*Unofficial translation*

**UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

**(CESCR)**

**Dear Sir/Madam,**

I would like to present my compliments to you and to send the Commissioner’s Parallel Report concerning the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by Ukraine for consideration by the Committee.

Annex: on 10 pages.

***Yours faithfully,***

**Commissioner Liudmyla Denisova**

***Annex to the letter No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**The Commissioner’s Parallel Report concerning the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by Ukraine**

**Question 1**

1. Supporting host territorial communities in the process of integration of internally displaced persons (hereinafter – the IDPs) is a part of the Strategy of Integration of Internally Displaced Persons and implementation of long-term solutions for the IDPs until 2020. Progress against this goal is possible by providing support from the state budget to the local budgets of the host territorial communities, taking into account real number and needs of displaced persons living in these territorial communities.

**Question 2**

2. The Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons” sets out a clear list of grounds under which a certificate on registration of internally displaced person may be revoked.

3. However, it does not take into account the fact that if the person is a pensioner, the cancellation of the certificate entails the suspension of the pension. Such payments are renewed when an IDP certificate is renewed, but the amounts of pension arrears generated in the period when it was not paid are not reimbursed, as no respective procedure is there.

4. The Government of Ukraine has adopted a decision on the application of restrictions to pensioners from non-Government-controlled territories. In particular, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine #167 “On Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine” of 14.03.2016 entails that the pensions are only paid to current accounts at PJSC “State Savings Bank of Ukraine” (*Oshchadbank*); introduces electronic pension certificates for IDP pensioners; and mandates the IDPs to undergo physical identification in the branches of *Oshchadbank.*

5. Another problem for IDP pensioners was the Government Resolution # 365 “Certain Issues of Making Social Payments to Internally Displaced Persons” of 8 June 2016 that introduced a mechanism for checking the IDPs who are recipients of pensions.

6. During the period 2016-2019, this Resolution was subject to a number of amendments that, apparently, were not aimed at finding the solution, and therefore, the decision of Kyiv District Administrative Court of 29.06.2017 in case №826/12123/16 – which was subsequently upheld by Kyiv Administrative Court of Appeals – ordered that the items 7, 8, 9, 13 of the Procedure for Assigning/Renewing Social Payments to Internally Displaced Persons and the Procedure for Controlling the Social Payments to Internally Displaced Persons at their Actual Place of Residence/Stay, approved by this Resolution and paragraph 10 of item 1 of the CMU Resolution #637 “On Making Social Payments to Internally Displaced Persons” of 05.11.2014 are invalid.

7. As the Government adopted the Resolution #788 "On Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine” of 21.08.2019 that *inter alia* amended the CMU Resolution #637 “On Making Social Payments to Internally Displaced Persons” of 05.11.2014, the situation has deteriorated significantly. These changes stipulate: “Amounts of pensions that are not paid until one month before their renewal shall be accounted for by the authority that makes pension payments and are paid through a special procedure, determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine." This procedure has not been developed yet.

8. In November 2019, the Government approved the Procedure for using the funds provided in the state budget for granting preferential long-term state credit to internally displaced persons, participants of Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) and/or Operation of United Forces (OUF) for the acquisition of housing (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine #980 of 27.11.2019). A total of UAH 200 Million is allocated to implement it, which is split in equal parts for the ATO/OUF participants and the IDPs. Applications for these loans were submitted during 3-5 December 2019. A total of 9,600 applications were submitted by the ATO/OUF participants and the IDPs. Most applications for 20-year loans with 3% interest were received from Kyiv (over 3,500 applications. Available funding is not enough to meet the expressed needs. Therefore, this initiative seems to be ineffective.

**Question 3**

9. The number of children born on the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea after 2014 who received birth certificate from Ukrainian Government is critically small, less than 14%.

10. As of December 2019, Ukraine continues to apply exclusively the judicial method of registering a child born on the non-Government-controlled and temporarily occupied territories. It complicates the birth registration procedure.

11. At the same time, it should be noted that the Government of Ukraine has drafted a law aimed at introducing an administrative procedure for state registration of birth and death on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

12. However, the draft law proposes that the state registration of the birth of a child on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine can only be performed at the written request of the parents or one of the parents.

13. The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights (hereinafter - the Commissioner) stated that since these are only the parents who can apply for state registration of the birth, many children remain not registered and, therefore, not accounted in Ukraine’s records, because parents of many children due to objective or personal reasons do not cross the contact line.

14. Lack of a mechanism for paying pensions to residents of the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts creates discrimination against them.

15. Adoption of the draft law 2083-d, registered with the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on 26 November 2019 – that has been finalized in the light of the Commissioner’s remarks – will facilitate solution to this problem. To ensure implementation of the law, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine should adopt the respective legal acts.

**Question 5**

16. On 12 December 2019, the VRU approved the Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine On Temporary Measures for the Period of Anti-Terrorist Operation (Concerning the Particularities of Issuing Identity Documents and Documents Confirming Citizenship of Ukraine).”

17. The aim of this Law is to regulate the procedure of issuing identity documents and documents confirming citizenship of Ukraine to citizens who reside in the ATO/OUF area or fled from it during the ATO/OUF. Such documents will be issued at the place of actual residence.

18. A key problem that hinders the realization of fundamental rights and freedoms of the Roma is that Roma face difficult access to obtaining identity documents.

19. To introduce the procedure for recognizing a stateless person, on 5 December 2019 the VRU adopted the draft Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts on Recognizing a Stateless Person” (draft law # 2335 as of 29.10.2019) as a basis and urged to speed up finalization of the text of the draft law.

**Question 6**

20. Significant changes to the principles of collecting single contribution to compulsory state social insurance fund and widening the range of persons covered by it during 2016-2017 has increased the financial burden on individual entrepreneurs. In particular, the adoption of two Laws of Ukraine (# 1774 of 6.12.2016 and # 2148 of 3.10.2017) abolished the right to voluntary payment of contributions in case of no income and introduced compulsory accrual and payment of the single contribution in the amount of the minimum insurance premium irrespective of whether an entrepreneur conducted business activities of not – including those who work seasonally or irregularly, as well as in case of annual leave of health issues.

21. On 18 November 2019, the Commissioner submitted to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine a constitutional submission on recognizing the legal framework on single contribution as not being in conformity with the Constitution of Ukraine. The Constitutional Court of Ukraine opened the constitutional proceedings in the case and prepares the case for consideration at the plenary session of the Grand Chamber of the Court. The respective materials can be found at: <http://www.ccu.gov.ua/novyna/konstytuciyni-podannya-stanom-na-20-grudnya-2019-roku.>   
  
**Question 7**

22. National policy development in the economic, social and cultural areas is based on the available financial resources, which are first of all directed to the sector of defence and overcoming the consequences of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine.

23. Violations of the rights of citizens of Ukraine to pension are observed when they leave for permanent residence abroad, if Ukraine has not concluded an international agreement on pension security with the respective country.

24. In terms of decentralization reform implemented by the Government of Ukraine, the Commissioner’s Office monitors observance of the constitutional rights (in particular, to social protection, work, health, education and culture) in the context of this reform. The findings of monitoring showed that the enjoyment of the rights guaranteed at the national level depends on how financially viable local community is.

25. Many families are unable to fully pay for housing and utilities, with the utility rates constantly rising to meet the relevant IMF requirements. The introduction of the housing subsidy programme has somewhat offset the negative impact of such growth, but the legislation on the government subsidies has been regularly amended. It gradually complicates the procedure to receive the subsidies and narrows the range of individuals who can actually benefit from it.

**Question 9**

26. As the Law of Ukraine “On the Principles of Prevention and Combating Discrimination in Ukraine” entered in force in fall 2012, the Commissioner was authorized to monitor and control the observance of non-discrimination in all sectors of public relations, to keep records of discrimination cases, to review complaints, to cooperate with international organizations and relevant authorities of foreign countries on international standards in the field of non-discrimination.

27. With the amendments to this Law in 2014, the following were added to the powers of the Commissioner: initiating proposals to improve anti-discrimination legislation; submitting suits to the court on discrimination in order to protect the public interest; drafting and sending the expert reports when the court contact the Commissioner for them. Also, the scope of the Commissioner’s competence to prevent and counteract discrimination was extended to private-law relations where most discrimination cases actually happen.

**Question 10**

28. At present, the prohibition of discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and gender identity is expressly provided for only in the Labour Code of Ukraine (Article 21).

29. The Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy until 2020, approved by the Ordinance of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine #1393-p of 23.11.2015, provides for the establishment of the effective system of prevention and combating discrimination, including on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

30. It is a common practice for the authorities to avoid qualification of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity as the offense under Article 161 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine that provides for liability for violations of equality of citizens depending on their race, nationality, religion, disability and other grounds.

**Question 11**

31. The findings of monitoring of the observance of the rights and freedoms of Roma community prove that despite the Government-approved Strategy for the Protection and Social Integration of the Roma National Minority until 2020 and the Action Plan for its Implementation, Roma community still finds itself in a deep social crisis.

32. The findings of monitoring revealed the cases of discriminatory treatment against Roma women in the fields of health, education, document production, and social protection. There are widespread cases when women cannot receive healthcare in full, women with children are placed in hospital rooms of poorer quality, or neglect on the part of medical staff. The overwhelming majority of Roma families in Roma settlements live in dire conditions, with basic sanitary and hygienic standards not met.

33. Main types of assistance needed by Roma women are: assistance in issuing ID documents, obtaining a status of an internally displaced person; assigning and receiving social benefits; mediation in communication with local authorities and law enforcement agencies; seeking legal advice, humanitarian, psychological assistance.

**Question 12**

34. One of the urgent objectives is to enforce the mechanism of combating cases of discriminatory advertising. In 2019, the Commissioner found violations of Article 8 of the Law of Ukraine “On Advertising” in 32 cases.

35. At the same time, monitoring of media, online resources and other sources revealed 14 cases of outdoor advertising, the content of which is discriminatory on the basis of sex – namely, they portrayed women as sexual objects.

36. Following the findings of monitoring, the Commissioner notes positive changes in the field of women’s representation in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and in leadership positions[[1]](#footnote-1).

37. The Law of Ukraine “On Political Parties in Ukraine” provides for the possibility of financing the statutory activities of political parties from the state budget. Funding depends on the number of votes cast. Gender quota (30% voluntary gender quota in election lists of candidates) allows to receive additional funds from the state budget (equal shares of 10% of the annual amount of state funding of statutory activities of political parties), and such funds are provided to the respective parties if at least 1/3 of the MPs elected from a party list are women or men.

**Question 13**

38. Notwithstanding the positive trends in the labour market of Ukraine in terms of employment growth and reduction of unemployment, according to the State Employment Service, the situation remains challenging. The most critical problems are the mismatch between labour supply and demand, the lack of quality jobs with decent working conditions and the adequate level of wages, late payment of wages, shadow employment, etc.[[2]](#footnote-2).

39. The Commissioner’s monitoring in the field of observance of the rights of persons with disabilities to work in 2019 showed that the employment rate of such persons is low. Job placement quotas for persons with disabilities are not fully respected.

40. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine #706 of 01.08.2012 approved the State Targeted Programme “National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” until 2020. According to the State Statistics Service, as of 1 January 2019, there were 2,659,700 people with disabilities in Ukraine. And according to the latest update from the Information and Computing Centre of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, only 670,180 persons with disabilities are employed. It does not meet the forecast employment target stipulated by the State Targeted Programme (by 2018 – up to 750,300 persons; by 2020 – up to 794,000 persons, or +14,000-15,000 persons annually).

**Question 14**

41. According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, the number of informally employed population in Ukraine during January-June 2019 – compared to the same period of 2018 – decreased by 94,300 and amounted to about 3.45 million people (or 21% of the total employed population aged 15-70 years. In January-June 2018, it was estimated that 3.55 million people, or 21.8%, are employed informally.

42. Notwithstanding some positive trends in reducing the number of informally employed population, the number of complaints by people to the Commissioner about lack of registration of labour relations and envelope wages has not decreased.

**Question 16**

43. The problem of late payment of wages is aggravating every year. Wage arrears continue to increase[[3]](#footnote-3).

44. In both 2018 and 2019, no meeting of the Commission on Payment of Wages, Pensions, Scholarships and other Social Benefits – a temporary advisory body to the Government – was conducted.

45. The issue of wage arrears was also highlighted in the Annual Report of the Commissioner on the Status of Observance and Protection of Human and Rights and Freedoms in Ukraine for 2018, and with a view to regulating it, respective recommendations were provided to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. But the Government failed to consider these recommendations and suggestions.

**Question 18**

46. ​​The Government considers that the top priority of amending the effective legislation on social protection of the population is to introduce targeted social assistance. In view of this and the need for expedient and rational use of public funds, amendments are being made to the legislation that narrow the rights of certain populations to social security.

47. The Constitutional Court of Ukraine finds such actions of the Government unlawful. Namely, it declared the provision that abolished the existing privileges for the victims of the Chornobyl disaster and war veterans as contradicting to the Constitution of Ukraine (decisions #6-p/2018 of 17.07.2018 and #12‑p of 18.12.2018).

48. Most state social security benefits and pensions are calculated based on the subsistence minimum and only increase when this minimum goes up when it is revised in line with the increase in the consumer price index along with the review of indicators of the State Budget of Ukraine for the respective year. However, the Government does not provide any objective definition of the basic state standard of subsistence minimum (in particular, the subsistence minimum approved by law is almost twice less than the actual one). It leads to the artificial reduction of all social and pension benefits that are calculated on the basis of this indicator, and, therefore, to the deterioration of the standards of living of people.

49. The Government has introduced such conditions for granting state social benefits that encourage able-bodied persons to be employed officially[[4]](#footnote-4).

**Question 19**

50. After the pension reform and other legislative initiatives in the area of ​​pension adopted on 1 October 2017[[5]](#footnote-5) were launched, the amount of pension payments to citizens has increased, but due to the inflation and constant increase in prices for goods and services, including housing and utility services, the amount of pension payments received by citizens does not allow an adequate standard of living.

51. According to the Pension Fund of Ukraine, as of 01.10.2019, almost 8 million persons receive a pension below the actual subsistence minimum (70.2% of total number of pensioners). Even the average pension in Ukraine (UAH 3,019.62), and even more so the average disability pension (UAH 2,450.41) are far lower than the actual subsistence minimum.

52. Additional payment paid to the pensioners pursuant to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine #543 “On Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine” to make sure that their pension is at least UAH 2,000 (for male pensioners who have at least 35, and female, 30 years of pensionable service) – notwithstanding the increase in the amount of pension to a significant share of pensioners – has even more led to pension-levelling of accrued pensions.

53. The reform introduced a unified approach to the calculation of pension for pensioners of all categories. As a result of the changes introduced by the legislature, civil servants, local government officials and other persons alike who had legitimate expectations for a civil servant’s pension under the guaranteed conditions and procedure while they were working on public service and local self-government positions (having a special legal status and paying increased pension contributions) were devoid of legitimate expectations.

54. In order to protect the rights of this group of citizens, the Commissioner drafted and sent a submission to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine on 18.11.2019. The Constitutional Court opened the constitutional proceedings in the case and is preparing the case for consideration at the plenary session of the Grand Chamber of the Court. The text of the submission can be found at: <http://www.ccu.gov.ua/sites/default/files/5_7129_2019.pdf>.

**Question 20**

55. To date, the protection of the rights of persons illegally detained by the Russian Federation, the occupation administration of the Russian Federation, and persons released from such a detention is regulated by a number of legal acts, in particular by the CMU Resolutions #38 of 31 January 2018 and #845 of 11 September 2019. However, the above Resolutions provide for the payment of one-time financial assistance and the provision of other types of social benefits only to those who were released on 27 December 2017, 24 January 2018, and 7 July 2019.

56. According to the Ministry for Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons of Ukraine, as of December 2018, financial assistance in the amount of UAH 7.1 Million was paid to 71 persons who had been deprived of liberty and applied for assistance.

57. Persons who have been released in the period from 2014 to 27 December 2017, as well as those who are currently unlawfully deprived of liberty and would be released in the future, are not covered by these regulations.

**Question 21**

58. There has been no progress in establishing a basic standard of subsistence minimum. Similar to previous years, it is calculated based on the available resources (the budget’s financial capabilities) rather than on the normative method (as defined by law). It results in a mismatch between the actual and the legally approved subsistence minimums[[6]](#footnote-6).

59. The Government Resolution #780 of 11.10.2016 that approved the sets of food, non-food products and services for the main social and demographic groups of the population was declared invalid and annulled on the basis of court decisions[[7]](#footnote-7), and another was not adopted.

Question 22

60. The decentralization reform in Ukraine has not delivered the expected results in the area of ​​local self-government bodies providing housing to citizens who are registered in the waiting lists for housing, including social housing for vulnerable populations.

61. At the same time, the Law of Ukraine “On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2020” does not provide for expenditures from the state budget for the procurement of affordable housing, as well as the procurement of housing for such population groups as liquidators of the Chornobyl disaster of categories I and II, families with many children, people living in an emergency housing, persons with disabilities of groups I and II.

Question 23

62. The payment of compensation to people whose houses/apartments were destroyed as a result of the hostilities remains unregulated by law.

63. As the legal mechanism for the payment of compensation is absent, the only possible way to obtain compensation is to bring an action to court. Part of the lawsuits are filed against the Russian Federation, the other part, against the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, based on the provisions of the Law of Ukraine “On Combating Terrorism” and the Civil Protection Code of Ukraine.

64. On 10 July 2019, the Government adopted the new wording of the Procedure for granting and determining financial assistance or compensation to victims of emergencies remaining at their previous place of residence, approved by the CMU Resolution #947 of 18.12.2013. However, it only covers a small share of persons (who remained in the previous place of residence), and it does not take into account the needs of all persons affected by the armed conflict, including those who were forced to leave their place of residence.

Question 24

65. Settlements in the immediate vicinity of the contact line are daily affected by the prolonged armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. The rights of the population living in these areas are constantly restricted. The media monitoring revealed that in the settlements of Donetsk oblasts located near the contact line, there has been no water supply for a long time, in particular in the settlements of Petrivka, Novhorodske, Shcherbynivka.

66. The Commissioner send requests to Toretsk Military-Civil Administration and the Ministry of Regional Development to take measures to ensure proper functioning of infrastructure in these settlements. As a result of the measures taken, water supply in these settlements was renewed.

**Question 25**

67. Financial needs of health care facilities far exceed the amount of medical subventions from the state budget. Although the State Budget for 2020 increased funding of health care to UAH 131.8 Billion, the share of health care expenditures in GDP does not exceed 2.9%, and compared to 2019, it decreased from 3.2%. It does not meet the requirements of part 5 of Article 4 of the Law of Ukraine “On State Financial Guarantees of Public Healthcare” that requires allocation of at least % of GDP to implement medical guarantees.

68. The existing system of prevention and healthcare is unable to withstand the epidemic dissemination of socially dangerous diseases, the greatest threat being the uncontrolled dissemination of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

69. Since 2014, Ukraine has been in the top five countries with the highest burden of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, with successful TB treatment rate – 46% – being one of the lowest in the European region. Given the epidemic dissemination of tuberculosis among the population of Ukraine, the TB should become one of the priorities of national policy in the field of health and social development[[8]](#footnote-8).

**Question 27**

70. For five years, the issue of establishing the status of civilians affected by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine remains unresolved at the legislative level.

71. At present, there is no unified state mechanism for the account of civilians who have been injured or sustained other damage to health as a result of hostilities.

72. In May 2018, amendments were made to the Law of Ukraine “On the Status of War Veterans, Guarantees of their Social Protection” that extended its scope to civilians who sustained disability as a result of hostilities[[9]](#footnote-9).

**Question 28**

73. As of December 2019, 117 schools located in the high shelling risk areas along the contact line continue to operate.

74. On 26-27 November 2019, the Commissioner conducted an international conference on the observance of the rights of the child in armed conflict, attended by children living in areas close to the contact line who noted that the premises of their schools are poorly or not equipped against shelling or other massive attacks.

75. In addition, in November 2019, Ukraine ratified the Safe Schools Declaration. At present, the provisions of the Declaration have not been mainstreamed into the national law.

76. In 2019, monitoring visits were carried out to Donbas-Ukraine and Crimea-Ukraine education centres operating on the basis of Vernadskyi Tavria National University (Kyiv) and Admiral Makarov National University of Shipbuilding (Mykolaiv) to ensure the rights of persons residing on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine to enter the higher and vocational (vocational-technical) education institutions.

77. At the same time, the shortcomings were observed in the operation of the Unified State Electronic Database on Education, as well as the lack of proper cooperation with its administrator (the state-owned enterprise “Inforesurs” that is subordinate to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine) concerning the shortened terms of issuing an education certificate. There are cases when the social protection authorities refuse to issue IDP certificates to persons who enter the higher and vocational (vocational-technical) education institutions

**Question 29**

78. Although the government has introduced an inclusive education system since 2017, and in 2018, requirements for the design of inclusive schools were added to the state construction regulations, the monitoring of the Commissioner showed that most general secondary education institutions are not accessible for people with musculoskeletal and sight impairments. When school buses/transport vehicles are available, such vehicles are not adjusted for needs of children with disabilities.

79. In addition, the educators are currently not sufficiently prepared to deal with children with special educational needs.

80. The closure of schools in rural areas sometimes does not lead to the anticipated goal of improving the level of education, but – on the contrary – creates significant obstacles to children’s access to quality education. Many districts in the oblasts remain uncovered by school buses that makes children go to school in another settlement by foot.

81. In addition, during the monitoring visit, the Commissioner identified a case where in a boarding school for children in need of physical and/or mental development corrections, all the first-grade students are residents of the village where the school is located. This situation raises doubts about the reasonability of enrolment of children in a special educational institution.

82. Monitoring of Roma children’s access to educational services in the regions of Ukraine with the largest Roma communities revealed that despite the adoption of the Strategy for the Protection and Social Integration of the Roma National Minority until 2020, the local government only implements the Strategy to tick the box and is not always committed to successful integration of Roma minority in the community.

83. Given the fact that in most cases the parents of Roma children are illiterate, their children need individual support from teachers and extended day groups. However, due to underfunding, some general secondary education institutions do not open such groups and cannot organize individual classes.

84. Roma children’s attendance of kindergartens and general secondary education institutions is low. Cases of children dropping from school have been identified. The reasons include early marriage and childbearing. As a result, some Roma children do not receive general secondary education. Only few continue their education in vocational and higher education institutions.

**Question 32**

85. Within the Commissioner’s exercise of parliamentary control over the observance of constitutional rights of citizens in the field of culture, in the context of decentralization reform, monitoring visits were made to local executive authorities and local self-government bodies, as well as to their subordinate cultural institutions in Vinnytsia, Kyiv and Kharkiv oblasts.

87. The monitoring proves that the decentralization has exacerbated the problem of preserving and developing cultural and artistic institutions in the regions. It is quite common when during the amalgamation of territorial communities, newly-formed local governments refuse to accept cultural institutions on their balance sheets. As a result, every year the network of cultural and artistic institutions is reduced by 2,000-2,500 facilities, and the communities gradually lose access to cultural services.

88. The material and technical provision of most rural cultural institutions remains unsatisfactory.

89. There are no adequate conditions for persons with disabilities and low-mobility groups to visit cultural institutions and facilities. Specialized libraries are not provided with books and publications in Braille for non-seeing and visually impaired persons.

1. In the VRU of ninth convocation, 20.52% MPs are women (compared to 35% female MPs in 1991). Women’s representation in the new Government is 33% (2019), compared to 22% in 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The unemployment rate (according to the ILO methodology) at the age of 15-70 years in January-November 2019 in Ukraine is 8.5%. The highes unemployment rates are observed in Volyn (11.7%), Kirovohrad (11.2%), Poltava (11.1%), Donetsk (13.7%) and Luhansk (14.2%) oblasts. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, wage arrears have increased by 30% since the beginning of the year; as of 01.11.2019, it amounts to UAH 3.33 Billion; compared to the corresponding period of 2018, wage arrears increased by 19.22% (as of 01.11.2018, it amounted to UAH 2.88 Billion). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. For example, state assistance to low-income families is not granted in cases where able-bodied members of low-income families are not employed (Article 7 of the Law of Ukraine “On State Social Assistance to Low-Income Families”). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Including: establishing a pension at the level not lower than UAH 2,000 for male pensioners who have at least 35, and female, 30 years of pensionable service); indexation of pensions since 1 March 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. In particular, starting from 1 July, the legally-approved subsistence minimum per a disabled person per month is UAH 1,564, while the actual amount is UAH 3,135.  [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The decision of Kyiv District Administrative Court #826/3639/17 of 25.04.2018, the decision of Kyiv Administrative Court of Appeals of 10.07.2018 and the Supreme Court of 20.12.2018 adopted in case #826/3639/17. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. According to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, in 2019, 15,0000 new HIV cases were registered in Ukraine, of which 1,975 are children under 14. The number of people who first contracted tuberculosis is 15,000 every year. Among children under 14, the incidence of coinfection (TB/HIV/AIDS) is up to 30% of HIV-infected persons. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. According to the Ministry of Veterans, Temporarily Occupied Territories and Displaced Persons of Ukraine, as of December 2019, 51 civilians were found to have been injured or suffered other damage to health from explosives, ammunition and military weapons in the ATO/OUF area. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)