, child and reproductive health”. In this context, during pregnancy, adolescent girls and their legal guardians who approach Adolescent Clinic center are provided with appropriate advice and information on contraception, antenatal care, abortion, pre and post abortion contraceptives. According to the respective legislation, necessary services have been provided based on the decisions made by adolescent girls and their guardians.

In addition, the Law on Social Welfare and the Law on Issuance of Food Vouchers provide for the dissemination of food vouchers to pregnant and lactating mothers who are members of households in need of food. According to the Law on Allowances for Single Parents with numerous Children, monthly 16 dollars is provided to single parent with children aged 0-3, a quarterly allowance to single mothers (fathers) who have 3 or more children under the age of 18; additionally, other support for pregnant women and twins is regulated by the same law.

***Article 15:***

15.1. Mongolia renewed its Constitution in 1992; Article 14.2 of the Constitution states that “No person shall be discriminated against on the basis of ethnic origin, language, race, age, sex, social origin and status, property, occupation and position, religion, opinion and education. Every one shall be a person before the law.”

15.2-15.3. Under the Mongolian legislation, women and men have equal opportunity in civil matters, and women exercise legal capacity identical to that of men and enjoy same opportunities to exercise that capacity. In particular, as stated in part 1 and 3 of Article 14 of the Constitution of Mongolia, Article 15 of the Civil Code, and Article 7 of the Law on Court, women shall enjoy equal rights as men to conclude contracts and to administer property and shall be treated equally in the process.

15.4. The Convention Articles on enjoyment by men and women the same rights with regard to movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile are enshrined in Article 16, part 18, of the Constitution of Mongolia.

**Article 16:**

**16.1(a), (b).** According to the paragraph 11 of Article 16 of the Constitution of Mongolia, men and women shall enjoy equal rights in political, economic, social, cultural fields and in family relationship. Marriage shall be based on the equality and mutual consent of the spouses who have reached the age determined by law. The State shall protect the interests of the family, motherhood and the child.

Paragraph 1, Article 4 of the Family Law /Principle of Marriage and family relations/ stipulates that marriage should be equal and voluntary.

**16.1(c).** Article 10 and 14 of the Family Law regulate that:

10.1. Spouses shall exercise equal right and obligations in the family.

10.2 Spouses shall exercise equal right in family planning, choosing place of residence, work, and occupation freely, in property ownership, in owning, using and disposing of jointly owned property, ensuring proper redress of physical and mental damage by the perpetrator.

10.3. Spouses shall be faithful to each other, raise their children, take and respect of each other, to support each other, to create the necessary economic conditions for the family, not to violate each other's rights, not to abuse each other in any way.

14.5. Spouses may independently or through mediation agree on the custody of their children in the event of divorce, supporting of the children and their disabled spouses, and the share of joint property.

**16.1(d), (f)**. Article 16 of the Constitution of Mongolia stipulates that the State shall protect the best interest family, motherhood and children. This has further been cemented in Article 4.4 of the Family Law, and Article 4.5 of the same law provides that the interest of children shall be prioritized and protected and it should be preferred to raise children in the healthy family environment. Furthermore, under Article 10.3 of the Family Law, spouses are obligated to exercise the duty to raise and discipline the children on equal basis.

**16.1(e), (g), (h).** According to Article 10.2 of the Family Law, spouses shall exercise equal right in family planning, choosing place of residence, work, and occupation freely, in property ownership, in owning, using and disposing of jointly owned property, ensuring proper redress of physical and mental damage by the perpetrator.

**2.** According to the Family Law, marriage shall be based on the equality and mutual consent of the spouses who have reached the age determined by law and shall be determined when the spouses are registered by state authorized organization in accordance with respective legislation. Those who desire to marry shall register their marriage under witness, by the State Civil Registration Office. Marriage registration procedure shall be conducted in accordance with law.