
presentation of the Second Periodic Report of
the Republic of Kazakhstan on the implementation of
the Convention
on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

16 January 2007

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished members of the CEDAW,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me, on behalf of the leadership of the Republic of Kazakhstan, to greet you and to thank the UN and the CEDAW for the attention paid towards our country. It is a great privilege for me to introduce the Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in Kazakhstan.

Attaching great importance to meeting with you here in New York, we have put together quite a representative delegation that includes two members of our Parliament, a Vice-Minister of Justice, a Supreme Court Justice, senior officials from the Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as representatives of the UNDP Gender in Development Bureau and NGOs.

I am Advisor to the President and Chairperson of the National Commission on Family

The Government has been continuously providing support to vulnerable groups of the population.

Targeted social assistance is extended to low-income families; a one-off allowance is paid on the birth of a child, a childcare allowance is provided until the child is one year old, and benefits are being paid to mothers with many children.

Benefits to veterans and disabled veterans of World War II grow on a continuous basis.

As compared to 2001, annual social expenditures under the national budget have grown by 3.5 times and have amounted to 600 billion tenge in 2006, thus amounting to 37 percent of all budget expenditures of the state.

In 2007, social expenditures will increase by another 18 percent, including a planned 30 percent increase in public sector employees' wages.

As noted by international experts, the level of life satisfaction in Kazakhstan is the highest in the CIS region and is close to the rates registered in the European Union.

Kazakhstan is located at the heart of Eurasia, at the junction of three world religions: Islam, Christianity and Buddhism. And today it acts as a role model of peaceful coexistence of various cultures and civilizations.

Kazakhstan has become home to representatives of over 130 ethnic groups and some 45 different faiths and denominations. They formed an Assembly of the Peoples of Kazakhstan ten years ago. Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called it a 'miniature UN' during his visit to our country in 2002.

Therefore, it is no coincidence that it has been Astana, Kazakhstan's capital, which has hosted two congresses of world religions.

A Palace of Peace and Accord was built specifically to host a Second Congress in 2006. The Congress adopted a unique paper – Principles of Interfaith Dialogue – that suggests a way towards a peaceful coexistence of and fruitful cooperation among all the peoples of the world.

Having taken as a basis a political formula 'e pluribus unum,' we have succeeded in ensuring peace and accord throughout a complex transition period.

Today, Kazakhstan has put in place all legal and political conditions required for the development of civil society institutions. There are nine political parties active in the country and about 6,000 NGOs, which have formed a Civil Alliance of Kazakhstan. 80 percent of newspapers, magazines, and radio and TV channels are in private hands.

A sustainable growth of the economy, a stable political system, civil peace and interethnic accord have allowed us to set an ambitious goal – to make the list the top 50 most competitive economies in the world in the next 10 years.

Madam Chairperson,

The adoption of the 2006-2016 Strategy for Gender Equality in the Republic of Kazakhstan has become one of the most important developments in the process of democratic transformations in our country.

Likewise, we have implemented the recommendation of the CEDAW on the establishment of an Ombudsman Office. The position of a Human Rights Ombudsman was established by a Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2002. Its secretariat consists of 15 staff members, including experts on gender issues.

During 4 years of its operations, the Office of the Ombudsman has reviewed more than 24,000 applications, with over half of them being filed by women.

They mainly represent complaints against officials and encompass issues pertaining to citizenship, alimony payments and healthcare.

For example, the Human Rights Ombudsman has received a complaint from Ms. E. Leonova, a stateless person residing permanently in Kazakhstan, that the migration police have delayed reviewing her own and her daughter's application for the citizenship of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

After the Ombudsman's intervention, both Ms. E. Leonova and her daughter have been granted citizenship of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

This draft law contains articles that guarantee equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men in such areas as public administ

While in the 2004-2005 academic year, for instance, 33 percent of females were majoring in technical disciplines in colleges and universities, in the 2005-2006 academic their share was already 40 percent, with a considerable increase (by 25 percent) in total enrollment.

Women account for 62 percent of the faculty in colleges and universities. Over the last several years, the number of female PhDs has in

An employer can not terminate an employment contract with pregnant women or with women who have children under the age of three.

These standards, set forth in the draft law, once they are adopted, will considerably enhance legal and social guarantees for women in labour relations.

against women, the Constitutional Council supported the initiat

All possible measures are being taken to improve women's health.

Under the Constitution, all citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan have the right to health protection and to get, free of charge, a guaranteed amount of healthcare services.

The laws on protecting health of citizens in the Republic of Kazakhstan, on reproductive rights of citizens and guarantees of their enjoyment, on preventing iodine-deficiency disorders, on wheat flour fortification with iron and vitamins as well as other laws have been passed, establishing the legal, economic and social framework for the protection of health of citizens, irrespective of their gender.

Pregnant women are provided, free of charge, with iodine and iron supplements while children and adolescents, registered with dispensaries, get free medicines.

Prenatal healthcare services are provided to over 98 percent of pregnant women. During pregnancy and the postnatal period, healthcare services are provided to women free of charge.

In 2006, women of fertile age and children under 18 had free medical check-ups. Measures are being taken to treat identified health conditions, and, when needed, the sick are registered with dispensaries.

There are no legal or cultural barriers in Kazakhstan for women to have access to healthcare services, including family planning services.

We pay close attention to the prevention of iodine-deficiency disorders that are common in our region. All salt produced in Kazakhstan is now iodized.

To prevent anemia, which is especially prevalent among women and children, we have started to fortify flour with iron and vitamins. We are doing our best to have flour fortified at all bread-baking establishments in the country.

The National Commission on Family Affairs and Gender Policy has initiated the efforts to address that issue. We have obtained an Asian Development Bank grant for this purpose in the amount of 1.2 million US dollars.

Recently, at its session, held in Istanbul (Turkey), the International Association of Flour Millers has recognized Kazakhstan as a leader in flour fortification in the Central Asian region.

According to UNICEF, Kazakhstan has already made the list top 50 developed economies in the world, in this category.

An action plan for a comprehensive approach to developing a healthy lifestyle, approved by a Prime-Minister decree, is now underway.

An age restriction on buying tobacco products has been introduced and information on harmful effects of tobacco is being widely disseminated. In 2004, Kazakhstan signed the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

In the context of implementing the Law on the Rehabilitation of Persons Addicted to Drugs, a committee on combating and controlling drug trafficking has been established within the Ministry of Internal Affairs. 16 centers, with 605 beds, dealing with medical and social rehabilitation of drug addicts have been opened. An interagency commission coordinating

activities related to the prevention and combating drug addiction and drug trafficking is up and running.

Measures are being taken to improve healthcare services provided to rural women. The standardization of the whole network of primary healthcare facilities will be completed by the end of this year. The level equipment availability at family care centers and paramedic and obstetric centers is 85 and 71 percent, respectively, while 93 percent of rural hospitals have telephone connections.

As a result of the efforts that have been taken so far maternal, infant and child mortality rates steadily go down. Polio - one of the most dreadful child diseases – has been eliminated. Kazakhstan has been the first among the CIS countries to introduce vaccination of all newborns against viral hepatitis B (VHB).

The incidence of TB, diphtheria and STDs has decreased. The number of abortions has declined, and contraceptives have been included in the list of essential (vital) medical supplies, approved by the Ministry of Health.

The 2005-2010 National Program on Reforming and Developing Healthcare System in the Republic of Kazakhstan is now under way. It provides for a set of economic, social and institutional measures designed to develop an affoa

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A review of criminal cases involving vi

Such a framework has been fully developed and an effective cooperation between Kazakhstan, Turkey and Russia has been established.

A draft treaty between Kazakhstan and Israel and draft agreements between Kazakhstan and the United Arab Emirates on mutual legal assistance in criminal cases and on extradition have been prepared and forwarded to our counterparts for approval.

The work on similar draft agreements with France and Greece is under way.

Kazakhstan acceded to the UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others; to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its two Optional Protocols – the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

Overall, Kazakhstan is party to over 60 international human rights treaties.

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished Committee members,

I have tried to brief you on what is being done in Kazakhstan to implement the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as your recommendations following the report submitted in 2001. I hope I have also answered the questions raised by the pre-session working group.

Many of your recommendations have been already implemented while others are being implemented. All of them have been reflected in the Gender Equality Strategy and the government implementation plan.

The adoption of these documents demonstrates the seriousness of our intention to fulfill our obligations.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that the Republic of Kazakhstan supports the amendment to paragraph 1 of Article 20 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women concerning the CEDAW meeting time.

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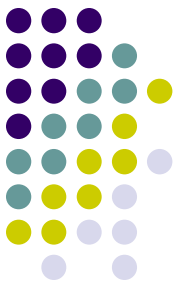
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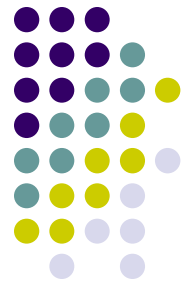
The Population. The forecasted life span

	2001	2006
Population, mln.persons,		
total	14,9	15,2
including:		
women	7,7	7,9
men	7,2	7,3
 The forecasted life span, years		
population	65,8	65,9
including:		
women	71,3	71,8
men	60,5	60,3

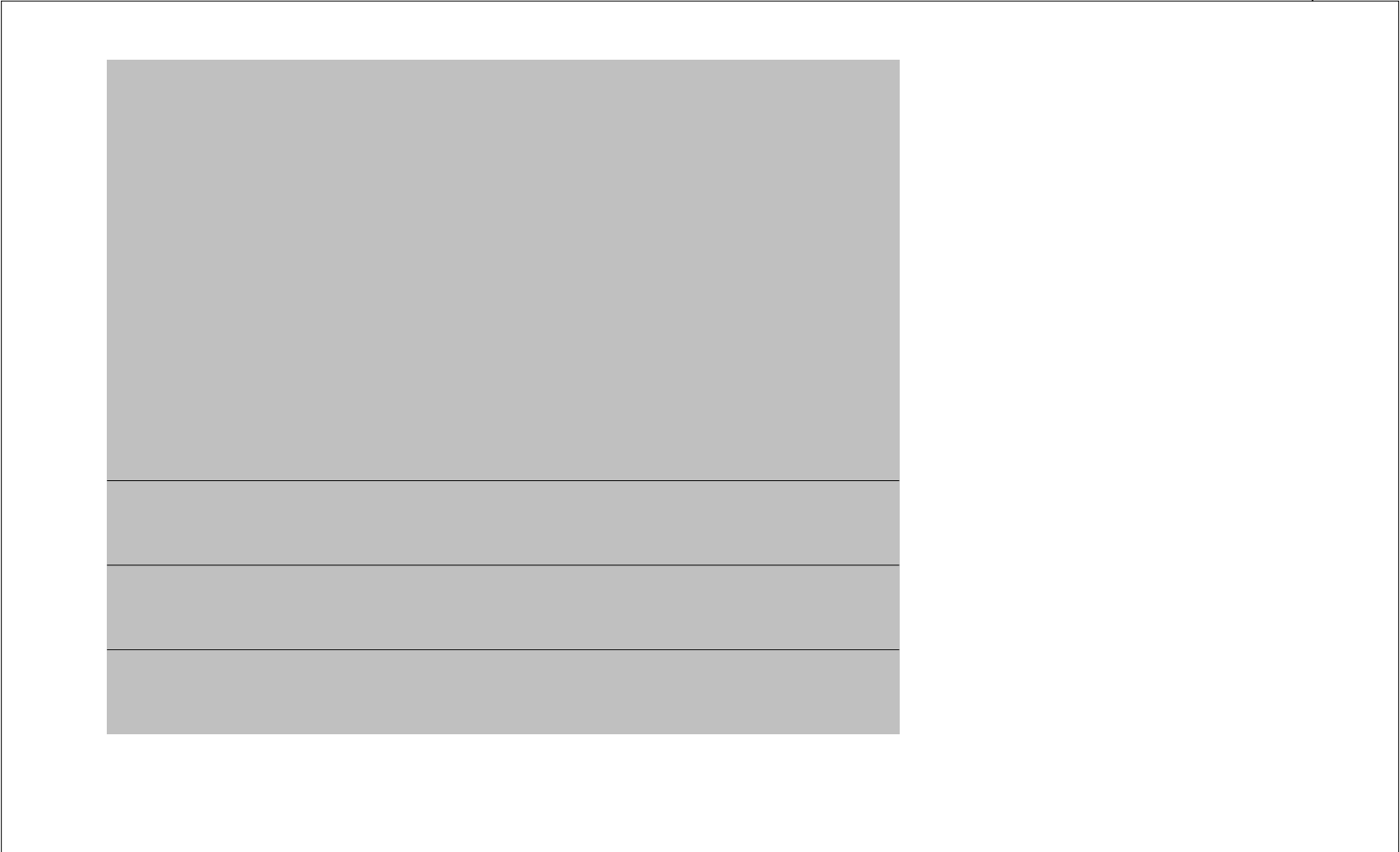


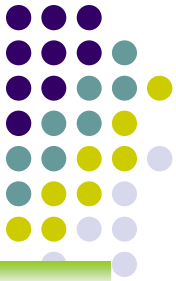






Pensions and allowances





2005

2006

Lump sum allowances on a birth of a child

15435 tenge = 123 \$

Monthly allowances for a child under the age of 1 year

1 child – 3087 tenge = 24.5 \$

2 child – 3602 = 28.7 \$

3 child – 4116 = 32.7 \$

4 and more children – 4631 = 36.9 \$

Allowances for children under 18 from low-income families

1029 tenge = 8.1 \$ per child

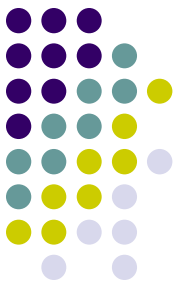
ASA for low-income large families

1153 tenge = 9 \$

Special state allowances for mothers of large families

amount for 2005 – 1845 tenge = 14.7 \$

for 2006 – 4014 tenge = 32 \$



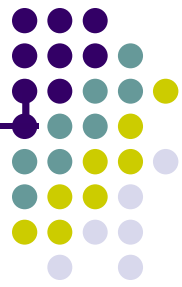
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Political parties, non-governmental organizations and mass media

Political parties	9
Non-governmental organizations	5820
Mass media (among them 80% independent)	6646

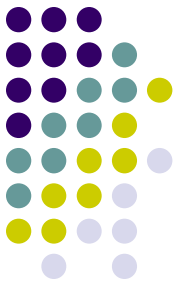






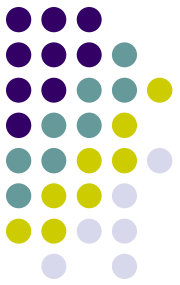
Women in the representative and judicial bodies

					including women	% women
Deputies of Parliament, pers.	116	11	9,5	115	10	8,7
including:						
Senat	39	3	7,7	39	2	5,1
Mazhilis	77	8	10	76	8	10,5
Deputies of Maslikhats, pers.	3225	603	18,7	3322	559	16,8
Judges, pers.	1413	590	41,8	2502	1056	42,0



Women in the executive bodies

	2001			2006		
	total	Includin g women	% wome n	total	includin g women	% wom en
State officials, total, pers.	65051	35914	55,2	95133	54632	57,4
including:						
political officials	2979	285	9,6	2972	312	10,5
among them:						
ministers	14	2	14,3	16	4	25,0
vice-ministers	46	5	10,9	45	4	8,9
akims, deputies of the oblasts' akims, the cities of Astana and Almaty	99	5	5,1	83	6	7,2
administrative officials	62072	35629	57,4	92161	54320	58,9



Labour Code

(draft)

Norms of labour, concerning women:

Article 191. Limitation to the abrogation of labour agreement on the employer's initiative

«In case when at the date of expiring of a term of the labour agreement a woman will submit medical conclusion on a pregnancy for term of twelve or more weeks the employer must on her written request to prolong the term of the labour agreement to the date of the end of the leave for nursing a child till the achievement by a child of the age of three years»

Article 195. The establishment of not full working time for women and other persons having the family commitments.

«The employer on the written request of a pregnant woman, woman having a child (children up to three years of age...provides her (them) not full working time regime»

Article 196. Limitation to the application of the summed working time regime for the pregnant women.

«Application of the summed working time regime for pregnant women is not allowed when the duration of a working day (working shift) exceeds eight hours»

Article 198. Guarantees for women on the establishing the order of allocation of paid annual leaves

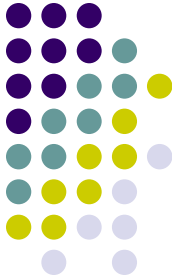
«Before the leave on pregnancy and birth or immediately after it or in the end of the leave on nursing a child the woman on her wish is provided by a paid annual working leave»

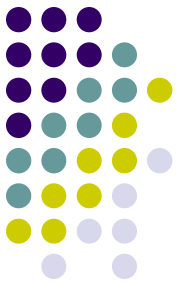
Article 201. The leave without saving wages on nursing children

- «1) on the parents' choice - to the mother or father of a child;
- 2) to parent – nursing a child by oneself;
- 3) grandmother, grandfather, other relative or guardian, actually nursing a child»



On the amendment





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Web-site

**The National Commission on Family Affairs and Gender
Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

www.gender-family.kz