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المجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي



لجنة حقوق الإنسان

الدورة السادسة والخمسون

البند ٤ من جدول الأعمال

الحقوق الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والثقافية

مذكرة شفوية مؤرخة ٩ آب/أغسطس ٢٠٠٤ موجهة إلى أمانة

اللجنة الفرعية لتعزيز وحماية حقوق الإنسان من البعثة الدائمة

لتركيا لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة في جنيف

تؤدي البعثة الدائمة لجمهورية تركيا لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة في جنيف وسائر المنظمات الدولية في سويسرا تحياتها إلى أمانة اللجنة الفرعية لتعزيز وحماية حقوق الإنسان وتتشرف بأن ترسل إليها ^١ مذكرة إعلامية* تتعلق بمحتويات البند ٤ من جدول الأعمال.

وستكون البعثة الدائمة لجمهورية تركيا ممتنة لو تفضلت الأمانة بتعميم المذكرة الإعلامية المرفقة بوصفها وثيقة رسمية من وثائق الدورة الخامسة والستين للجنة الفرعية لتعزيز وحماية حقوق الإنسان في إطار البند ٤ من جدول الأعمال.

* مستنسخة في المرفق كما وردت، وباللغة التي قدمت بها فقط.

Annex

INFORMATION NOTE

This information note is submitted to bring clarification and provide accurate and up-dated information in conjunction with the written statements by two NGOs, namely “Society for Threatened Peoples” and “International Educational Development”, under Agenda item 4 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/NGO/14 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/NGO/23) containing inaccurate information and false allegations concerning the issue of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Turkey.

1. The root cause of internal displacement in Turkey has been the scourge of terrorism which Turkey suffered for two decades. A small number of settlements had to be evacuated by the relevant Turkish authorities to ensure the safety of the people as a precaution, considering the terrorist attacks of the PKK against the civilian population. A large number of Turkish citizens were compelled to leave their homes due to the intimidation and attacks of the terrorist organization PKK (Kurdish Workers Party - also known with its subsequent names KADEK and KONGRA-GEL). PKK is responsible for the death of over 30,000 Turkish citizens. This terrorist organisation is included in the terrorist organizations lists of the USA and the EU under its all three names (PKK, KADEK and KONGRA-GEL) and as such is internationally labeled as a terrorist organization.

2. The number of people affected by this displacement is 353,281. Some sources, as is the case in the above referred written statements, take the liberty to stretch this figure to 1 to 3 million. The Government of Turkey stands ready to discuss the source and accuracy of these claims.

Turkish Government attaches great importance to the successful return of her displaced citizens on a voluntary basis. In this regard, “Back to Village and Rehabilitation Programme” has been launched in 1994.

This programme aims to enable the return and resettlement as well as the establishment of necessary social and economic infrastructure and sustainable living standards. The programme comprises measures to promote activities such as agriculture, animal husbandry and handicrafts. In addition to the return to the original settlements the programme aims to create a more effective and balanced settlement pattern for a more rational and effective distribution of public investments and services by encouraging the centralization of the settlements.

As of May 2004, 121,450 people constituting more than one third of the total amount of displaced persons have returned to their villages. Compilation of minimum 30 households at a place of return is required in order to make the economic and financial investments to the area in question economically feasible, sustainable and viable.

In spite of the budgetary restraints and serious economic difficulties, the Government continues to allocate increasing amount of resources for the effective implementation of the project. So far,

around 72.5 million US Dollars has been spent in the framework of this programme, the important part of which has been used for the infrastructural investments to the regions of resettlement. Turkey will continue to take all feasible measures for the success of the voluntary return process.

The implementation of this programme does not depend on a single and uniform project. It has no time limit. It has been coordinated and implemented by the relevant Governorships, with the participation of the elected representatives and in cooperation with the NGOs.

3. At the invitation of the Government of Turkey, Mr. Francis Deng, Representative of the UN Secretary General on internally displaced persons, visited Turkey from 26 May to 2 June 2002. In his report he acknowledged the Government's contribution to the success of his visit and that the visit took place in an atmosphere of openness, transparency and cooperation.

In line with the recommendations of Mr. Deng, a dialogue with the United Nations, World Bank and the European Commission representatives in Turkey has been initiated with a view to define the possible cooperation areas and methods. Several meetings have already been held with the participation of the United Nations, World Bank and the European Commission, including the representatives of all the relevant Turkish institutions.

The assessment of the UN Country Team on the Return to Village and Rehabilitation Programme prepared in the aftermath of these series of meetings, has been submitted to the Turkish authorities. By its assessment, the UN Country Team, underlined the high quality of the study undertaken by the South Eastern Anatolia Regional Development Administration in conducting a survey and preparing the 12 sub-regional plans for the Return to Village and Rehabilitation Programme and proposed a complementary survey that would enhance the planning process.

Determined to deal with these issues by taking account of the relevant international standards and in cooperation with international bodies, the Turkish authorities are working on formulating a mechanism for a survey project in light of both the existing data and the UN's assessment paper.

4. Considering these assessments, it has been decided that a new complementary study be made. This new study aims to cover a wider range of the IDPs in Turkey and is planned to be realized by the Institute of Population Studies of the Hacettepe University, which has a long experience of cooperation with the UN and the EU. In terms of scope and participation this project to be realized by the Hacettepe University constitutes the first of its kind in the international fora.

In this framework, there will be a transparent information exchange with the relevant international partners, namely the UN and the EU. Especially in the process of defining the scope and preparing the relevant questions of the survey, the Turkish Government is prepared to receive the contributions and opinions of these international partners. The results of the survey will also be shared with these international partners, which will constitute an important basis for the ongoing regional and rural development projects.

Recently, on 16 July 2004, a workshop was organized by Hacettepe University with the participation of the concerned Turkish authorities, relevant academicians and NGOs as well as the representatives of the international organisations such as the UN and the EU.

It should be underlined that among the participants to this workshop there are some NGOs that have different claims on the numbers of the IDPs in Turkey and sometimes referred by the other international actors, like GÖÇ-DER. In line with the programme of Hacettepe University, these kind of workshops will continue during the survey.

5. On the other hand, as part of the efforts of the Turkish Government in this domain, the “Law on the Compensation of Losses Resulting from the Terrorist Acts and the Measures Taken Against Terrorism” was approved by the Parliament on 14 July 2004 and entered into force on 27 July 2004. Thus, a domestic remedy is established to address the question of sufferings stemming from the terrorist acts and the measures taken against terrorism, particularly in 1990s.

The Law regulates the rules and procedures for the compensation of losses that individuals suffered from terrorist acts and the measures taken against terrorism, beginning from 19 July 1987. The Law seeks to provide satisfactory compensation by way of reaching agreements between the sufferers and the State.

6. There are no recruitments since 2000 to the Village Guards system which was introduced in 1985 due to certain needs in the framework of the struggle against terrorism. Today, there are 58,542 village guards in 22 provinces throughout Turkey. The deliberate claims of obstruction by the Village Guards are exaggerated and against some individual cases in this direction Turkish authorities act with determination.

7. References made to the landmines in Turkey in the two statements are incorrect. Turkey has already become a state party to the Ottawa/Mine Ban Treaty in March 2004. On the other hand, mining activities within the borders of Turkey have been ceased in January 1998 and since then a process of mine clearance has been underway according to a plan.

All mines which were laid down on Turkish territory by the authorities concerned are fenced and clearly marked to international standards. Nevertheless, countless mines and booby traps haphazardly laid down by the terrorist organization aiming at inflicting losses to the security forces and intimidating the civilian population do exist. These mines and booby traps, if detected in time, are also being cleared by the Turkish security forces.
