



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention

Fourth periodic reports of States parties due in 2011

Kazakhstan*

[9 November 2011]

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Introduction

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was opened for signature in New York on 20 November 1989 and was ratified pursuant to Decision No. 77 of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 8 June 1994, and in keeping with the requirements set out in the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, adopted at the fourth inter-committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies on 23 and 24 June 2005 (document HRI/MC/2005/3).
2. Representatives of the following government bodies were involved in the preparation of the report: the Ministries of Health, Internal Affairs, Labour and Social Protection, Culture, Communications and Information, Justice, Tourism and Sport, and others, and also non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
3. The report sets out the measures taken by the Government to implement the main provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
4. The previous reports of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child were considered at the thirty-third and forty-fifth sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2003 and 2007.
5. The initial report on measures taken by Kazakhstan to implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, signed in New York on 6 September 2000, was submitted to the Committee in 2005.
6. The report of Kazakhstan under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, signed in New York on 6 September 2000, was submitted to the Committee on 11 September 2006 at its forty-third session.
7. The report was prepared on the basis of material supplied by relevant ministries and departments and by the local authorities responsible for addressing issues relating to the situation of children and the protection and implementation of their rights, government statistical data, and information received from voluntary organizations that deal with children's problems.
8. The report uses material from special studies prepared in 2008 by the Association of Sociologists and Political Scientists in the context of government social-sector procurement entitled "The right of children to participate in creative life: protection and implementation" and "The right of children to participate in cultural life: protection and implementation", material from a sociological study on respect for the law on the protection of children's rights and legitimate interests carried out by the Sandzh Research Centre in 2010, and other material.
9. The present report includes information on the implementation of the recommendations made at the thirty-third, forty-third and forty-fifth sessions of the Committee.

I. General information

Territory and population

10. Kazakhstan occupies a territory of 2,724,900 km².

11. As at 1 January 2010, Kazakhstan consisted of the following administrative and territorial units: 14 provinces; the capital and self-governing city, Astana; 175 districts, including 15 districts within cities; 86 cities and towns (self-governing cities and provincial and district centres); and 7,066 rural population centres (35 settlements and 7,031 villages (*aul*)).

12. The population density is 5.9 persons per km².

13. The population of Kazakhstan as at 1 January 2011 was 16.4 million, made up of 8.5 million women (52 per cent) and 7.9 million men (48 per cent).

14. The number of pensioners as at 1 January 2010 was 1,662,000, or 10 per cent of the country's total population.

Size and distribution of population by age

(As at the start of the year)

<i>Age</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>
All ages	15 396 900	15 571 500	15 982 300	16 204 600	16 442 000
Under 1	298 300	318 200	347 400	351 900	362 600
1–4	1 013 200	1 087 400	1 131 500	1 211 800	1 293 900
5–9	1 080 400	1 088 900	1 141 400	1 191 300	1 238 500
10–14	1 299 700	1 235 500	1 228 600	1 169 400	1 136 300
15–19	1 556 300	1 512 700	1 552 600	1 498 800	1 430 300
20–24	1 481 000	1 532 100	1 600 400	1 630 600	1 651 000
25–29	1 251 100	1 281 900	1 336 500	1 379 600	1 419 700
30–34	1 156 100	1 166 900	1 216 700	1 231 300	1 254 900
35–39	1 072 300	1 087 700	1 136 000	1 153 000	1 160 000
40–44	1 078 400	1 053 000	1 069 700	1 061 100	1 071 300
45–49	1 073 200	1 092 900	1 101 900	1 108 000	1 089 600
50–54	837 100	866 300	881 500	916 400	971 300
55–59	663 800	688 400	690 200	713 500	728 700
60–64	328 100	353 700	409 100	478 900	545 300
65–69	512 500	474 000	403 000	341 600	292 700
70 and over	695 400	731 900	735 900	767 200	795 900

As a percentage of the total population

(As at the start of the year)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Whole population	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 1	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.2
1–4	6.6	7.0	7.1	7.5	7.9
5–9	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.4	7.5
10–14	8.5	7.9	7.7	7.2	6.9
15–19	10.1	9.7	9.7	9.2	8.7
20–24	9.6	9.8	10.0	10.1	10.0
25–29	8.1	8.2	8.4	8.5	8.6
30–34	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6
35–39	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.1
40–44	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.5
45–49	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.6
50–54	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.9
55–59	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.4
60–64	2.1	2.3	2.6	3.0	3.3
65–69	3.3	3.0	2.5	2.1	1.8
70 and over	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.8

15. The gender breakdown of children and young people (0–19 years) as at 1 January 2011 reveals that, in contrast to the population as a whole, the number and proportion of males is somewhat higher; among the population aged 20 to 65 and over, the number of women is higher.

16. The number of women aged 60 and over is almost twice as high as that of men. Overall, throughout the country, the number of people aged 65 to 69 has fallen since 2007, but life expectancy and the number of people aged 70 and over have increased.

Gender and age breakdown of the population as at 1 January 2011

Age	2007			As at 1 January 2010			As at 1 January 2011		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
All ages	15 396 878	7 409 284	7 987 594	16 204 617	7 808 753	8 395 864	16 441 959	7 925 957	8 516 002
0–4	1 311 562	672 577	638 985	1 563 712	803 830	759 882	1 656 534	851 400	805 134
5–9	1 080 417	554 059	526 358	1 191 266	610 768	580 498	1 238 493	635 510	602 983
10–14	1 299 703	662 635	637 068	1 169 449	597 916	571 533	1 136 310	580 808	555 502
15–19	1 556 311	790 625	765 686	1 498 831	756 991	741 840	1 430 345	726 560	703 785
20–24	1 481 032	749 905	731 127	1 630 574	808 967	821 607	1 651 031	818 643	832 388
25–29	1 251 044	627 817	623 227	1 379 637	687 466	692 171	1 419 667	705 831	713 836
30–34	1 156 012	569 283	586 729	1 231 291	607 032	624 259	1 254 930	620 096	634 834
35–39	1 072 279	524 199	548 080	1 153 035	562 477	590 558	1 159 984	564 339	595 645

Age	2007			As at 1 January 2010			As at 1 January 2011		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
40-44	1 078 383	516 921	561 462	1 061 115	512 068	549 047	1 071 274	518 649	552 625
45-49	1 073 229	505 570	567 659	1 108 031	527 092	580 939	1 089 644	517 090	572 554
50-54	837 138	380 092	457 046	916 434	423 162	493 272	971 264	450 324	520 940
55-59	663 799	291 414	372 385	713 538	314 714	398 824	728 677	322 422	406 255
60-64	328 083	136 542	191 541	478 909	202 562	276 347	545 269	229 278	315 991
65 and over	1 207 886	427 645	780 241	1 108 795	393 708	715 087	1 088 537	385 007	703 530

17. Over the past five years, the younger generation (aged 0 to 29) has accounted for slightly more than 50 per cent of the overall population. In 2007, the number of young people aged 0 to 29 was 7,980,000; as at the beginning of 2011, it was 8,532,300.

18. The number of children aged 0 to 4 increased by more than 300,000.

Number of children aged 0 to 19 in Kazakhstan

Age	Both sexes			
	2007	2009	2010	2011
0	318 159	347 404	351 920	362 630
1	297 598	305 865	346 688	351 459
2	275 150	289 109	305 841	346 814
3	269 761	269 847	289 237	306 168
4	244 938	266 643	270 026	289 463
5	223 923	245 116	266 795	270 342
6	217 295	232 737	245 327	267 071
7	217 359	221 669	232 952	245 596
8	211 338	224 050	221 949	233 273
9	218 930	217 806	224 243	222 211
10	216 588	223 989	218 023	224 527
11	227 343	225 280	224 118	218 271
12	249 898	243 083	225 488	224 386
13	269 491	258 451	243 222	225 710
14	272 169	277 924	258 598	243 416
15	281 659	284 778	277 876	258 716
16	293 220	298 724	284 767	277 958
17	302 202	310 231	298 819	284 945
18	312 660	327 783	310 027	298 803

Age	Boys				Girls			
	2007	2009	2010	2011	2007	2009	2010	2011
0	163 258	178 196	181 402	186 264	154 901	169 208	170 518	176 366
1	152 656	157 246	177 764	181 110	144 942	148 619	168 924	170 349
2	141 256	148 754	157 187	177 798	133 894	140 355	148 654	169 016
3	138 505	138 616	148 805	157 340	131 256	131 231	140 432	148 828
4	125 783	137 654	138 672	148 888	119 155	128 989	131 354	140 575
5	114 096	125 737	137 693	138 824	109 827	119 379	129 102	131 518
6	111 419	118 868	125 794	137 795	105 876	113 869	119 533	129 276
7	110 863	113 679	118 949	125 868	1 406 496	107 990	114 003	119 728
8	108 784	114 424	113 812	119 093	102 554	109 626	108 137	114 180
9	112 790	111 801	114 520	113 930	106 140	106 005	109 723	108 281
10	110 663	114 712	111 887	114 632	105 925	109 186	106 136	109 895
11	115 896	114 866	114 793	111 970	111 447	110 414	109 325	106 301
12	127 099	124 211	114 928	114 878	122 799	118 872	110 560	109 508
13	137 676	132 033	124 244	115 028	131 815	126 418	118 978	110 682
14	138 826	142 072	132 064	124 300	133 343	135 852	126 534	119 116
15	143 394	145 466	142 024	132 093	138 265	139 312	135 852	126 623
16	148 955	151 718	145 402	141 999	144 265	147 006	139 365	135 959
17	153 543	155 597	151 719	145 469	148 659	154 634	147 100	139 476
18	159 159	162 672	155 459	151 666	153 501	165 111	154 568	147 137

19. The number of children aged 0–18 in Kazakhstan as at 1 January 2011 was more than 5 million, of whom 2.5 million (48 per cent) were girls and 2.6 million (52 per cent) were boys.

20. For decades the imbalance between the number of men and women among the country's inhabitants has remained unchanged: as at 1 January 2011, there were 1,074 women for every 1,000 men.

	Number of women per 1 000 men of a given age				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
All age groups	1 078	1 079	1 076	1 075	1 074

Age structure of the urban and rural population

(As at the start of the year)

Age	Urban population					Rural population				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
All ages	8 833 300	8 265 900	8 649 662	8 806 952	8 961 336	6 563 600	7 305 600	7 332 681	7 397 665	7 480 623
Up to 1 year	173 400	172 200	171 021	186 421	189 680	124 900	146 000	176 383	165 499	172 950
1–4	573 100	576 100	548 634	593 216	649 324	440 200	511 400	582 830	618 576	644 580
5–9	545 400	507 900	534 565	562 222	590 507	535 000	581 000	606 813	629 044	647 986
10–14	631 000	535 100	571 233	545 198	530 956	668 700	700 400	657 403	624 251	605 354
15–19	815 700	714 100	836 702	782 864	721 909	740 600	798 600	715 860	715 967	708 436
20–24	825 100	791 300	908 301	942 427	970 141	656 000	740 900	692 108	688 147	680 890
25–29	766 900	738 100	759 996	791 512	816 523	484 100	543 700	576 456	588 125	603 144
30–34	685 300	645 100	681 252	695 205	714 516	470 800	521 800	535 398	536 086	540 414
35–39	646 500	610 800	637 314	648 293	652 147	425 800	476 900	498 656	504 742	507 837
40–44	646 800	584 900	592 823	590 523	599 684	431 500	468 100	476 902	470 592	471 590
45–49	655 900	616 300	616 748	620 105	608 784	417 300	476 600	485 151	487 926	480 860
50–54	515 800	491 400	496 909	516 371	547 966	321 400	374 900	384 630	400 063	423 298
55–59	416 700	397 500	395 659	407 566	415 279	247 100	290 800	294 583	305 972	313 398
60–64	196 100	202 100	238 715	281 110	320 048	132 000	151 600	170 367	197 799	225 221
65 and over	739 600	683 000	659 790	643 919	633 872	468 200	522 900	479 141	464 876	454 665

21. The majority of the population of Kazakhstan — 53.6 per cent — lives in urban areas and 46 per cent in rural areas. Since families in rural areas tend to have more children, the number of children aged 5 to 19 living in rural areas is higher than the number living in cities (1,961,776 compared with 1,843,372).

Ethnic composition of Kazakhstan

22. According to census data, Kazakhstan has more than 140 peoples and ethnic groups, including Kazakhs (10 million, or 63 per cent of the total), Russians (3.8 million, or 24 per cent), Ukrainians (333,000 or 2.1 per cent), Uzbeks (457,000 or 2.9 per cent), Uighurs (223,000, or 1.4 per cent), Tatars (203,000, or 1.3 per cent) and Germans (178,000, or 1.1 per cent).

Natural population growth

23. Since 2007, natural population growth has increased significantly, from 163,600 in 2007 to 221,900 in 2010.

24. The main reasons for the population growth are the high birth rate (20.8 per 1,000 population in 2007 and 22.5 in 2010) and the relatively low mortality rate (10.2 per 1,000 population in 2007 and 8.9 in 2010). Natural population growth increased from 10.6 per 1,000 population in 2007 to 13.6 in 2010.

Year	Births	Deaths	Natural growth	Birth rate per 1 000 population	Mortality rate per 1 000 population	Natural growth per 1 000 population
<i>Population as a whole</i>						
2007	321 900	158 300	163 600	20.8	10.2	10.6
2008	356 600	152 700	203 900	22.7	9.7	13.0
2009	357 500	142 800	214 700	22.2	8.9	13.3
2010	367 700	145 800	221 900	22.5	8.9	13.6
<i>Urban population</i>						
2007	174 300	92 400	81 900	21.3	11.3	10.0
2008	196 900	88 800	108 100	23.6	10.7	12.9
2009	197 600	82 500	115 100	22.6	9.4	13.2
2010	203 200	84 100	119 100	22.8	9.4	13.5
<i>Rural population</i>						
2007	147 600	65 900	81 700	20.2	9.0	11.2
2008	159 700	63 900	95 800	21.7	8.7	13.0
2009	159 900	60 300	99 600	21.7	8.2	13.5
2010	164 500	61 700	102 800	22.1	8.3	13.8

25. In Kazakhstan, net migration is positive (the number of immigrants is higher than the number of emigrants). In 2010, the number of immigrants was 41,996, while the number of emigrants was 26,531; net migration was therefore 15,465.

Maternal mortality 2007–2010

26. There are currently more than 4 million women of childbearing age living in Kazakhstan, accounting for almost 30 per cent of the total population.

27. The maternal mortality rate is the number of deaths of women from complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the post-partum period. The maternal mortality rate fluctuates.

28. There are three main causes of maternal deaths in Kazakhstan: haemorrhaging during delivery, non-obstetric disorders and complications of abortion. These conditions are closely interrelated and cause women's deaths.

(Data from the Ministry of Health of Kazakhstan)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total number of maternal deaths from all causes	153	113	133	84

Infant mortality 2007–2010

29. The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths of children under 1 year old per 1,000 births.

	2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Number of deaths of children under 1 per 10 000 births	Number of deaths of children under 1 per 10 000 births	Number of deaths of children under 1 per 10 000 births	Number of deaths of children under 1 per 10 000 births	Number of deaths of children under 1 per 10 000 births	Number of deaths of children under 1 per 10 000 births	Number of deaths of children under 1 per 10 000 births	Number of deaths of children under 1 per 10 000 births
Deaths from all causes	4 646	14.6	7 322	20.8	6 516	18.2	6 061	16.5

30. The significant variation in infant mortality rates is due to the introduction of international definitions of live births and stillbirths. The mortality rate among boys is higher than among girls, and the mortality rate among children under 5 is 6.8 per cent higher in urban areas than in rural areas.

Religion

31. The main religious faiths in Kazakhstan are Islam and Christianity, but Judaism and Buddhism are also present.

32. According to the 2009 census, 70 per cent of the population consider themselves Muslims. They include ethnic Kazakhs, ethnic Uzbeks, Uighurs and Tatars.

33. About one third of the population (26 per cent) (*sic*) belongs to the Russian Orthodox Church.

	Percentage professing							
	All religions	Islam	Christianity	Judaism	Buddhism	Other	Non-believers	No response
<i>Both sexes</i>								
Percentage of whole population	100	70.2	26.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.8	0.5
<i>Of whom</i>								
Kazakhs	100	98.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.3
Russians	100	1.4	91.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	0.8
Uzbeks	100	99.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2
Ukrainians	100	0.9	90.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.3	0.9
Uighurs	100	98.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.5
Tatars	100	79.6	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	8.1	2.0
Germans	100	1.6	81.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	14.0	2.7
Koreans	100	5.2	49.4	0.2	11.4	0.1	28.5	5.2
Turks	100	99.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2
Azerbaijanis	100	94.8	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.8
Belarusians	100	0.8	90.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.8	1.1
Dungans	100	98.9	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3
Kurds	100	98.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.4
Tajiks	100	97.8	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.4
Poles	100	0.7	90.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	7.3	1.8
Chechens	100	93.7	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	2.1	1.2

	All religions	Percentage professing						No response
		Islam	Christianity	Judaism	Buddhism	Other	Non-believers	
Kyrgyz	100	96.7	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.9
Other ethnic groups	100	34.7	52.3	0.8	0.9	0.1	8.4	2.7

Household sizes

34. According to the 2009 national census, the average family size was 3.5 persons. Two-person families were most common (30 per cent), followed by three-person families (27 per cent), four-person families (22 per cent) and five-person and larger families (21 per cent).

35. Seventy-two per cent of children up to the age of 18 live with both parents, 15 per cent with only their mother, 6 per cent with only their father and 6 per cent without either parent.

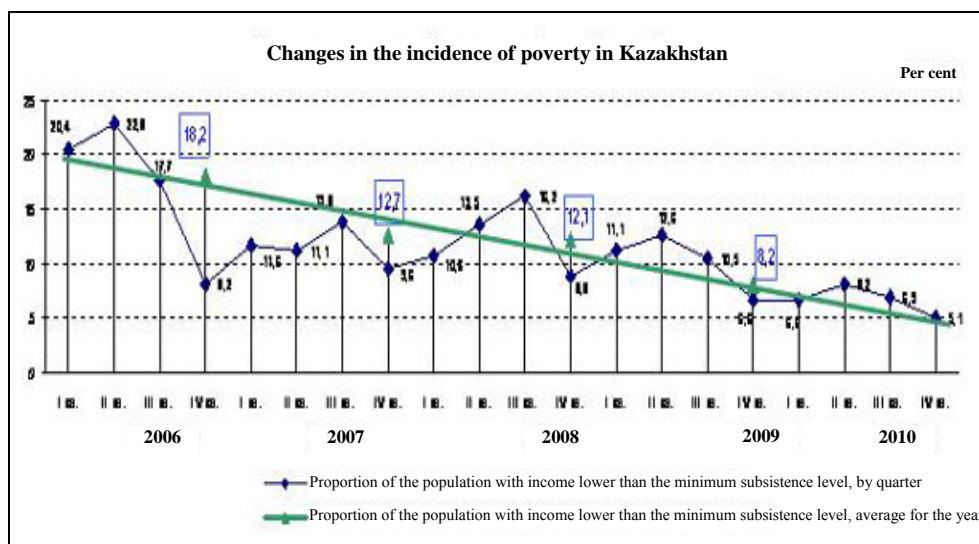
Assessment of per capita income in January 2011

36. According to preliminary data, the nominal per capita income in December 2010 was 41,122 tenge, an increase of 17 per cent in comparison with the same period in 2009. Real incomes rose by 8.2 per cent.

37. The areas with the highest per capita income in December 2010 were Atyrau province and the cities of Almaty and Astana, where the figures were 1.7 to 2.3 times higher than the national average.

38. In December 2010, the regions with the lowest earnings were South Kazakhstan, Almaty and Zhambyl provinces, where income was on average 61.4 and 74.0 per cent of the national average. Real incomes have grown fastest in Kostanay and Almaty provinces.

39. In January 2011, nominal incomes in the highest-earning region were 3.8 times higher than those in the lowest-earning region. In January 2010, the figure was 3.9.

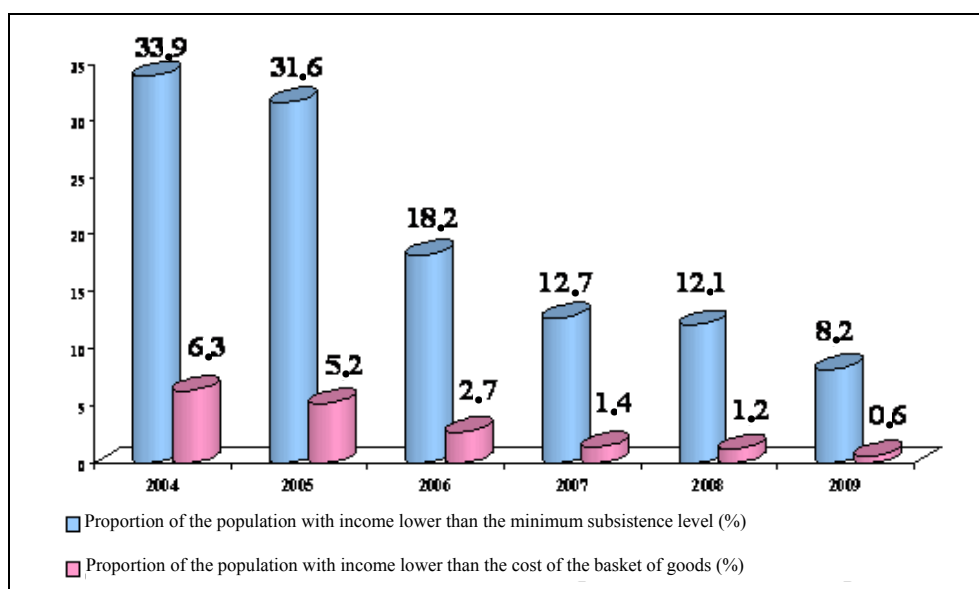


Standard of living indicators

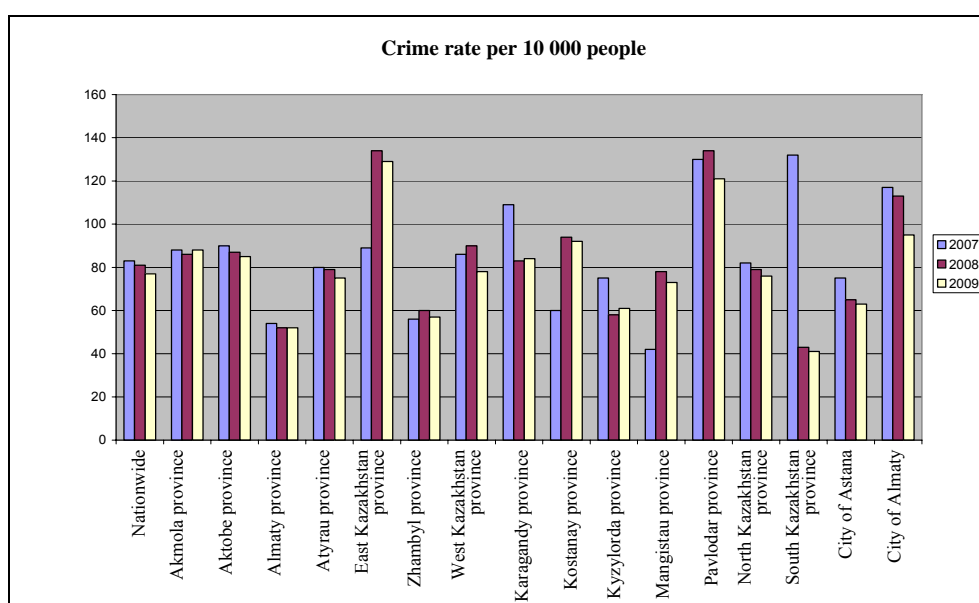
<i>No.</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
1	Proportion of the population with income lower than the minimum subsistence level (%)	12.7	12.1	8.2	6.5
	Urban areas	6.9	8.1	4.1	3.7
	Rural areas	18.1	15.9	12.1	10.1
2	Proportion of the population with income lower than the cost of the basket of goods (%)	1.4	1.2	0.6	0.4
	Urban areas	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.3
	Rural areas	2.1	1.7	0.9	0.6
3	Poverty gap (%)	2.4	2.3	1.3	1.1
4	Poverty severity (%)	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.3
5	Household income spent on consumption, average per capita (tenge)	16 935	20 037	21 348	26 152
	Urban areas	19 865	23 365	25 008	30 529
	Rural areas	13 687	16 271	17 136	20 985
6	Income spent on consumption as a percentage of minimum subsistence level (%)	175.4	162.1	168.6	193.9
7	Average nominal per capita income (tenge)	25 226	32 984	34 828	40 473
8	Real income index (%)	118.9	111.8	96.9	110.2
9	Average per capita expenditure (tenge)	15 516	18 324	19 718	24 460
	Urban areas	19 172	22 569	24 220	29 754
	Rural areas	11 465	13 520	14 537	18 209
10	Ratio of the income of the richest 10% to the poorest 10%	7.2	6.2	5.3	5.7
11	Income concentration index (Gini coefficient)	0.309	0.288	0.267	0.278
12	Average household size (number of persons)	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.5
	Urban areas	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.2
	Rural areas	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.2

40. The minimum subsistence level was determined on the basis of 43 foodstuffs; the basket of goods accounted for 60 per cent of that figure.

Proportion of the population on low incomes



41. For several years running, the proportion of people living below the minimum subsistence level has been decreasing; in 2010, it stood at 6.5 per cent.

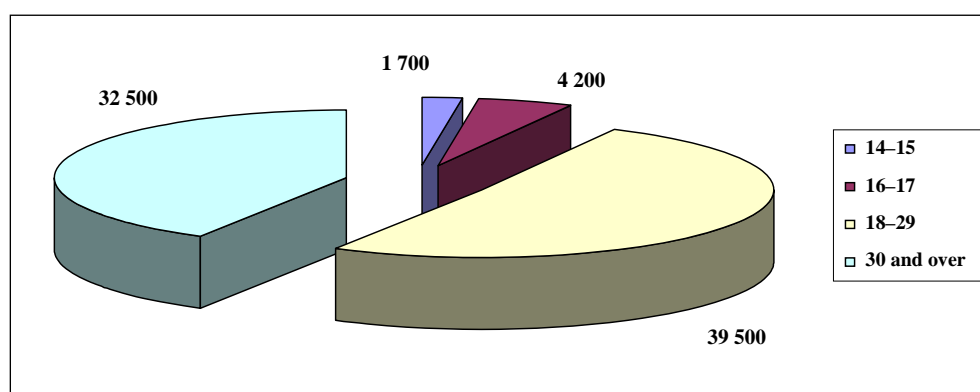


Total number of persons who have committed a crime

	2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Total	Juveniles	Total	Juveniles	Total	Juveniles	Total	Juveniles
Nationwide	79 641	8 344	78 078	7 519	78 673	6 651	84 411	6 070
Akmola province	4 651	482	4 563	446	5 074	488	5 537	433
Aktobe province	3 783	298	3 735	321	3 442	269	3 820	198

	2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Total	Juveniles	Total	Juveniles	Total	Juveniles	Total	Juveniles
Almaty province	6 289	652	6 484	679	6 610	488	6 359	466
Atyrau province	2 370	203	2 286	166	2 267	151	2 474	132
East Kazakhstan province	10 134	1 319	9 989	1 078	10 681	1 112	10 498	943
Zhambyl province	3 387	379	3 431	367	3 689	368	3 614	316
West Kazakhstan province	3 419	476	3 387	446	3 083	328	3 716	337
Karagandy province	7 176	771	7 012	735	6 974	664	7 459	744
Kostanay province	5 864	946	6 015	764	5 624	588	5 712	440
Kyzylorda province	3 013	273	2 671	181	2 841	184	2 978	170
Mangistau province	1 934	219	2 302	322	2 051	216	2 163	232
Pavlodar province	5 573	687	5 051	580	5 021	511	5 289	441
North Kazakhstan province	3 497	358	3 147	256	3 135	207	3 650	209
South Kazakhstan province	5 409	536	5 403	519	5 711	513	6 116	477
City of Astana	2 091	148	2 190	144	2 421	135	2 474	110
City of Almaty	5 592	347	5 320	337	5 420	296	8 475	309

Convicted persons by age group in 2009



General framework for the protection and promotion of human rights Acceptance of international human rights norms

42. The international instruments ratified by Kazakhstan contribute to the implementation of children's rights. Kazakhstan is a party to most of the universal international human rights treaties.

43. In 2005 Kazakhstan ratified the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, signed in New York on 21 March 1950, and the Final Protocol thereto.

44. In 2008 the following were ratified:

45. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, signed in Palermo on 13 December 2000, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (New York, 15 November 2000).

46. Kazakhstan has ratified Convention No. 29 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, signed in Geneva on 28 June 1930; ILO Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, signed in Geneva on 25 June 1957; and ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, signed in Geneva on 17 June 1999. Kazakhstan has also acceded to the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), signed in Geneva on 8 June 1977, which prohibits slavery and the slave trade in all their forms.

47. In 2010, Kazakhstan ratified the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, signed in The Hague on 29 May 1993.

48. The aforementioned international treaties, by virtue of their ratification in accordance with article 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, take precedence over domestic law and are directly applicable except where the treaty in question stipulates that for its implementation the promulgation of a law is necessary.

49. The President and Government of Kazakhstan are taking steps to ensure the implementation of the international treaties to which Kazakhstan is a party.

50. The central Government authorities in Kazakhstan, within their fields of competence, ensure the fulfilment of the country's obligations and the exercise of its rights under international treaties.

51. In order to ensure that the international instruments ratified by Kazakhstan are actively implemented in judicial practice, the Supreme Court adopted a regulatory decision on 10 July 2008 on the implementation of the international treaties to which Kazakhstan is a party. The decision requires judges to be guided by the provisions of the international treaties to which Kazakhstan is a party, which are an integral part of the law in force in the country.

General legal framework for the protection of human rights at the national level

52. The Act on the Procedure for Considering Communications from Individuals and Legal Entities was adopted in January 2007. It establishes the procedure for the submission of communications by individuals and legal entities and the consideration of such communications by government bodies to ensure the implementation and protection of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of those individuals and legal entities.

53. The Act sets out quite clearly the procedure for considering citizens' complaints, requests and petitions, and also the procedure for responding to them.

54. In addition to government bodies and the courts, there are also human rights institutions in Kazakhstan, such as the Human Rights Commission under the Office of the President; the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman); the Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights; and the People's Assembly.

Human Rights Commission under the Office of the President

55. Pursuant to a presidential decree of 12 February 1994, the Human Rights Commission was established as a consultative and advisory body under the President. The Commission's principal task is to assist the President in the exercise of his or her constitutional mandate to safeguard human rights and freedoms. It prepares proposals to improve government policy in the area of human rights and boost the effectiveness of the

human rights machinery. The principal benefit of the submission of communications to the Commission is that this procedure enables it to examine the human rights situation and identify deficiencies in the country's legislation and in the law enforcement practice of government bodies.

56. The Commission cooperates with government bodies, the courts, procurators' offices and the police, and also with NGOs, in joint activities aimed at protecting the legitimate rights and interests of the people of Kazakhstan.

Human Rights Commissioner in Kazakhstan

57. The position of Human Rights Commissioner was established pursuant to a presidential decree of 19 September 2002.

58. The Human Rights Commissioner is the official responsible for monitoring observance of human and civil rights and freedoms and has the power, within his or her field of competence, to take measures to restore violated human and civil rights and freedoms.

59. The Human Rights Commissioner is assisted in his or her work by the National Human Rights Centre, which performs analytical, organizational, legal and other tasks in support of the Commissioner's activities.

60. In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child at its forty-fifth session, the Human Rights Commissioner, in the exercise of his or her functions, considers communications from Kazakh nationals, and also from foreign nationals and stateless persons, concerning actions or decisions of officials or organizations that violate the rights and freedoms of such individuals as guaranteed under the Constitution or the laws of Kazakhstan or the international treaties to which it is a party.

61. In order to determine whether violations of human and civil rights and freedoms have occurred, the Commissioner, within his or her field of competence, verifies information concerning violations on the basis of communications received or on his or her own initiative if he or she learns about violations from official sources or the media.

62. The Commissioner is also entitled, on presentation of official identification papers, to enter and remain in the grounds or premises of government bodies and organizations, including military units and formations, and to visit detention facilities and meet and talk to persons detained therein.

Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights

63. A special body, the Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights, was established within the Ministry of Education and Science pursuant to Government Decision No. 36 of 13 January 2006 to coordinate the activities of the central and local authorities and cooperate with NGOs and other sectors of civil society in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

People's Assembly of Kazakhstan

64. Pursuant to a presidential decree of 1 March 1995 on the establishment of the People's Assembly of Kazakhstan, this consultative and advisory body was established under the Office of the President to ensure inter-ethnic harmony in Kazakhstan. The Assembly has constitutional status and the right to elect nine members of one of the chambers of Parliament (the Majilis, or lower house). The Act on the People's Assembly of Kazakhstan, which regulates the Assembly's activities under the law, was adopted in October 2008.

65. All the aforementioned institutions provide additional means of redress for rights violations. They also monitor the protection of children's rights in Kazakhstan.

66. For the purpose of verifying information contained in communications, they are entitled to request officials and organizations to supply information necessary for the consideration of complaints; to submit applications to the authorized government bodies or officials for disciplinary, administrative or criminal proceedings to be instituted against an official who has violated human or civil rights or freedoms; and to publish in the media official reports on the findings of investigations.

67. The National Commission for Women's Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy also operates under the Office of the President.

68. The Commission was established pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 56 of 1 February 2006. It has the status of a consultative and advisory body under the Office of the President. It is responsible, *inter alia*, for promoting equal opportunities for women and men and measures to strengthen the family as an institution, and for considering communications on family issues and gender-based discrimination.

Raising awareness of human rights

69. Kazakhstan has drawn up a national plan of action on human rights for 2009–2012.

70. The basic objectives of the plan are as follows: to improve human rights education; to impart a general understanding of the core principles and methods of human rights education; to ensure that special attention is paid to human rights education at the national and international levels; to increase collaboration and cooperation among all the interested parties in order to develop and improve human rights education; and to improve existing human rights curricula.

71. A policy framework for the development of civil society in Kazakhstan for 2006–2011 was approved pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 154 of 25 July 2006.

72. The aim of the policy framework is to improve the legislative, socioeconomic, organizational and methodological basis for the comprehensive development of civil society institutions and for their partnership on an equal footing with the State and the business sector, in accordance with international legal instruments and within the framework of the international human rights treaties and covenants.

73. In order to raise levels of legal literacy and boost the effectiveness of legal training and education, a programme for legal advocacy and the improvement of legal literacy, training and education for 2009–2011 was approved pursuant to Government Decision No. 1116 of 29 November 2008.

74. The programme calls for work on amendments and additions to legislation regulating the legal advocacy work of government bodies and officials, the development and introduction of a required minimum of legal literacy in particular population groups, and other measures to promote respect for human rights.

75. Human rights are becoming established and are being implemented throughout the education system and at all levels of education.

76. In order to ensure that every child has adequate political and legal knowledge, the subject "Fundamentals of law" is taught in the tenth and eleventh grades of secondary general-education schools specializing in social sciences and humanities (68 hours of teaching), and in the tenth grade of secondary general-education schools specializing in natural sciences and mathematics (34 hours). The subject "People, society and the law" is taught in the ninth grade (68 hours). The topics studied are the Kazakh legal system, the

foundations of the different branches of law, and the work of the courts, procurators' offices and other law enforcement agencies.

77. Since the 2006/07 academic year, schools throughout the country have included legal subjects in the list of subjects for national Olympiads and academic project competitions, thus providing an incentive for pupils to study them.

78. In addition, there are optional courses, class-based lessons and extracurricular activities. School outreach teams organize activities to explain the law to pupils.

79. The elective course on civic education is based on the principles of observance of human rights and democratic freedoms, the opportunity for all citizens to participate in managing the affairs of the State, the equality of all, and respect for the individual and for freedoms, irrespective of ethnicity and religion. The elective course is taught for one hour per week.

80. Features on issues relating to human rights education are published in periodicals and newspapers, such as *Kazakhstan balalary* (the journal of the Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights within the Ministry of Education and Science), "Children and the law", *Kazakhstan tarikhy*, "Teacher in Kazakhstan", *Kazakhstan mūghalīmī* and *Kazakhstan mektebī*.

81. Departments for the protection of children's rights have set up six websites, through which legal information is made available and legal advocacy work is carried out.

82. The website of the Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights, www.bala-kkk.kz, contains sections entitled "Self-knowledge", "Serving society", "Questions and answers" and "The Hague Convention", among others.

83. Public access to legal information has been expanded. Free points of access to an electronic database of current legislation have been set up in a number of public places. A free abridged online version of the database is also available on the website of the Ministry of Justice. Public online access is to be expanded to cover the entire body of law in the near future.

84. In 2010, the Ministry of Education and Science conducted a survey of schoolchildren's awareness of fundamental human rights and human rights teaching in general-education schools.

85. The survey revealed that a large number of pupils (96 per cent) are interested in learning about their rights in greater depth at school. The proportion of children who know where to turn if their rights are infringed increases from 45 per cent in junior classes to 76 per cent in senior classes.

86. Parents and the family play an important role in providing children with knowledge and practical assistance with regard to human rights issues: more than half of pupils receive information about human rights from their parents, and they also turn to their parents when their rights are infringed.

87. Work is currently under way to develop a comprehensive plan for 2012–2014 to improve the public's legal literacy.

88. Telephone helplines and children's advice centres provide timely assistance to children in addressing their problems, collect and analyse information on the situation with regard to the legal protection of children and children's awareness of their rights, and distribute material about the rights of the child.

II. General measures of implementation (arts. 4, 42 and 44, para. 6, of the Convention)

89. Information on measures to implement the above articles of the Convention is contained in paragraphs 21–24, 29, 30, 55–57, 70–72 and 84 of the initial report on the implementation by Kazakhstan of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the annex thereto, and in paragraphs 18–59 of the combined second and third periodic reports.

90. The Convention's general principles and norms (arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12) are incorporated in the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Penal Enforcement Code. Kazakhstan has adopted a whole range of laws dealing primarily with the rights and interests of children, including the Children's Rights Act, the Marriage and the Family Act, the Family-type Children's Villages and Young People's Homes Act, the Act on Social, Medical and Educational Support for Children with Special Needs, the Special Social Services Act, the Act on State Benefits for Families with Children and the Act on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, Child Neglect and Homelessness.

91. Since 2006, the laws safeguarding the rights and interests of children have been further refined with a view to bringing them more fully into line with the principles and provisions of the Convention and creating the legal conditions for children's social well-being. These efforts have been furthered by the adoption of the Code on Public Health and the Health-care System (Act No. 193-IV of 18 September 2009), the Education Act (Act No. 319 of 27 July 2007) and Act No. 253-IV of 12 March 2010 on the Ratification of the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.

92. State sectoral programmes on the observance of the rights of the child in education and health care are aimed at implementing national policy on the observance of the legitimate rights and interests of children. These programmes include:

93. The State programme for the development of education 2011–2020, approved pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1118 of 7 December 2010.

94. The "Salamatty Kazakhstan" State programme for the development of health care 2011–2015, approved pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1113 of 29 November 2010.

95. The "Healthy Lifestyle" programme 2008–2016, approved pursuant to Government Decision No. 1260 of 21 December 2007.

96. The programme for the improvement of blood banks 2008–2010, approved pursuant to Government Decision No. 1251 of 21 December 2007.

97. The programme to reduce maternal and infant mortality 2008–2010, approved pursuant to Government Decision No. 1325 of 28 December 2007.

98. The programme for legal advocacy and the improvement of legal literacy, training and education 2009–2011, approved pursuant to Government Decision No. 1116 of 29 November 2008.

99. The Government of Kazakhstan and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have signed a country programme action plan for 2010–2015.

100. The country programme is aimed at helping the Government to improve the quality of life of children, particularly those from vulnerable groups, and to reduce regional and gender inequality.

101. As a result of the country's economic growth, priority funding has been earmarked for the implementation of government policies to benefit children in the areas of education,

training, health care, physical and spiritual development, social services and the protection of families and children.

102. In 2010, gross domestic product (GDP) per capita was US\$ 9,000, which represented a 25 per cent increase on the figure for 2007 (US\$ 6,772).

103. Social spending is increasing every year.

104. Such spending made up 41.34 per cent of the overall national budget in 2006 and more than 50 per cent in 2010.

(Amounts in thousands of tenge)

<i>Item of expenditure</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
<i>National budget</i>				
Education	480 696 000	641 060 000	746 477 000	797 414 000
%	17.0	16.9	17.6	16.9
Health care	299 381 000	363 210 000	450 893 000	551 326 000
%	11.2	10.7	12.0	12.4
Social assistance and social services	502 381 000	622 017 000	758 308 000	905 273 000
%	18.8	18.3	20.3	20.3
Culture, sport, tourism and information	122 210 000	163 969 000	173 618 000	227 564 000
%	7.5	6.9	8.1	5.1
<i>Central budget</i>				
Education	127 700 000	168 210 000	215 560 000	236 392 000
Health care	100 830 000	115 581 000	176 800 000	367 185 000
Social assistance and social services	462 667 000	566 194 000	695 931 000	835 497 000
Culture, sport and information	62 964 000	87 461 000	104 389 000	135 389 000
<i>Local budget</i>				
Education	352 996 000	472 850 000	530 917 000	579 648 000
Health care	262 852 000	320 762 000	386 553 000	330 352 000
Social assistance and social services	44 789 000	61 874 000	86 123 000	97 381 000
Culture, sport and information	73 778 000	108 493 000	108 183 000	129 795 000

Measures to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known

105. Serious attention is paid in Kazakhstan to increasing awareness of the Convention's basic provisions among professionals working with children and among the general public, children and their parents, and to publicizing and explaining these provisions.

106. Law enforcement and prison administration officials regularly undergo training and career development programmes, including the study and application of international human rights norms and standards.

107. The training programmes of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and career development programmes include special courses on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other laws and regulations governing the protection of children's rights and freedoms.

108. As part of sociology courses at the higher education institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, six hours of teaching is provided on family and youth sociology and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in colleges four hours on protecting the rights and freedoms of minors in Kazakhstan. At the academies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, neighbourhood police officers for juvenile affairs study topics relating to the Convention on the Rights of the Child under “Special training”.

109. In conjunction with the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law, a workshop was held in Astana from 19 to 21 May 2010 for 15 representatives of Ministry of Internal Affairs academies on the methodology of teaching special courses on human rights. The workshop covered the study of the rights and interests of children.

110. Neighbourhood police officers for juvenile affairs and school police inspectors regularly provide information through the media and in schools on the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and also conduct workshops for children on means of redress when their rights are infringed.

111. National events such as forums, summits, conferences and debates are held in order to raise awareness among children and adolescents in Kazakhstan of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

112. Altogether, more than 40,000 different events took place in the period 2007–2010, including 210 seminars, approximately 50 round tables, 7,000 debates and discussions on the protection of children’s rights and interests, and more than 20,000 charitable initiatives, drawing and poster competitions and gala concerts. Various international organizations and NGOs, representatives of ethnic cultural centres, patrons, sponsors and others were actively involved in organizing these events. For parents, particularly in rural areas, lectures and training seminars were organized, along with cultural and recreational events in which children could participate. Educational institutions have erected display stands and created classroom areas focusing on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in libraries there are displays on legal education.

113. A national summit entitled “Children of the Twenty-first Century: Our Rights and Opportunities” was held in Astana in November 2009 to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The summit’s priorities were to raise awareness of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, identify the most pressing problems among children and adolescents in modern Kazakh society, and teach the language of diplomacy and tolerance.

114. The third National Patriots’ Forum was held in Pavlodar in 2010. Children who attended the Forum had the opportunity to participate in socially significant activities, masterclasses, round tables and other events.

115. A 10-day festival entitled “The whole world for me” was held from 19 to 29 November 2010 to mark Universal Children’s Day. During the nationwide festival, socially significant events were held throughout the country, including charitable initiatives, competitions, debating contests, press conferences, round tables, training seminars, meetings and surveys.

116. There are outreach teams and school ombudsmen in Kazakhstan.

117. There are school ombudsmen in Pavlodar province. The department for the protection of children’s rights and 146 general-education schools in the province signed a proposal and approved an action plan for the school ombudsman for the 2009/10 and 2010/11 academic years. Postboxes for letters and communications to the school ombudsmen have been placed in educational institutions and advice sessions for pupils are held. The school ombudsmen in the city of Pavlodar have taken part in inspections of

computer clubs and have carried out surveys of the city's school pupils to assess their awareness of their rights.

118. The "Law Watch" outreach team presents sketches and stories based on the provisions of the Convention and organizes quizzes, competitions and round tables on legal topics.

119. Sociological studies, surveys of children's awareness of the Convention, and education and outreach work on children's rights are carried out every year in Kazakhstan.

120. The country's education authorities conducted surveys of children's awareness of the Convention and education and outreach work on children's rights in 2009 in connection with the fifteenth anniversary of the country's ratification of the Convention, and also in 2010. Analysis of material obtained has shown that the country's educational institutions, particularly in rural areas, have stepped up their efforts to raise awareness of the Convention, both among pupils and among parents and teachers.

121. In 2010, a survey was conducted of 193,025 children in urban and rural regions of the country in order to determine how knowledgeable they were about their rights and the major international instruments, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

122. In general, pupils have some understanding of children's rights. Half of those surveyed showed good knowledge of the international human rights instruments.

123. More than half of the children surveyed knew about the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the highest numbers were in West Kazakhstan province (89 per cent), Pavlodar province (89 per cent), East Kazakhstan province (86 per cent) and Zhambyl province (62.1 per cent). In the remaining provinces, awareness of the Convention varied between 56 per cent and 60 per cent.

124. Rights connected with education and also physical and emotional health (protection from all forms of physical and mental violence, injury, maltreatment or negligent treatment) were identified as the most important rights.

125. According to the surveys, school remains the major source of information about the law for children. That was the case for more than half of children in Atyrau province (86 per cent), the city of Almaty (60 per cent), Aktobe province (54 per cent) and Karagandy province (50.5 per cent). In the other provinces, children stated that, besides school, their sources of information were their parents and the media.

126. Almost all of those surveyed were aware of the worst forms of child labour. More than half of respondents in the city of Almaty (63 per cent) were able to define the term. Some 98.9 per cent of pupils surveyed in East Kazakhstan province, 89 per cent in Akmola province and more than 57 per cent in the remaining provinces knew that forced child labour was prohibited in Kazakhstan.

127. More than half of pupils surveyed in East Kazakhstan province (98 per cent), Akmola province (98 per cent), Pavlodar province (96.5 per cent), West Kazakhstan province (95 per cent), Kyzylorda province (63.1 per cent) and the city of Almaty (54 per cent) stated that they knew that the Government had prohibited the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. In the remaining provinces, pupils knew that the Government punished the sale of children and child pornography. Children in rural areas were as well informed about the provisions of the Convention as those living in urban areas.

Dissemination of reports to a wide audience

128. Under article 46 of the Children's Rights Act, the Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights prepares an annual report for the President on the situation of children in Kazakhstan, which is posted on the Committee's website and published as a separate brochure for public information purposes.

129. An action plan was drawn up for the implementation of the recommendations made to Kazakhstan by the Committee on the Rights of the Child at its forty-fifth session; it was approved on 7 November 2007 at the fifth meeting of the Interdepartmental Commission on International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Treaties. The plan and the recommendations from the Committee's forty-fifth session can be found on the website of the Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights.

130. A national round table entitled "The Kazakh child protection system: key problems, experience and perspectives" was organized in Astana in October 2009 by the Ministry of Education and Science in connection with the action plan to implement the recommendations of the forty-fifth session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The round table was attended by representatives of national government bodies, the UNICEF office in Kazakhstan, the academic community and NGOs.

Cooperation with civil society organizations

131. There are 221 NGOs dealing with children's issues. Memorandums or agreements on cooperation have been signed with more than 40 of them.

132. Projects, surveys, forums, conferences, round tables, educational seminars, training sessions and meetings on dealing with children's issues are organized jointly, attended by national and international experts.

133. In June 2011, a trilateral memorandum of cooperation was signed by the Ombudsman, the UNICEF office in Kazakhstan and the Central Asia office of Penal Reform International with a view to training NGO representatives to monitor the observance of children's rights in children's institutions.

134. Between 2007 and 2010, the Ministry of Education and Science, in conjunction with NGOs, conducted 24 surveys and prepared and published more than 80,000 guides and handbooks. It made 4 films and 14 videos to inform children and adults about children's rights, and also two animated films entitled "What do I need to know?" and "Ne bīlūim kerek?".

135. In 10 regions of the country, 14 foster-parenting schools have been opened to train those who wish to take in orphaned children. There are seven family support clubs and centres in Karagandy, Zhambyl, South Kazakhstan and East Kazakhstan provinces and the city of Astana.

136. The fourth Civic Forum took place in Astana in October 2009. As a follow-up to the Forum, representatives of government bodies, NGOs and business worked together to draw up recommendations and proposals for effective further efforts to implement the second phase of the policy framework for the development of civil society for 2006–2011.

137. The fifth Kazakhstan Women's Forum was held in Astana in March 2011. It was decided at the Forum to pay greater attention to the development of the intellectual life of the country's ethnic groups, promote family values, support women's organizations in combined efforts to prevent conflict, expand their participation in peacekeeping projects and maintain the policy of gender equality.

III. Definition of the child (art. 1)

138. The definition of the child in Kazakh law is in line with article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

IV. General principles

A. Non-discrimination (art. 2)

139. Information on measures to implement article 2 of the Convention is contained in paragraphs 64–89 of the combined second and third periodic reports on the implementation by Kazakhstan of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

140. The Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan establishes the equality of all before the law and the courts. No one may be subjected to discrimination of any kind on the basis of origin, social, professional or property status, gender, race, ethnicity, language, religious beliefs, opinions, place of residence or any other circumstance.

141. The Government takes responsibility for preventing discrimination of any kind, both in law and in practice, and whether perpetrated by government bodies or individuals.

142. Work is under way to implement the strategy for gender equality in the Republic of Kazakhstan 2006–2016, which was approved pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1677 of 29 November 2005 and which is aimed at ensuring equal rights and opportunities for all members of society, irrespective of gender.

143. Gender parity has been achieved in general secondary education in Kazakhstan.

144. All curricula, textbooks and teaching materials are identical in content for all pupils.

145. In the 2009/10 academic year, there were 246,790 girls in the country's general-education schools, making up more than 50 per cent of the total number of pupils.

146. Girls are increasingly active in school life; many of them now lead organizations of children and young people and have been winners in sporting competitions, subject Olympiads and cultural events.

147. Pupil numbers:

<i>Grades</i>	<i>2005/06 academic year (%)</i>		<i>2009/10 academic year (%)</i>	
	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Boys</i>
1–4	48.9	51.1	49	51
5–9	49.05	50.95	49.1	50.9
10–11 (12)	52	48	53	47

148. Students of all categories have equal opportunities in vocational education, and women form the majority of both students and staff.

149. There are around 600,000 students in higher education institutions, of whom 361,446 (58.3 per cent) are female. A total of 140,533 students receive State education grants, of whom 73,092 (61.6 per cent) are female.

150. Of the 603,831 students in technical and vocational education institutions, 275,474 (45.6 per cent) are female.

151. With a view to carrying out the Government's action plan for 2009 to implement the President's address to the people of Kazakhstan of 6 March 2009, entitled "Through the crisis to renewal and development" ("Road map"), 95,600 people, including girls and women, were retrained at the State's expense in technical and vocational education institutions and training centres in 2009 and 71,100 in 2010.

152. According to data from the education administrations of the provinces and the cities of Almaty and Astana, 23,102 women were retrained in 2009 and 9,206 of them were placed in jobs, while in 2010, 12,076 women were retrained, of whom 6,302 were placed in jobs.

Rights of ethnic Kazakh repatriates (*oralman*) and forcibly displaced persons

153. There are more than 19,000 repatriate children, of whom 4,824 are of preschool age and 14,201 of school age.

154. According to data from the provincial education administrations, all school-age repatriate children are enrolled in school and provided with free textbooks, with the exception of 18 children disabled from childhood.

155. In the 2009/10 academic year, 2,299 repatriates were enrolled in technical and vocational education institutions: 1,062 in vocational lycées and 1,237 in colleges.

156. In general secondary education institutions, repatriate pupils who have immigrated from the former Soviet republics and beyond (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Georgia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, Mongolia, Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan) are provided with extra classes, tutorials and special transitional programmes in order to fill the gaps in their knowledge and ensure that they have the necessary skills to follow education programmes.

157. In accordance with the model regulations for enrolment in technical and vocational education institutions, an enrolment quota of 2 per cent for ethnic Kazakhs who are not citizens of Kazakhstan was established pursuant to Government Decision No. 296 of 28 March 2008 approving a quota for enrolment in educational institutions providing technical and vocational post-secondary and higher education programmes.

158. Repatriate students must be offered a place in a hostel belonging to the education institution and are provided with a grant and hot food.

159. Teachers, department heads and masters of vocational training help repatriate students to adapt to study, life and employment.

160. To improve students' grasp of language, schools are introducing the special courses "Til damytu", "Til мәдениеті" and "Söz önerі". They organize hobby clubs and optional activities in Kazakh and Russian.

Non-discrimination against children with special needs and children born out of wedlock

161. The term used to refer to children with special needs is "children with developmental disabilities".

162. More than 11,000 written communications have been received by the Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights of the Ministry of Education and Science and by its regional bodies since 2007. A total of 427 individuals and organizations submitted communications to the Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights between 2006 and 2010. However, no petitions or communications concerning discrimination against children born out of wedlock were registered.

163. There were also no petitions concerning xenophobia against children or adults. Kazakhstan is a multi-ethnic country where representatives of 140 nationalities and ethnic groups live in peace and harmony.

164. The main distinguishing characteristics of our multi-ethnic people are respect, tolerance, openness and benevolence.

Corporal punishment

165. Under article 17 of the Constitution of Kazakhstan, no one may be subjected to degrading treatment or punishment. In domestic law, issues relating to violence and corporal punishment are covered by the Domestic Violence Prevention Act of 4 December 2009.

166. Under article 64 of the Marriage and the Family Act and the Education Act, the exercise of parental rights must not be detrimental to the interests of the child. Parents who exercise their parental rights to the detriment of their children's rights and interests are legally liable.

167. Similar requirements are placed on persons acting *in loco parentis*, i.e. guardians and foster parents.

168. According to information from the education administrations of the provinces and the cities of Astana and Almaty, as at 1 October 2010, 825 parents had been stripped of their parental rights for failing to fulfil their parental duties or subjecting their children to corporal punishment. A total of 1,072 children of these parents were placed in institutions for orphaned children and children without parental care or in families with a view to guardianship, foster care or adoption.

169. Pursuant to Order No. 10 of 31 March 2005 of the Procurator-General's Office, children's homes must be inspected at least once every six months by the procuratorial authorities with a view to preventing corporal punishment.

170. During 2010, the country's procuratorial authorities carried out 3,240 inspections relating to the observance of children's rights, as a result of which 41,046 violations of the law were identified and a total of 135,675 children received redress for violations of their rights.

171. Following the inspections, 2,806 applications to remedy legal violations were considered, and in response 542 unlawful acts were annulled or altered. In all, disciplinary proceedings were brought against 7,196 individuals and administrative proceedings against 2,141, and 227 were held financially liable. Eighteen criminal cases were brought, leading to nine convictions.

172. Almost all cases in which the rights of children in care are violated are publicized in the media. Furthermore, children cared for in children's homes are very well informed about their rights and how to seek assistance if those rights are violated.

173. Administrative and disciplinary measures are taken in every case of cruel treatment against children cared for in children's homes.

174. Corporal punishment in educational institutions is prohibited.

175. Proceedings may be brought under domestic law against teaching staff in educational institutions for breach of duty or ethics.

176. In 2011, the Central Military Police Administration of the Kazakh Armed Forces conducted an inspection of the Zhas Ulan national school and the S. Ualikhanov cadet corps. No cases of corporal punishment of Zhas Ulan students or cadets were identified.

177. In order to protect children's rights, telephone helplines and children's advice centres are provided by departments for the protection of children's rights in all regions of the country, and the Association of Crisis Centres, an NGO, in conjunction with the BOTA Foundation, has launched the national freephone number 150, which child victims can contact.

B. Best interests of the child (art. 3)

178. The basic principles for the protection of children's rights are set out in paragraphs 98–121 of the initial report on the implementation by Kazakhstan of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2003) and paragraphs 90–95 of the combined second and third periodic reports (2007).

179. The principle of the best interests of the child and the need to afford those interests primary consideration when taking measures that affect children is enshrined in the codified and other laws of Kazakhstan (the Children's Rights Act, the Marriage and the Family Act, the Education Act, the Act on Social, Medical and Educational Support for Children with Special Needs, the Labour Code and the Code on Public Health and the Health-care System), which state that policies to benefit children are a priority area of action for government bodies.

180. In order to safeguard the best interests of the child in the area of health care, the system of free medical treatment for children and paediatric services has been maintained and improved. The Ministry of Health, by Order No. 446 of 23 December 2005, approved a list that enables patients presenting with certain types of diseases or belonging to certain categories of the population to be supplied free of charge with medicines and special paediatric and therapeutic foodstuffs prescribed when they receive outpatient treatment.

181. The principle of the best interests of the child is the first consideration when handling divorce cases, making arrangements for children who are without parental care, allocating budgetary funding in the social security system or placing children in the various care institutions.

182. With a view to safeguarding the best interests of the child, in 2010 hot food was provided for 1,741,822 pupils — 70 per cent of the total number — in 5,777 schools around the country (77 per cent). Of these pupils, 590,795 (34 per cent) received hot food free of charge, including 204,875 pupils from low-income families (80 per cent) and 421,353 in primary schools (45 per cent).

183. Free hot food was provided for all primary pupils in the cities of Astana and Almaty and in Aktobe and Karagandy provinces.

184. Since 2005, the amount of funding set aside to provide food for pupils from low-income families has increased fivefold, pursuant to Government Decision No. 64 of 25 January 2008. In 2010, 2.9 billion tenge was allocated from the general education fund to provide food for pupils, compared with 518.5 million tenge in 2005.

185. In order to implement the right to education, transport to school has been arranged for 28,314 pupils living in population centres that have no schools (76 per cent of such pupils). In 2009, the figure was 26,458, or 71.6 per cent.

186. Issues relating to the modernization of school meals and the provision of transport to school for children are covered by:

- The State programme for the development of education 2011–2020;
- The strategic plan of the Ministry of Education and Science 2011–2015 and regional development programmes for 2011–2015.

187. In order to safeguard the best interests of the child, children from low-income families are provided with assistance on an ongoing basis.

188. According to data from the education authorities, the number of low-income families in 2010 was around 150,000; this figure included more than 300,000 children.

189. In 2010, 374,655 socially vulnerable children received assistance to the value of around 1.7 billion tenge under the campaigns entitled “The road to school” and “Concern”. In 2009, around 439,000 children received assistance to the value of 1.6 billion tenge.

190. The total amount contributed to the general education fund for the provision of assistance to pupils from socially vulnerable groups was 5.5 billion tenge or 1.7 per cent of total expenditure on school maintenance. In 2009, the sum was 4.6 billion tenge, or 1.6 per cent.

191. Pursuant to article 8, paragraph 4, of the Education Act, the State fully or partially meets the maintenance costs of Kazakh citizens who are in need of social assistance during their education.

192. In the 2008/09 academic year, 510 orphaned children were provided with education grants. In 2009/10, the number was 463, and in 2010/11, 444.

193. In addition, the following support is available to orphaned children and children without parental care:

1. An allowance is payable to children up to the age of 18 who have lost a parent (9,869 tenge to those who have lost one parent and 13,457 tenge to those who have lost both parents); students over the age of 18 receive such assistance until they have completed secondary school or, if they are enrolled full-time in higher education or specialized secondary education, up to the age of 23;

2. Full State support is provided for children who are in educational institutions for orphans and children without parental care: maintenance for one child in a children’s home amounts to more than 1 million tenge per year, and such children are also provided with free textbooks during their education;

3. A quota of 1 per cent of State-funded places in educational institutions providing technical and vocational post-secondary and higher education programmes has been established for such children;

4. Students who are orphaned or without parental care and who receive a State education grant are entitled to 50 per cent more than the basic grant level (15,235 tenge); those who are living in a family receive 30 per cent more.

C. The right to life, survival and development (art. 6)

194. The basic principles of the child’s right to life, survival and development are addressed in paragraphs 122–128 of the initial report on the implementation by Kazakhstan of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2003) and paragraphs 97–102 of the combined second and third periodic reports (2007).

195. No minors have been sentenced to death in Kazakhstan. A moratorium on the death penalty remains in force until a decision is made on abolition.

196. A system has been established in Kazakhstan for safeguarding the child’s right to life and ensuring the child’s survival and development to the greatest possible extent.

197. The “Salamatty Kazakhstan” State health-care programme 2011–2015 was approved pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1113 of 29 November 2010. The priority focus of the

programme is the enhancement and accessibility of primary health care and health care for mothers, children and adolescents.

198. The amount of funding set aside for the guaranteed package of free medical care has been increased.

199. Free medical care is provided for children pursuant to Government Decision No. 2136 of 15 December 2009 approving the list of guaranteed free medical services, and free medicines are provided pursuant to Ministry of Health Order No. 637 of 23 December 2005 approving a list that enables patients presenting with certain types of diseases or belonging to certain categories of the population to be supplied free of charge with medicines and special paediatric and therapeutic foodstuffs prescribed when they receive outpatient treatment and Order No. 446 of 4 September 2009 approving a list of medicines and medical articles that are provided to the public free of charge or at subsidized rates as part of the guaranteed package of free outpatient care.

200. In order to ensure the early detection and treatment of diseases in children, annual preventive check-ups are carried out. In 2010, 98.6 per cent of those children eligible underwent a preventive check-up. A total of 26 per cent of children were found to have a disease, of whom 68 per cent received treatment and 15 per cent were registered with clinics.

201. Analysis of the results of preventive check-ups of children in 2010, as compared with 2007, shows that, although the proportion of children with vision impairments has remained the same, the proportion of children with hearing impairments has fallen by 18 per cent, the proportion with speech deficiencies by 24 per cent, the proportion with scoliosis by 24 per cent and the proportion with postural disorders by half.

202. There is an increasing incidence of disease among children, particularly neoplasms (up by a factor of 1.8), congenital abnormalities (18 per cent) and diseases of the nervous system (14 per cent), while the incidence of infectious disease has fallen by 20 per cent and that of diseases of the musculoskeletal system by 16 per cent.

Preventive check-ups of children aged 0–14 and their outcomes

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total number of children examined	3 713 900	3 583 100	3 804 900	3 814 500
<i>Detected during check-ups:</i>				
Total number with hearing impairments	9 800	8 700	9 300	8 000
As a percentage of those examined	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total number with vision impairments	82 700	77 900	86 100	83 500
As a percentage of those examined	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2
Total number with speech deficiencies	23 700	19 300	20 000	18 100
As a percentage of those examined	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total number with scoliosis	17 100	16 200	14 600	13 000
As a percentage of those examined	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3
Total number with postural disorders	36 600	32 000	24 900	18 400
As a percentage of those examined	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.5

Overall incidence of individual diseases and groups of diseases among children in Kazakhstan, 2007–2010

(Number of cases per 100,000 children aged 0–14)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total cases of disease per 100 000 children	99 728.9	99 172.2	103 642.3	101 482.3
Infectious and parasitic diseases	3 745.6	3 348.8	3 233.0	3 007.2
Neoplasms	87.6	127.2	104.7	158.2
Diseases of the blood, blood-forming organs and individual immune system disorders	5 917.7	3 966.6	5 581.5	5 259.7
Endocrine diseases, nutritional disorders and metabolic disorders	1 638.5	1 584.2	1 539.7	1 537.7
Diseases of the nervous system	2 853.4	3 102.9	3 425.9	3 250.8
Diseases of the eye and appendages of the eye	3 329.1	3 511.9	3 458.3	3 479.8
Diseases of the ear and the mastoid process	2 747.1	2 750.4	2 928.3	2 935.6
Diseases of the circulatory system	477.0	489.3	549.0	486.7
Diseases of the respiratory organs	56 510.9	55 973.3	60 262.7	58 959.6
Diseases of the digestive organs	6 370.8	6 774.4	6 394.1	6 606.0
Diseases of the genito-urinary system	1 735.5	1 842.1	1 853.9	1 709.7
Diseases of the skin and the subcutaneous cellular tissue	5 145.5	5 248.7	5 122.6	5 270.1
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and the connective tissue	1 290.4	1 192.2	1 196.0	1 083.8
Conditions arising in the perinatal period	2 739.7	2 963.7	2 959.1	2 690.7
Congenital abnormalities (developmental defects), deformities and chromosome disorders	595.9	604.1	718.2	702.7
Injuries and poisoning	3 523.7	3 178.3	3 393.7	3 471.0

203. The increased incidence of certain diseases can be ascribed to improved diagnosis by health-care institutions and a range of socioeconomic factors, such as man-made pressures resulting from environmental pollution, an increase in stressful situations in children's everyday lives, urbanization and the broad encroachment of information on children's lives, and the deteriorating standard of nutrition among school pupils.

204. In order to safeguard children's physical development and establish a healthy lifestyle, Kazakhstan has more than 20 centres for young tourists catering for 10,000 children and 733 regional tourism clubs catering for 18,500 children. The number of sports schools for children and adolescents is increasing every year: in 2007, there were 407 of them, and in 2010, there were 423. In 2007, they were attended by 219,739 children and, in 2010, 240,380 children and adolescents, or 10 per cent of the total number of school pupils (2.5 million).

205. There are now more than 23,000 sports clubs catering for more than 664,000 children and adolescents, or 21 per cent of the total number of pupils in general-education schools.

206. The total number of children participating in sport increased by 379,783, or 1.7 per cent, in 2010.

207. In order to ensure the physical development of disabled children and identify those who are gifted at sport, sporting events are held for children with learning difficulties and disabled children under a cooperation agreement between the NGO Special Olympics

Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Education and Science, in accordance with an annual calendar of such events.

208. The Special Olympics Kazakhstan national team won first and second place prizes at the eighth Special Olympics World Winter Games, held in Japan.

209. The Ministries of Education, Internal Affairs, Health, Communications and Information, Culture, and Tourism and Sport have drawn up a joint plan of action for 2011 to prevent suicidal behaviour among minors. The main priority of the plan is to organize proper joint monitoring of the issue, analyse and improve the work of psychological support services in schools, provide advanced training for education, health and internal affairs experts on determining anxiety levels in children and adolescents, and work to prevent suicide among children and students through information and publicity campaigns and the provision of advice.

210. A suicidology department has been set up at the National Research Centre for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Addiction Medicine of the Ministry of Health, which is responsible for identifying the causes of suicide and establishing preventive mechanisms aimed at adolescents. Work is currently under way to develop methods for determining how resilient children and adolescents are to stress.

211. The charitable foundation Altyn Kyran has developed a computer program for identifying and preventing worrying tendencies among schoolchildren.

212. The prevention of suicidal behaviour among children and adolescents has been discussed by the Interdepartmental Commission for Minors and their Rights under the Government of Kazakhstan.

213. Round tables, seminars and meetings for teachers and parents are held regularly at the national and local levels on preventive work with minors, the ethics of relations with students and general legal education, attended by representatives of internal affairs, health and education authorities.

214. There are 7,570 psychologists, 3,139 social care teachers and 1,536 school police inspectors working in the country's general-education schools.

215. There are 359 working groups within the education authorities studying every case of suicide among children and adolescents.

216. A national suicide prevention strategy is being drafted.

V. Civil rights and freedoms

A. Name, nationality and preservation of identity (arts. 7 and 8)

217. Information on measures to implement the above articles of the Convention is set out in paragraphs 122–127 of the initial report on the implementation by Kazakhstan of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and paragraphs 64–89 of the combined second and third periodic reports.

218. Under the Marriage and the Family Act, the birth of a child is registered by place of birth and by place of residence of either or both parents. Any child who is born after the father's death or the break-up of the parents' marriage, who is found after being abandoned, or who is rejected by his or her parents at birth in medical facilities must be registered. Registration of civil status is also mandatory for children who are stillborn or who die within the first week of life. Parents or other authorized persons must register a child's birth

with the State civil status registration authorities no later than two months after the birth and, in the case of a stillborn child, within five days.

219. Article 55 of the Marriage and the Family Act and article 9 of the Children's Rights Act establish the right of the child to a given name, a patronymic, a surname and an identity. A child's given name is agreed upon by his or her parents, the patronymic is assigned in accordance with the father's given name and the surname depends on the parents' surname; if the parents have different surnames, the child is assigned the surname of the father or mother, as agreed by them. Under article 11 of the Nationality Act of 20 December 1991, a child has Kazakh nationality if both his or her parents are Kazakh nationals, irrespective of the child's place of birth; under article 12, a child has Kazakh nationality if one of the parents was a Kazakh national at the time of the child's birth.

220. The rights of the child and protection measures to be taken by the child's family, society and the State are set out in the Children's Rights Act, the Marriage and the Family Act, the Education Act and the Code on Public Health and the Health-care System, among others.

B. Respect for the views of the child – Freedom of expression (arts. 12 and 13)

221. Information regarding the right of the child to express his or her opinions is set out in paragraphs 129–132 and 142 of the initial report on the implementation by Kazakhstan of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2003) and paragraphs 129–131 of the combined second and third periodic reports.

222. There are 743 children's and young people's associations in Kazakhstan working to uphold this right.

223. The opinions of children and young people are discussed at conferences and round tables of leaders of the children's and young people's movement.

224. Children and young people express their opinions by participating actively in quizzes, legal seminars, business role-playing games and clubs.

225. Between 2007 and 2010, more than 70 national competitions and sports contests and more than 3,400 round tables and campaigns took place, with the participation of more than 3.5 million children and adolescents.

226. In November 2009, 150 leaders of national children's and young people's organizations and well-known public figures, parliamentarians and representatives of government bodies and NGOs took part in a national summit entitled "Children of the Twenty-first Century: Our Rights and Opportunities".

227. The Kazakhstan Adolescent and Youth Forum, "We are the peers of independence – our home is Kazakhstan", was held in December 2009 with the support of UNICEF and was attended by 1,300 people.

228. One of the ways in which children can express their opinions is through the debating movement, which is organized as part of a social partnership with NGOs. The national debating movement has two branches: the student branch and the school branch. Each year, more than 1,000 students and pupils take part in debating competitions in every province. In September and October 2010, the National Debating Association held the second national debating championship.

229. Holding debates on various topics helps children to research and analyse information on a given subject and to develop critical thinking and the skills required for independent study. The media play an active role in organizing the debates.

230. In 2010, the sixth National Youth Delphic Games — now an established tradition — took place in the city of Pavlodar, with 366 participants from different provinces. The basic idea of the Games is to create the optimum conditions for gifted young people to realize their potential.

231. A volunteer movement known as “Serving society” is developing in Kazakhstan; it promotes the development of spiritual, moral and political culture, legal literacy, social behaviour based on respect for law and order and the capacity for personal self-determination and fulfilment, and also promotes the teaching to schoolchildren of civil responsibility, legal awareness, tolerance and commitment to the humanist and democratic values enshrined in the Constitution of Kazakhstan.

232. In autumn 2010, public hearings on legislative initiatives from pupils in pilot schools were held in Pavlodar, South Kazakhstan, Almaty and Karagandy provinces, attended by council (*maslikhat*) members and representatives of the local authorities and NGOs from the provinces. The total number of participants was 3,000.

233. The pupils studied and raised at the public hearings issues relating to the quality of children’s recreational activities, healthy lifestyles, housing and public services, and improvement of the local natural environment in which they live. They also suggested interesting and original approaches to the redevelopment of urban areas and the development of recreation infrastructure for children and young people and made proposals for ensuring children’s health and safety.

234. Children are active participants in the country’s social and political life, and children’s opinions are important to society.

C. Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (art. 14)

235. Information regarding the right of every citizen of Kazakhstan to freedom of conscience is set out in paragraphs 143–146 of the initial report on the implementation by Kazakhstan of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2003) and paragraphs 133–141 of the combined second and third periodic reports.

236. Kazakhstan, which considers itself a democratic, secular, social State governed by the rule of law, continuously monitors the observance of the right to freedom of religion.

237. Kazakhstan has established a model of a secular State characterized by an active government policy of developing the country’s unique experience of interfaith harmony, which is being passed on to the international community through various international forums.

238. Kazakhstan’s effort to maintain stability among religions has received the recognition and support of leaders of world and traditional religions. As a result of this effort, congresses of these leaders were held in Astana in 2003, 2006 and 2009 as a key element of government policy on strengthening interfaith peace and harmony.

239. Contemporary Kazakhstan provides a model of the peaceful coexistence of representatives of various religions and ethnic groups. This experience was one of the reasons for the nomination of Kazakhstan for the Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in 2010.

240. Kazakhstan was appointed to the OSCE Chairmanship in 2010. The OSCE Summit was held in Kazakhstan on 1 and 2 December 2010.

241. The Government's policy of tolerance also led to the decision to hold the regular session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Kazakhstan in 2011.

242. The current status of relations between the State and religions in Kazakhstan shows that the legal, ideological and social conditions necessary for the activities of various religious associations have been established. Citizens' right to freedom of religion is strictly protected under domestic law.

243. More than 45 faiths and denominations were active in Kazakhstan in 2011. The number of Catholic religious associations has doubled from 42 to 86, the number of Protestant associations has tripled from 457 to 1,272, and the number of faiths new to Kazakhstan has tripled from 14 to 49. The total number of religious associations has increased more than sixfold, from 671 to 4,173.

244. Religious associations of Muslims and Orthodox Christians have traditionally accounted for the largest numbers of believers.

245. "Religious Studies" is taught once a week as an optional subject in the ninth grade of general-education schools.

D. Freedom of association (art. 15)

246. Information regarding the provisions of article 15 of the Convention, which relates to freedom of association, is set out in paragraphs 147–150 of the initial report on the implementation by Kazakhstan of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2003) and paragraphs 143–150 of the combined second and third periodic reports.

247. Citizens of Kazakhstan have the right to freedom of association under article 23, paragraph 1, of the Constitution.

248. Citizens of Kazakhstan are guaranteed the opportunity of exercising their right to organize, establish, operate, reorganize or dissolve voluntary associations. Every individual has the right to freedom of association with others.

249. Every child in Kazakhstan has the right to participate freely in voluntary associations and other types of non-profit organizations and in peaceful assemblies allowed under Kazakh law.

250. Government bodies promote the activities of these voluntary associations, whose purpose is to develop the child's personality, creative talents and involvement in society.

251. With a view to supporting modern voluntary associations for children and young people in their role as special social institutions, the State Youth Policy Act was signed on 7 July 2004.

252. As at 1 January 2010, there were 743 children's and young people's organizations in Kazakhstan, 739 military-patriotic clubs, 23,396 school sports clubs, 423 sports schools for children and young people, 563 clubs for children and adolescents and 330 music and art schools for children and adolescents.

253. Resource centres for children and young people and youth organizations have been set up to support young people in all regions of the country. In 2008, there were 12 resource centres; this number increased to 17 in 2009 and 21 in 2010.

254. The total amount of funding for youth policy in the central budget was 624.8 million tenge in 2008, 698.5 million tenge in 2009 and 675.5 million tenge in 2010.

255. The total amount of funding for youth policy in local budgets was 1 billion tenge in 2009, while government social-sector procurement amounted to 263.7 million tenge; in 2010, the amount was more than 1.1 billion tenge.

256. Work is under way to provide staff for the education system. Specific numbers of posts have been established for deputy education directors in schools, vocational lycées and colleges, vice-chancellors in higher education institutions, class teachers, school administrators, senior youth leaders, social care teachers, educational psychologists, supplementary education teachers, specialists in teaching methods and group tutors. In November 2009, a policy framework for the system of lifelong learning in Kazakhstan was approved.

E. Protection of privacy (art. 16)

257. Information regarding the provisions of article 16 of the Convention, which relates to the protection of privacy, is set out in paragraphs 151 and 152 of the initial report on the implementation by Kazakhstan of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2003) and paragraphs 152–160 of the combined second and third periodic reports (2007).

258. Under the Constitution, the Children's Rights Act and other legislative acts, everyone has the right to the inviolability of his or her private life and home.

259. The Parliament of Kazakhstan is currently considering a bill on amendments and additions to legislation on the protection of citizens' right to privacy.

260. The right of children, including orphans, to retain a home is governed by domestic legislation.

261. The Act on Amendments and Additions to Legislation on Housing and Public Services was adopted in July 2009 with a view to providing State housing assistance to socially vulnerable groups, including orphaned children and children without parental care; it provides that both orphaned children and children without parental care are included in the category of socially vulnerable persons, and it has increased the age limit for the housing waiting list to 23.

262. Under the Act of 22 July 2011 on Amendments and Additions to Legislation on Housing Matters, orphans and children without parental care who are deemed, in accordance with established procedure, to need public housing and who have registered up to the age of 29 are not removed from the register until they have obtained housing.

263. The provision of housing to orphans and children without parental care was discussed on 7 December 2010 at a meeting of the Interdepartmental Commission for Minors and their Rights within the Government of Kazakhstan.

264. It has been recommended that the administrative heads (*akims*) of the provinces and of the cities of Almaty and Astana take all the necessary measures to implement article 6 of the Education Act relating to the provision of housing for orphans and children without parental care, including with regard to guaranteeing and maintaining housing.

265. Violations of the right of orphans and children without parental care to housing are subject to investigation.

266. Over the past three years, claims brought by the guardianship and custody agencies have resulted in the return of 51 apartments, including 8 in Akmola province, 14 in Karagandy province, 5 in Kostanay province, 10 in Kyzylorda province and 2 in Mangistau province.

267. The guardianship and custody agencies have filed 149 claims with the courts for the return of housing to minors who are without parental care, including 60 in Kostanay province alone, 17 in Karagandy province, 9 in Kyzylorda province, 9 in Akmola province and 3 in Aktobe province.

268. In Kazakhstan, 29 young people's homes have been opened to accommodate orphans and children without parental care on completion of their education; about 1,360 young people aged 17 to 23 live in such homes. Between 2006 and 2010, 327 apartments were allocated to children in this category and 599 children returned to their guaranteed housing.

269. The Karagandy provincial administration (*akimat*) has prepared a draft comprehensive plan for 2011–2013 to provide housing for orphans and children without parental care aged 16 to 23. Under the draft plan, 320 children will be provided with public housing and five young people's homes will be opened.

270. In Aktobe province, a sum of 15,568,000 tenge has been set aside for individuals leaving young people's homes who have deposits in Zhilstroisberbank of Kazakhstan, to enable them to buy their own home.

271. In Kostanay province between 2006 and 2010, 75 orphans and children without parental care — 39 of them in 2010 — were provided with one-room apartments under a government programme for rented municipal housing.

272. Over the past three years, 108 children in this category have been provided with public housing in West Kazakhstan province.

273. In 2010, orphans and children without parental care in Astana were provided with rental apartments temporarily, until it was their turn to be allocated housing. Unmarried persons were provided with accommodation on the basis of two people per room.

F. Access to appropriate information (art. 17)

274. Information regarding the child's right to access appropriate information is set out in paragraphs 153–158 of the initial report on the implementation by Kazakhstan of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2003) and paragraphs 161–177 of the combined second and third periodic reports (2007).

275. Work is under way to develop the use of technology in education. In 2010, there was one computer for every 18 pupils. In 2005, the figure was one computer for every 41 pupils (36 in rural areas). In 2011, there was one computer for every 16 pupils.

276. In 2010, 98 per cent of schools were connected to the Internet (97 per cent in rural areas); in 2005, the figures were 75 per cent and 70 per cent respectively. Some 34 per cent of schools have broadband Internet access. This enables children to access the world of information and interactive educational resources.

277. In order to ensure that all those in the education system have equal access to the best educational resources and technologies, an e-learning system is in use in educational institutions. It is anticipated that e-learning will be used in 50 per cent of educational institutions by 2015 and 90 per cent by 2020.

278. The attainment of this goal will result in improved teaching quality, more effective education management and access to external sources of information.

279. We plan to provide secondary, technical and vocational education institutions with full and open access to digital educational content; this includes all information resources, such as text, graphics, music, and video and audio material.

280. In order to incorporate information technology into the teaching process, every educational institution will be provided with the necessary facilities, including the latest computers and broadband Internet access.
281. Implementation of a system of online learning has been under way in the country's schools since the 2007/08 academic year. Over a period of five years, 3,571 schools have been equipped with interactive classrooms.
282. Since the 2007/08 academic year, interactive lessons, seminars and forums have been held.
283. There is a portal for interactive lessons, www.sabak.kz, where more than 100 video recordings of interactive lessons are stored. All the electronic resources available on the portal enable children to obtain information independently.
284. To date, 95 per cent of school subject content has been transferred to digital format. The National Computerization Centre, a joint-stock company, is developing electronic textbooks. In Kazakhstan, 100 per cent of school pupils are provided with textbooks.
285. Textbooks are provided free of charge to boarding school pupils, orphans and children from low-income or large families.
286. Access to information through the media is not restricted. Around 90 media outlets provide children with access to socially significant information, including the Khabar agency, the Kazakhstan National Broadcasting Corporation (RTRK), Rakhat TV, Astana City Television, the Kazinform news agency and the newspapers *Egemen Kazakhstan*, *Kazakhstanskaya Pravda*, *Liter*, *Aıqyn*, *Aq Zhelken*, *Alyans kz*, *Baldyrghan*, *Zhas Ūlan* and "Friendly Kids".
287. Kazakh Radio broadcasts four programmes on child protection: "Zhetkīnshek", which is about the prevention of child homelessness and neglect, "Bap Pen Baq", "Zaman Bīzdīkī" and "Balausa".
288. Issues such as elucidation of the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the right of children to protection from all forms of bodily harm are discussed on information and analysis programmes, such as "Betpe-bet", "Zhetī kun", "Talap pen tārtīp", "Tertium non datur", "Syrgha", "Kōngīlashar", "Bīr kun", "Kōzqaras", "Apta kz" and "Azamat".
289. For the past year, the El arna television channel has been broadcasting six programmes aimed at children's cultural and educational development, such as "I want to be", "Our children", "Meīrīm", "Top Kid" and "Magic Letters".
290. The printed media regularly publish material on the achievements of adolescents and children and the twentieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including, in particular, the articles "Batyr's mission" (*Ekspress K*), "Batyr becomes an ambassador" (*Vremya*), "Batyrkhan's good will" (*Komsomolskaya pravda v. Kazakhstane*), "We'll protect childhood" (*Kazakhstanskaya pravda*) and "Bala taghdyryna beī-zhāi qaraugha bolmaıdy" (*Aıqyn*).
291. There are 256 children's libraries in Kazakhstan used by 1.5 million children.
292. A special event, "Kazakh writers for children", is held every year to foster children's access to printed media, including children's literature, and to promote the works of famous Kazakh children's writers and poets. In order to attract children to school and town libraries, the event is held in central libraries, and children's writers, poets and journalists are invited.

293. In addition, academic theatres for children and young people have staged more than 200 shows in the State language and in Russian, which have been attended by more than 100,000 children.

294. At its sixth meeting on 19 April 2010, the Interdepartmental Commission for Minors and their Rights within the Government of Kazakhstan discussed the issue of reducing the negative impact of computer clubs on children's and adolescents' development.

295. In 2010, a set of procedural recommendations for teachers, psychologists and parents entitled "Audio-visual production and computerized and information carriers that promote pornography, cruelty and violence: impact on children's physical and mental health and protection of their morals" was issued in the State language and in Russian.

296. Measures are currently being taken to monitor the activities of computer clubs (Internet cafés) to ensure that child users are not given information or access to software that could harm their health or their moral and spiritual development.

297. On 3 June 2011, Esil district court in Astana adopted a decision in case No. 2-1078/11 on halting the dissemination in Kazakhstan of foreign media and Internet resources advertising child pornography.

G. The right not to be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (art. 37 (a))

298. Information regarding the right not to be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is set out in paragraphs 159–162 of the initial report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2003) and paragraphs 178–188 of the combined second and third periodic reports (2007).

299. Under article 17 of the Constitution, no one may be subjected to torture, violence or other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment. Human dignity is inviolable.

300. Since 2008, a working group has been operating within the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner to consider cases of the use of torture and other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment in closed institutions. The group consists of management staff from government agencies, well-known human rights activists and representatives of civil society, and makes regular visits to places of detention, including temporary holding facilities, remand centres and young offenders' institutions where children are held.

301. Article 347-1 of the Criminal Code criminalizes torture. Additions have been made to article 116 of the Code of Criminal Procedure specifying that information obtained through the use of torture is inadmissible as evidence.

302. Under the Code of Criminal Procedure, specific provision is made for children involved in criminal proceedings so as to protect them against torture and other inappropriate treatment. Additional guarantees for the protection of children are the requirement that a defence lawyer, legal representative or teacher should be present when investigative actions are carried out; the obligation to conduct a pretrial investigation; the separation of children from adults in detention facilities; and the prompt notification of relatives when children are detained.

303. The Act on Amendments and Additions to Legislation on the Protection of Children's Rights, aimed at relaxing criminal policy relating to juveniles, was adopted in 2010. The Act minimizes the imposition on juveniles of punishment and preventive measures involving separation from society. Juveniles can be reformed through the use of preventive measures that do not involve being placed in detention. Grounds for the use of preventive measures involving detention have been circumscribed.

304. Under the aforementioned Act, around 6,000 convicted juveniles will be eligible for more lenient treatment. In 2011 alone, some 2,000 individuals convicted of minor or ordinary offences will be released from places of detention.

305. The age of criminal responsibility for a number of crimes has been raised from 14 to 16. One innovation is the possibility of exemption from criminal liability for juveniles in the event of reconciliation of the parties in the case of serious offences, except where no amends have been made for the harm caused. A third paragraph has been added to article 67 of the Criminal Code, "Exemption from criminal liability following reconciliation with the victim", providing for exemption from criminal liability in the aforementioned circumstances.

306. Beyond the relaxation of criminal legislation, the law regulates legal relations with juveniles through the establishment of civil liability. For example, a whole chapter has been added to the Code of Civil Procedure governing proceedings in cases of placement of juveniles in special institutions with a special custodial regime or in educational institutions and providing for the possibility of appealing against such decisions in court.

307. A Government action plan for 2009–2012 has been drawn up with a view to implementing the recommendations of the Committee against Torture and coordinating measures for the prevention of torture.

308. Criminal cases relating to acts of torture may not be investigated by the law enforcement agencies whose agents committed the offences in question. The legal definition of torture has been brought into line with the requirements of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, signed in New York on 10 December 1984.

309. Steps have been taken to regulate the mechanism for verifying claims of torture and preventing torture. It is now mandatory for judicial experts to be present at medical check-ups carried out to detect signs of bodily injury in detainees.

310. It is expected that work on bills on the national preventive mechanism and the probation service for convicted persons will be completed by the end of 2011.

311. However, principles for the operation of preventive mechanisms are not new to our penal correction system. Public oversight commissions have been active in Kazakhstan for five years. The number of inspections carried out by these commissions in places of detention has quadrupled since 2008.

312. Overall, the prison system in Kazakhstan is gradually being brought into line with international standards. Reform of the system will continue through:

- A shift to prisons with individual cells;
- The establishment of public monitoring mechanisms and improvements in the quality of medical care, especially the system for preventing disease among inmates.

313. The Government takes a zero-tolerance approach to torture and trafficking in persons.

314. In accordance with the recommendations from the thirty-third session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 18 temporary isolation, adaptation and rehabilitation centres for juveniles, together with 386 staff, have been transferred from the Ministry of Internal Affairs to the education system (Presidential Decree No. 1039 of 17 August 2010 on measures to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement activities and of the judicial system in the Republic of Kazakhstan).

315. This decision was in line with the public's desire to change the existing system of prevention of child homelessness and neglect, taking into account the global trend towards more humane treatment of minors.

316. Under the Act on Amendments and Additions to Legislation on the Enhancement of the Activities of the Internal Affairs Agencies for Ensuring Public Security, temporary isolation, adaptation and rehabilitation centres for juveniles have been reorganized into centres for the adaptation of juveniles.

317. These centres accommodate minors aged 3 to 18 in the following categories: neglected and homeless children, children without parental care and minors who are being placed in special education institutions.

318. The work of the centres includes providing prompt assistance to minors to support them through crisis situations, making arrangements for them, and reuniting children with their families.

319. Over the past three years, the Ministry of Education and Science has commissioned five surveys on self-destructive behaviour in children, prevention of violence against children, monitoring of the protection of children against cruel treatment and sexual exploitation, and observance of the rights and legitimate interests of children in educational institutions.

320. In conjunction with the Association of Crisis Centres, an NGO, a survey was conducted in 2008 to assess the extent of violence against children in the family and in school.

321. The survey revealed the causes and extent of violence in the city of Almaty and in Akmola, Almaty and East Kazakhstan provinces. Of the 1,300 children surveyed, 14 per cent of younger schoolchildren and 22 per cent of pupils in the middle and older age groups responded that they had been subjected to physical violence in the form of kicks, shoves or beatings. Two per cent of younger schoolchildren and 3 per cent of pupils in the middle and older age groups had been subjected to sexual violence in the form of harassment or rape. Some 12 per cent of pupils had been subjected to bullying in school, 9 per cent for a prolonged period.

322. The Office of the Human Rights Commissioner in Kazakhstan, together with the UNICEF office in Kazakhstan, carried out a study in 2010–2011 to assess the incidence of violence in State institutions for children in the education, health and social protection systems.

323. Following the study, the Ombudsman's recommendations were submitted to the Ministries of Education and Science, Health, and Labour and Social Protection. After the recommendations had been considered, a proposal was put forward to develop a joint plan of action to prevent violence against children living in residential institutions.

324. In order to prevent violence against children in Kazakhstan, additional measures will be taken to strengthen cooperation between government bodies and international and NGOs. Work will continue in order to increase public awareness and legal literacy and refine the law with regard to stiffening penalties for persons who violate children's rights.

VI. Family environment and alternative care

A. Parental guidance (art. 5)

325. Detailed information on this issue is set out in paragraphs 163–169 of the initial report on the implementation of the Convention (2003) and paragraphs 190–197 of the combined second and third periodic reports (2007).

326. Under article 27 of the Constitution, marriage and the family, motherhood, fatherhood and childhood are under the protection of the State. The care and upbringing of children are the natural right and duty of the parents. The right of parents to guide their children is established in the legislation in force, such as the Marriage and the Family Act, the Children's Rights Act and the Education Act.

327. Under the Criminal Code, persons who are guilty of non-fulfilment or inadequate fulfilment of responsibilities regarding the upbringing of minors are liable to prosecution.

328. One of the main priorities of national social policy is to reduce the number of children brought up in residential institutions.

329. In 2010, there were 38,386 orphans and children without parental care in Kazakhstan.

330. In order to support individuals who wish to adopt, become guardian of or foster an orphan or a child without parental care, 14 schools for adoptive or foster parents have been set up in 14 regions of the country and seven family support services in four regions.

331. There are 116 extra professionals in education departments dealing with guardianship and custody. In 2007 there were 210 and in 2010 there were 326.

332. A financial incentive has been introduced for persons who take on the upbringing of orphans or children without parental care. Since 2011, guardians have been paid an allowance for the maintenance of such children amounting to 10 times the notional monthly unit.

333. This measure has made it possible to reduce the number of children in children's homes, since many of them have relatives who are able, with financial support, to take the children into their family.

B. Parental responsibilities (art. 18, paras. 1 and 2)

334. Detailed information on this issue is set out in paragraphs 170–174 of the initial report on the implementation of the Convention (2003) and paragraphs 199–208 of the combined second and third periodic reports (2007).

335. Under the Constitution, the care and upbringing of children are the natural right and duty of the parents.

336. Since August 2009, parents and owners of entertainment venues have been subject to administrative liability for the presence of minors in such venues at night. A ban on the consumption of alcoholic drinks, including beer, in public places has also been introduced.

337. In 2010, administrative measures were taken against more than 700 owners of entertainment venues and around 3,000 parents or persons acting *in loco parentis* in connection with the admission of minors to entertainment venues at night.

338. More than 16,000 minors were detained for drinking beer in a public place. Administrative measures were taken against more than 2,000 individual entrepreneurs for the sale of tobacco products to persons under 18 and the sale of alcohol to adolescents.

339. The Public Security Act was adopted on 20 December 2010; it establishes administrative liability for the presence of minors unaccompanied by legal representatives in places other than residential accommodation at night (between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.). Since the adoption of the Act, administrative measures have been taken against more than 8,000 parents.

340. Constant attention is paid to identifying adults who involve minors in drinking and other anti-social activities.

341. More than 13,000 troubled families, including about 20,000 children, are on the files of the internal affairs agencies. These agencies, together with the education authorities, may apply a whole range of measures under the law to ensure that children's rights are protected against criminal violations committed by their parents or persons acting *in loco parentis*.

342. Since the beginning of 2010, administrative measures have been taken against more than 1,000 parents and persons acting in loco parentis for non-fulfilment of responsibilities regarding the upbringing of minors, and 27 criminal cases have been brought under article 137 of the Criminal Code (non-fulfilment of responsibilities regarding the upbringing of a minor).

343. In 2011, administrative measures were taken against more than 3,000 parents under article 111 of the Code of Administrative Offences (non-fulfilment by parents or persons acting in loco parentis of responsibilities regarding the upbringing of children). Thirteen parents were prosecuted under article 137 of the Criminal Code (non-fulfilment of responsibilities regarding the upbringing of a minor). Four adults were prosecuted for involving minors in anti-social activities (art. 132 of the Criminal Code).

C. Separation from parents (art. 9)

344. Detailed information on this issue is set out in paragraphs 175–187 of the initial report on the implementation of the Convention (2003) and paragraphs 209–215 of the combined second and third periodic reports (2007).

345. According to data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, around 1,000 parents were stripped of their parental rights in 2010.

346. In 2010, 1,586 children up to the age of 3 were being brought up in children's homes; in 2007, the figure was 2,131. A total of 599 children were in shelters, compared with 673 in 2007. The duration of stay was up to six months, until the child's status was determined.

347. There were 369 children aged under 1 year in "Hope" homes, compared with 413 in 2007.

348. A "Hope" home was opened within the children's home in Astana for inexperienced mothers lacking support even from their own families. Here, young mothers live together with their children, breastfeed them, and raise them until they are 1 year old. For the moment, this modular centre is the only one of its kind, but it is expected that further such centres will be opened in other regions of the country.

349. Lectures for parents are held in educational institutions and councils of parents and fathers operate in such institutions.

350. With a view to cultivating an image of a healthy and fully functional family in the public consciousness, the programme “Me and my family” was broadcast on television in 2009, aimed at boosting parents’ role in bringing up their children.

351. “Pure Source” regional family arts festivals are held every year in Kazakhstan to mark the International Day of Families.

352. Under the law in force in Kazakhstan, every child has the right to live and be brought up in a family. In the absence of the parents, or where the parents have been stripped of their parental rights or in other cases of loss of parental care, the child’s right to be brought up in a family is assured by the guardianship and custody authorities in accordance with the procedure established by law.

353. The responsibilities of the relevant bodies and organizations with regard to protecting the rights of children deprived of their family environment are set out in the Civil Code, the Marriage and the Family Act, the Family-type Children’s Villages and Young People’s Homes Act, the Children’s Rights Act, the Nationality Act and the Housing Act.

D. Family reunification (art. 10)

354. Detailed information on this issue is set out in paragraphs 188–192 of the initial report on the implementation by Kazakhstan of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2003) and paragraphs 216–219 of the combined second and third periodic reports.

355. Work is under way on the return of children to their biological families. More than 4,000 children have been returned since 2007. The number of children returned to their biological families is increasing every year. In 2010, 1,328 children were returned, compared with 1,004 in 2007.

E. Recovery of maintenance for the child (art. 27, para. 4)

356. Issues relating to the recovery of maintenance for the child are governed by Kazakh law and are dealt with in paragraphs 195–199 of the initial report on the implementation of the Convention (2003).

F. Children deprived of a family environment (art. 20)

357. Detailed information on this issue is set out in paragraphs 200–213 of the initial report on the implementation by Kazakhstan of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2003) and paragraphs 227–236 of the combined second and third periodic reports.

358. Issues relating to the protection of the rights and interests of orphans and children without parental care are addressed in laws such as the Education Act, the Children’s Rights Act, the Marriage and the Family Act, the Family-type Children’s Villages and Young People’s Homes Act, the Act on State Benefits for Families with Children, the State Disability and Survivor Benefits and Old-Age Pensions Act and the Housing Act.

359. As at the end of 2010, there were 210 governmental and NGOs in Kazakhstan for orphaned children and children without parental care, which established all the necessary conditions for housing and bringing up 14,052 children. However, numerous studies by psychologists and teachers have shown that placement of children in residential institutions does not ensure the satisfaction of their basic needs, which in turn leads to disruption of the child’s personal development. The social development of the child in a residential institution is generally limited because of the absence of family, relatives and friends.

Orphans are deprived from early childhood of the opportunity to correct their behaviour, guided by their parents' actions; these children have a lower standard of living as a result of always being in children's homes and residential institutions.

360. With a view to creating conditions that resemble a family environment as closely as possible for orphans and children without parental care, specific work is under way in Kazakhstan to deinstitutionalize children's homes and residential institutions and break them up into smaller units. Today, in family-type children's homes, children live in groups of 8 to 10, bound by family-type relationships and ties of affection and friendship. In addition, child-rearing programmes that take account of the child's individual characteristics have been introduced in children's homes, and conditions that resemble a family environment have been created.

361. The aforementioned 210 organizations include seven family-type children's villages accommodating 349 children, three SOS Children's Villages with 190 children and 22 family-type children's homes with 330 children, which have the basic characteristics of a family environment.

362. All the organizations have created an environment conducive to education and child-rearing, and they all have language and multimedia laboratories; 148 of them have Internet connections.

363. Every year in the regions a charitable festival, "Rizashylyq – For the Good of Children", is held for children living in children's homes, and a national campaign, "Quan sābi", is organized in order to identify and recruit families wishing to take in a child who is without parental care.

364. As a result, 1,103 children from children's homes spent time in Kazakh host families in the winter and spring holidays of 2010. Every year, more than 120 children from children's homes spend time abroad during the summer holidays.

365. Talented and gifted children take part in international competitions. For example, on 30 April 2011, 27 children from the Umīt children's home participated in an international competition and festival in the Turkish city of Fethiye, where they took second place out of 23 participating countries.

366. In 2011, of 38,386 orphans and children without parental care, 22,067 were in the care of guardians, compared with 29,147 in 2007, and 2,267 were in foster care, compared with 1,823 in 2007.

367. In order to address the problems of orphans and children without parental care, an outreach action plan was approved in 2011 with the aim of preventing child abandonment and promoting the adoption of orphans and children without parental care. The plan was developed by the Ministry of Education and Science in conjunction with the National Commission for Women's Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy under the Office of the President and the Ministries of Communications and Information and Culture.

368. Under the plan, fathers' conferences and round tables are held in different regions of the country, and provincial television channels have broadcast a video entitled "A happy family for every child" and a series entitled "The hopes of children's hearts", which look at issues relating to the placement of children from children's homes in Kazakh families.

369. The Office of the Ombudsman regularly checks the observance of children's rights in children's institutions around the country.

370. In 2010, visits were made to 22 children's residential institutions in Astana, Almaty, Kokshetau, Shymkent, Pavlodar, Zhezkazgan and Satpayev.

G. Adoption (art. 21)

371. Adoption is one of the alternative forms of placement for children without parental care. The basic purpose of adoption is to provide children who lack parental care with a family environment.

372. Under Kazakh law, priority in adoption matters is given to Kazakh nationals, who have the right to adopt a child as soon as the child is identified as lacking parental care.

373. Since the adoption of the Marriage and the Family Act in 1999, 41,091 children have been adopted, 31,929 of them by Kazakh nationals, 487 by foreign relatives and 8,675 by other foreign nationals.

374. In comparison with 2009, there is an upward trend in the number of children adopted by Kazakh nationals: in 2009, the number was 3,044 and, in 2010, 3,100.

375. At the same time, the number of children adopted by foreign nationals has fallen, from 669 in 2009 to 506 in 2010.

376. On 12 March 2010, the Republic of Kazakhstan ratified the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.

377. Work is currently under way to bring domestic law into line with that Convention.

378. An enlarged meeting of the National Council of Directors of Educational Institutions for Orphaned Children and Children without Parental Care and experts in the protection of children's rights was held in East Kazakhstan province in September 2010 to discuss the work of the guardianship and custody authorities with regard to implementation of The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.

379. In March 2011, a national seminar was held in Astana on current issues relating to intercountry adoption in the light of the ratification of the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.

380. The seminar was attended by representatives of government bodies, the Procurator-General's Office, the Astana juvenile court and the UNICEF office in Kazakhstan.

381. As part of a media information campaign relating to the placement of orphans in Kazakh families, a television programme entitled "Me and my family" was commissioned by the Government and broadcast on the Kazakhstan television channel.

382. Videos on social issues were broadcast on the leading national television channels in 2010. A series entitled "Our children" was broadcast on the El arna channel. Local newspapers ran special features, such as "A family for every child", "In search of a mother", "Mama, find me" and "The world needs me – I need a family".

H. Illicit transfer and non-return (art. 11)

383. Information regarding article 11 of the Convention, which relates to illicit transfer and non-return, is set out in paragraphs 193 and 194 of the initial report on the implementation by Kazakhstan of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2003) and paragraphs 221–224 of the combined second and third periodic reports.

384. The interdepartmental commissions within the Government of Kazakhstan on combating trafficking in persons and on humanitarian law and human rights have supported

the proposal that Kazakhstan ratify the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, adopted in The Hague on 25 October 1980.

385. The question of accession to that Convention is currently under discussion.

386. The purpose of the Convention is to protect children from wrongful removal and also to secure the return of children wrongfully removed to another State (art. 1).

387. The accession of Kazakhstan to the Convention will provide additional international guarantees for the rights of children and their parents or legal representatives who are Kazakh nationals and make it possible to create an effective legal mechanism for cooperation with other States on the return of children wrongfully removed or retained in foreign States.

388. Moreover, the very fact of acceding to the Convention and raising broad awareness of it among Kazakh and foreign nationals and organizations will act as an effective preventive measure that will reduce the incidence of child abduction and guarantee the protection of children's rights and legitimate interests.

I. Protection from abuse and neglect (art. 19) and also physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration (art. 39)

389. Information on this issue is set out in paragraphs 232–234 of the initial report on the implementation by Kazakhstan of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2003) and paragraphs 260–263 of the combined second and third periodic reports.

J. Periodic review of placement (art. 25)

390. Information under article 25 of the Convention on the periodic review of placement and all other circumstances relevant to the child's placement or protection or the treatment of his or her physical or mental health is set out in paragraphs 230 and 231 of the initial report on the implementation by Kazakhstan of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2003) and paragraphs 255–259 of the combined second and third periodic reports.

391. The norms and rules referred to in those reports are still in force.

392. Under article 46 of the Children's Rights Act, the Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights within the Ministry of Education and Science prepares an annual report for the President on the situation of children in Kazakhstan, which can be found on the Committee's website and is published as a separate brochure.

393. In March 2009, a progress report on the first stage of the "Children of Kazakhstan" programme was presented in the Majilis (lower house) of Parliament.

394. As part of the implementation of the Convention, a report from national ministries and departments on the work being done to protect the rights and interests of children and to put in place appropriate arrangements for the maintenance, upbringing and education of children without parental care was presented at a meeting of the Human Rights Commission under the Office of the President in December 2009.

395. In 2010, Kazakhstan successfully completed the universal periodic review process relating to human rights. An action plan has now been drawn up for the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

396. In 2011, the Human Rights Commissioner prepared a report on the Commissioner's work in 2010, which contained an analysis of the situation with regard to human rights and

freedoms, including the rights of women and children, and which set out the most pressing problems and the causes of rights violations.

397. As part of work on the protection and promotion of children's rights, a priority activity for the Ombudsman, visits were made to 30 children's institutions in the cities of Astana and Almaty and also Pavlodar, South Kazakhstan, Karagandy and Akmola provinces in order to check on the protection of children's rights. The checks focused on the observance of children's rights to education, health care, rest, leisure, participation in cultural and creative life, access to information, and the use of their native language and culture.

398. On 23 June 2011, the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child was discussed in the Majilis, with the participation of a delegation from the European Union and the UNICEF office.

VII. Basic health and welfare

A. Disabled children (art. 23)

399. Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the social protection of disabled children and their rehabilitation and integration into society.

400. As at 1 January 2011, there were 54,495 children registered disabled in Kazakhstan, of whom 45,810 were under 16; among those aged 16–18, there were 1,016 children with a category 1 disability, 3,052 with a category 2 disability and 4,617 with a category 3 disability.

401. There is now a network of institutions in the social protection system that includes 3 residential homes for disabled children with motor deficiencies, 17 residential psychoneurological facilities for children, 6 rehabilitation centres and 160 units providing social care at home. More than 30 per cent of disabled children (over 17,000 in total) are provided with social services by these institutions.

402. Disabled children are provided with treatment free of charge and rehabilitation as part of guaranteed free medical care. Specific categories of the population with certain types of illness, including children with disabilities, are given free medicine and special foodstuffs on an outpatient basis. Rehabilitative care is provided at the regional and national levels for children with disabilities. Comprehensive rehabilitation includes medical treatment, psychological and special educational support and social adaptation.

403. Rehabilitative care is provided to children in national centres: the National Children's Rehabilitation Centre in Astana, the Balbulak Children's Rehabilitation Centre and the Alatau Children's Sanatorium in Almaty, and the Rehabilitation Centre for Children and Adolescents in the Burabay health resort; and 39 regional rehabilitation centres, which provide comprehensive medical, psychological, educational and social rehabilitation for around 8,500 children with special needs each year.

404. The National Children's Rehabilitation Centre has a small orthotics factory with German equipment producing various special devices that place the body or the affected limbs in a resting position, which is an essential part of rehabilitation.

405. In order to provide medical care to disabled children with severe congenital or acquired hearing impairments, special cochlear implant operations have been carried out in Kazakhstan since 2007. A total of 430 such operations have been carried out. Previously, children with such impairments were sent abroad to receive such operations.

406. In order to improve the quality of life of disabled people in residential homes, funds totalling 2.5 billion tenge (US\$ 1.7 million) have been allocated from the central budget since 2009 for the introduction of standards for the provision of special social services in the area of social protection for children with disabilities. These funds have been used to create additional posts in medical and social institutions for social work professionals, specialists in teaching methods, special needs teachers, speech therapists, physical education teachers, employment coaches, music directors, neurologists, paediatricians, physiotherapists and nutritionists. Age-based groups have been formed, with 6 to 12 children per group, taking account of their level of social development; this has allowed for an individual approach to each child. Residential homes have been provided with modern auxiliary medical and educational equipment, which has made it possible to meet the rehabilitation needs of disabled children more fully.

407. Special-purpose transfers of funds are also now being used to provide disabled children who have psychoneurological disorders and/or motor deficiencies with special social services, in the form of partial inpatient care — daytime care units and family support services — and in the form of home care. A sum of 1.5 billion tenge has been allocated from the central budget for these purposes.

408. The development of partial inpatient care and units providing social care at home, including as part of government social-sector procurement, is aimed at reducing the number of children with special needs living in residential institutions.

409. The Special Social Services Act was adopted in 2008 with a view to implementing the strategy for making Kazakhstan one of the 50 most competitive countries in the world, as set out in the President's address to the nation of 1 March 2006. The adoption and implementation of the Act will make it possible to:

- Establish an up-to-date model for the delivery of special social services;
- Establish a comprehensive system of social services for disadvantaged persons;
- Expand the special social services market through the participation of NGOs whose work stimulates competition and improves service quality;
- Expand the range of social services offered to the public and improve their quality;
- Determine the legal status of social services and institutions, develop a single mechanism for the provision of special social services, specify the rights and responsibilities of social workers, determine the authorities' sphere of competence, etc.

410. In order to develop a competitive market for the delivery of special social services under government social-sector procurement, NGOs are becoming ever more widely involved:

- In 2009, around 1,500 children with psychoneurological disorders were provided with special social services from NGOs to the value of 156.9 million tenge;
- In 2010, more than 2,000 children with psychoneurological disorders were provided with such services to the value of 446.5 million tenge;
- It is expected that 2,100 children will be provided with such services in 2011, to the value of 273.6 million tenge.

411. Under the current law on social protection for persons with disabilities, the local authorities provide disabled persons, including disabled children under their individual rehabilitation programmes, with health-resort treatment, special mobility devices such as wheelchairs, assistive devices, prosthetic and orthopaedic appliances, devices for the hearing-impaired and the vision-impaired, and essential hygiene products, such as urine

bags, colostomy bags and incontinence pads, on the basis of a public contract. Over the past two years, more than 7,000 children have received prosthetic and orthopaedic appliances. Almost 3,000 children with vision and hearing impairments have been provided with hearing and vision aids, and 1,748 wheelchairs have been issued to disabled children. Every year, 1,000 children are sent for health-resort treatment.

412. In order to improve the rehabilitation system, strengthen social support and improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Health, in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, developed and adopted an action plan for the prevention of disease and disability for 2010–2011.

413. Pursuant to Ministry of Health Order No. 533 of 23 July 2010 approving public health standards for health-care facilities, specific health standards were approved with a view to creating a favourable environment for disabled persons in public places. In particular, for the benefit of wheelchair users, entrances and exits, interior passageways and pavements are made with hard surfaces and equipped with ramps; double banisters are installed on staircases for adults and children; for the benefit of blind and partially sighted persons, sections of banisters and the first and last steps on a flight of stairs are marked with grooves and different colours; and special cubicles are provided in toilets.

414. The Ministry of Health cooperates closely with other relevant ministries and departments, and also NGOs, to address current problems affecting children with special needs.

415. Currently, more than 147,000 children with special needs have been identified in Kazakhstan; in 2007, the figure was more than 120,000.

416. Under article 8 of the Education Act, the State guarantees to enable persons with special needs to receive an education, treatment for developmental disorders and social rehabilitation.

417. There is a comprehensive network of special-education institutions in Kazakhstan to provide education services to children with special needs:

- 34 special kindergartens and 280 special groups in mainstream kindergartens, catering for 9,676 children of preschool age;
- 101 special-needs schools and 1,155 special classes in general-education schools, providing education to 26,000 children (15.5 per cent);
- 17,150 children are integrated into general-education schools, where they receive special educational support;
- 9,391 children are taught at home under individual programmes.

418. Pursuant to article 9, paragraph 3, of the Act on Social, Medical and Educational Support for Children with Special Needs, new types of educational institution have been established. These are needed because there is such a wide variety of disorders that the existing types of special-education institutions are not able to provide appropriate support for absolutely every child.

419. In 2003, 2 rehabilitation centres, 14 special units and 99 speech-therapy units were opened; in 2010, the numbers stood at 17, 124 and 402 respectively.

420. These types of educational institutions provide special educational support to children with developmental disabilities who attend general-education schools, thus ensuring that children formerly considered “unteachable” are included in the general-education system. A total of 15.5 per cent, or more than 26,000 children, receive timely support. A special boarding school with 250 places for children with vision

impairments has been built in Karagandy using central budget funds. A similar boarding school is being built in Almaty province.

421. Pursuant to article 6, paragraphs 16 and 17, of the Education Act and the Act on Social, Medical and Educational Support for Children with Special Needs, new types of special education institution have been opened: psychological, medical and educational guidance centres (one per 60,000 children), rehabilitation centres (one per province) and psychological and special education centres (one per district).

422. There are currently 57 provincial, city and district psychological, medical and educational guidance centres, one of which is also a national centre.

423. The expansion of the network of psychological, medical and educational guidance centres has led to improved identification of children with developmental disabilities. For example, in 2007 the number of children identified as having developmental disabilities was more than 120,000 (2 per cent of the child population); in 2010 the number had increased to 147,679 (3.4 per cent). A centralized database on children with special needs and the network of special institutions has been set up. This makes it possible to take coordinated measures to expand the network of educational institutions and improve the quality of management of the special education system both nationwide and in individual regions.

424. Of the 147,679 children and adolescents with developmental disabilities, 125,444, or 85.0 per cent, are in education: 2,139 young children (39.1 per cent); 18,911 preschool-age children (61.4 per cent); and 104,494 school-age children, or 93.8 per cent of the total number of school-age children with special needs.

425. The figures broken down by type of disability are as follows:

- Children with a developmental delay – 37,937 (27.7 per cent);
- Children with speech deficiencies – 31,395 (22.9 per cent), a 1.3 per cent reduction in comparison with 2008;
- Children with learning difficulties – 24,213 (17.7 per cent);
- Children with motor deficiencies – 19,046 (13.9 per cent);
- Partially sighted children – 14,640 (10.7 per cent);
- Hard-of-hearing children – 7,482 (5.5 per cent);
- Deaf children – 1,883 (1.4 per cent) and blind children – 314 (0.2 per cent).

426. In order to make it easier to organize home schooling for children with special needs, including disabled children, the State programme for the development of education 2011–2020 provides for distance learning.

427. To that end, it is anticipated that special equipment will be provided in the period 2011–2013: disabled children's work areas will be equipped with a set of computer hardware and software that takes into account the type of ailment they have and their individual characteristics, capacities and needs, and they will be provided with an Internet connection.

428. For example, in Pavlodar province, all children with special needs are educated at home and are provided with computers, electronic teaching programs and textbooks, and an Internet connection.

429. Special education institutions are successfully introducing computer hardware and up-to-date information technology that facilitate children's social adaptation and

rehabilitation, help teachers to upgrade their qualifications and promote the creative development of individual rehabilitation programmes for every child.

430. Pursuant to article 14, paragraph 2, of the Education Act, special education programmes are developed for children with developmental disabilities, taking account of the developmental characteristics and potential of both day and residential pupils and based on recommendations from psychological, medical and educational guidance centres.

431. Special general-education programmes are developed on the basis of general-education curricula and focus on the teaching and development of children with special needs. They take account of the mental and physical characteristics and cognitive capacities of day and residential pupils and are based on recommendations from psychological, medical and educational guidance centres.

432. This differentiated approach to education provides for the use of special curricula and textbooks tailored to the different levels of cognitive development of pupils with special needs.

433. According to an analysis carried out by the National Scientific and Practical Centre for Special Education, 57 per cent of the country's schools have been supplied with special teaching materials; this includes material for pupils in support schools and remedial material for children with vision or hearing impairments or speech deficiencies. Children who have hearing or vision impairments, motor or speech deficiencies or a developmental delay, but who retain their intellectual capacity, use the textbooks and teaching resources of general-education schools; 100 per cent of such schools have been supplied with these materials.

434. A total of 296 original textbooks and teaching materials for children have been published, 39 per cent in the Kazakh language and 61 per cent in Russian:

- 133 titles (44.9 per cent) for children with intellectual disabilities;
- 44 titles (14.7 per cent) for deaf children;
- 16 titles (5.4 per cent) for hard-of-hearing children;
- 58 titles in Braille (19.6 per cent) for blind children;
- 42 large-print titles (14.2 per cent) for partially sighted children;
- 2 titles (0.7 per cent) for children with severe speech deficiencies.

435. Transfers from the central budget funds allocated between 2002 and 2010 enabled special-education institutions to purchase special equipment and assistive devices for teaching: equipment for the hearing-impaired (wired and wireless classrooms and audiometers) and for the vision-impaired (reading machines and computers adapted for vision-impaired users); sensory and soft rooms for relaxation; and medical and speech therapy aids. Between 40 and 60 per cent of institutions are now supplied with such devices.

436. Vocational training is one of the most important tools for the social protection of persons with disabilities. Under the law, the following benefits are available to persons with a category 1 or category 2 disability and disabled children when they enter an educational institution providing technical and vocational, post-secondary and higher education programmes:

- Quotas for admission to educational institutions;
- In competitions to obtain State education grants for free public education, preference is given to persons with a category 1 or category 2 disability, persons who have been disabled since childhood, and children with disabilities in respect of whom a medical

assessment panel finds no contraindication to their studying at the institution in question, provided that they are equally well qualified;

- Disabled people in educational institutions providing technical and vocational, post-secondary and higher education programmes who receive State funding or grants are given preference in the awarding of bursaries;
- Kindergartens and other special-education institutions are provided for children whose disabilities prevent them from attending general preschool facilities and educational institutions;
- Where it is not possible for a disabled child to attend a general or special preschool or other educational institution, the child may be educated at home if his or her parents or legal representatives so wish.

437. In accordance with a procedure established by Kazakh law, the State fully or partially covers the maintenance costs of persons with disabilities, including persons disabled since childhood and disabled children, during their education. On 11 December 2008, a presidential decree was adopted on the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto.

438. In addition, in order to ensure that disabled persons have equal educational opportunities and equal access to social services and to boost social support in technical and vocational education institutions, the following are provided every year:

- A free medical check-up;
- Free hostel accommodation;
- Financial assistance;
- Exemption from physical education classes and heavy physical labour, depending on disability category and severity;
- Individual lessons;
- Special arrangements for disabled persons when they take examinations to allow for their psychological and physical conditions;
- Regular consultations with psychologists;
- Help for school leavers with finding employment, etc., and establishment of close links with parents.

439. There are 605,200 students attending vocational lycées and colleges, including 1,392 persons with category 1 or 2 disabilities and young people with special needs.

440. Over the past three years, the number of people entering higher education institutions under the quota system has been increasing: in the 2008/09 academic year, the number was 8,194, and in 2010/11, it was 8,577.

441. Professionals who work with disabled persons have an important role to play. Since 1978, training for special needs experts in Kazakhstan has been provided by the teacher-training department of Abaï National University for Teacher Training. Training is provided in four areas: speech therapy, education of persons with intellectual disabilities, education of deaf and hearing-impaired persons, and education of blind and vision-impaired persons, in the State language and in Russian.

442. The Kazakh State Women's University for Teacher Training provides specialist training in the education of persons with intellectual disabilities and in speech therapy.

443. However, disabled people still face problems that they are unable to resolve themselves. For example, urban infrastructure in Kazakhstan is still not adapted to persons with physical disabilities, there are not enough medical facilities, and problems relating to work and employment remain some of the most acute, because employers decline to recruit disabled persons in the belief that they will not be able to carry out the work assigned to them. This type of attitude stems from misgivings and stereotypical ideas whereby greater significance is ascribed to a person's disability than to his or her capabilities. Work has therefore begun, taking account of the experience of developed countries, to investigate the problem with the involvement of disabled people themselves, and a long-term work plan is being developed in order to improve the quality of life of persons with special needs.

444. The implementation of the presidential decree of 11 December 2008 on the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto includes consistent efforts to support disabled persons, including children with disabilities, who are particularly in need of State assistance. It is expected that a number of measures will be taken to provide disabled persons, including disabled children, with services relating to employment, health care, education, information and access to cultural, sporting, political and public life, and also to modernize the system of medical and social assessments, improve the system of social protection and rehabilitation for disabled persons and improve the effectiveness of rehabilitation services and special social services.

B. Health and health services (art. 24)

445. In order to improve the quality of and public access to medical care in Kazakhstan, the amount of funding available to the health sector is increasing every year. Funding for health care increased from 1.9 per cent of GDP in 2002 to 2.7 per cent in 2010.

446. As a result of the Government's efforts to improve socioeconomic conditions for the people of Kazakhstan, the main medical and demographic indicators are improving. The birth rate has risen by 25 per cent, the mortality rate has fallen by 11 per cent and the natural population increase has grown by a factor of 1.7. However, there is still a problem with child and maternal mortality in Kazakhstan. The main causes of infant mortality are, first, specific conditions arising in the perinatal period; second, congenital developmental defects; and, third, respiratory illnesses, followed by accidents, injuries and toxicosis.

447. In 2010 a total of 368,957 births were registered, of which 4,205, or 1.1 per cent, were children born to adolescent girls aged 15 to 18.

448. In 2010 the abortion rate was 23.0 per 1,000 women of reproductive age.

449. In 2010, adolescent girls (aged 18 and under) accounted for 3.1 per cent of the total number of abortions; in 2007, the figure was 4.5 per cent of a total of 133,097 abortions.

Abortions by age group in 2006–2009

(Total number of abortions and number per 1,000 women aged 15–49)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total number of abortions	133 100	124 000	113 300	106 100
Number of vacuum-aspiration abortions	22 200	16 600	14 300	12 200
<i>Number of abortions among women aged</i>				
Under 15	100	100	100	100
15–18	5 900	5 200	4 000	3 300
19–34	100 500	92 800	84 900	79 900
35 and over	26 600	26 000	24 400	22 900
Number of abortions per 100 births	40.8	34.2	31.3	28.7
Number of abortions per 1 000 women aged 15–49	30.3	28.1	25.5	23.0
<i>Number per 1 000 women by age group</i>				
Under 15	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15–18	1.3	1.2	0.9	0.7
19–34	22.9	21.0	19.2	17.4
35 and over	6.0	5.9	5.5	5.0

450. Mother and child health protection was a priority issue during the implementation of the State programme for the reform and development of health care in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2005–2010.

451. A State programme to reduce maternal and child mortality for 2008–2010, approved by Government Decision No. 1325 of 28 December 2007, was implemented with a view to improving the provision of medical care to women and children.

452. In order to improve the accessibility and quality of highly specialized medical care for women and children, a National Mother and Child Centre with 500 beds and a National Children's Rehabilitation Centre with 300 beds, both of which are up-to-date and meet international standards, have been operating in Astana since 2007. Medical care is also provided to children at the Aksai National Children's Infirmary in Almaty. A total of 5,000 patients receive orthopaedic, urological, nephrological or neurological treatment each year. In addition, children from environmentally disadvantaged regions are monitored and treated, and gradual long-term rehabilitation is provided for children with disabilities.

453. The Paediatric Surgery Centre in Almaty and the National Mother and Child Centre in Astana have departments for the treatment of onco-haematological diseases. The onco-haematological department in Almaty will be expanded to accommodate 80 beds by the end of 2011 with the opening of a bone marrow transplant unit.

454. As part of the development of cardiac surgery for children, it is anticipated that children's cardiac surgery departments will be opened in the aforementioned centres by the end of 2011.

455. As part of the implementation of the aforementioned programme, central budget funding has been provided since 2005 to train Kazakh specialists at leading foreign clinics in the medical specialties that are most in demand, including cardiac surgery, neurosurgery, obstetrics, gynaecology, neurology, paediatrics, neonatology and medical rehabilitation.

456. In order to ensure that medical care is accessible to children and women living in remote rural areas, mobile children's and women's clinics have been functioning successfully in Kazakhstan for a number of years. In addition, 150 telemedicine centres had been established by the end of 2010, with links to leading national clinics.

457. In 2010, a new social project was launched: two special "Densaulyq" diagnostic and treatment trains. Another one will be launched in 2011.

458. The State programme for the reform and development of health care provides for the introduction of 50 mobile medical units; 11 of these are already in operation, providing medical care from physicians, gynaecologists, paediatricians and dentists, and also express laboratory diagnostics and ultrasound scans.

459. The vaccination of children in Kazakhstan is included in the guaranteed package of free medical care; it is paid for from the national budget and is mandatory. Since 2008, the national immunization schedule has included the vaccination of children against haemophilus influenzae type B, and a pilot project to introduce pneumococcal vaccines for children is planned.

460. In conjunction with experts from the World Health Organization (WHO), work has been under way since 2008 on a confidential audit of maternal mortality and perinatal mortality and a study of critical cases. Programmes for safe motherhood, neonatal care, immunization, early child growth and development and prevention of micronutrient disorders are being implemented, and the strategy for Integrated Management of Childhood Illness, including HIV/AIDS, as recommended by WHO, is being introduced.

461. In order to organize and monitor the aforementioned programmes, a National Coordination Centre for Integrated Management of Childhood Illness has been set up at the Paediatric Surgery Centre, regional centres have been established in every provincial centre, and a Centre for Effective Perinatal Technology has been set up at the National Mother and Child Centre.

462. In order to help Kazakhstan to switch to the international definition of the term "live birth" in 2008, assistance was provided in 2006–2007, in conjunction with UNICEF, for a large-scale public information campaign, the training of a group of national trainers, and the improvement of diagnosis and treatment protocols for women and children in accordance with international approaches.

463. Following the switch to the international definition of the term "live birth" in 2008, the maternal mortality rate fell by 27 per cent in 2010 and the infant mortality rate by 20 per cent. The pregnancy rate among adolescents aged 15 to 18 fell to 1.1 per cent (4,205 cases) and the abortion rate fell from 4.5 per cent (more than 133,000 cases) to 3.1 per cent (more than 106,000).

464. The "Salamatty Kazakhstan" State programme for the development of health care 2011–2015 was approved pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1113 of 29 November 2010. It continues to focus as a priority on the improvement and accessibility of primary health care and health protection for mothers, children and adolescents; under the programme, it is anticipated that, from 2011, institutions will start to offer primary health care from special social workers, which will help improve the quality of medical care for the child population.

465. At an international conference in Almaty on 15 June 2011, Kazakhstan was awarded an international certificate on its achievement of universal salt iodization and elimination of iodine deficiency among the population. By a decision of the coordinating committee of the International Resource Laboratories for Iodine Network and with the support of the Ministry of Health, the iodine laboratory of the Kazakh Academy of Nutrition was selected

as the regional resource laboratory for the Central and Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region.

466. In order to implement article 160 of the Code on Public Health and the Health-care System, the local bodies of the State Public Health Inspectorate in Pavlodar, North Kazakhstan and South Kazakhstan provinces, in conjunction with UNICEF and the Union of Grain Processors and Bakers of Kazakhstan, organized seminars during the first part of 2011 on compliance with the legal requirements for mandatory flour fortification and the specification of fortifying agents in flour. The steps taken will make it possible to continue measures to fortify wheat flour, which will help reduce the incidence of and prevent iron-deficiency anaemia.

467. The Ministries of Education, Labour and Social Protection, Internal Affairs, Health and Justice have signed a two-year work plan for 2010–2011 with UNICEF on matters of child protection, improvement of the health and development of children and adolescents, improvement of nutrition and prevention of micronutrient deficiencies.

468. The Aksai National Children's Infirmity in Almaty carries out monitoring, treatment and gradual rehabilitation of children from the environmentally disadvantaged Semipalatinsk and Aral regions.

Campaigns for the immunization of children in Kazakhstan

469. Under the Code on Public Health and the Health-care System, vaccination against infectious diseases is mandatory. The list of infectious diseases for which vaccination is carried out is approved by the Government of Kazakhstan. Vaccination of the child population is included in the guaranteed package of free medical care and is funded through the central budget.

470. As a result of the Government's targeted immunization policy, poliomyelitis has now been eradicated in Kazakhstan, while tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough affect only a handful of people, and the incidence of hepatitis B and epidemic mumps has fallen. Implementation of the WHO programme for the elimination of measles and rubella is continuing, and efforts are also being made to maintain the country's polio-free status. Since 2008 the national immunization schedule has included the vaccination of children against haemophilus influenzae type B.

471. With a view to reducing early childhood mortality and morbidity, the Ministry of Health plans from the end of 2011 to implement a pilot project in certain regions to vaccinate children against pneumococcal infections. A campaign for the universal vaccination of young children in Kazakhstan against pneumococcal infections is included in the "Salamatty Kazakhstan" State programme for the development of health care 2011–2015.

Access to safe drinking water

472. In the President's address to the people of Kazakhstan in 2011, one of the priorities set for the improvement of public health was the supply of quality drinking water to the population. Efforts to supply quality drinking water began in 2003 and positive results have been achieved. Access to centralized water supply systems in rural areas has increased to 41 per cent, and in towns to 72 per cent. The number of people using trucked-in water has declined fourfold. However, many villages still need improved water supply systems. On average, the level of access to drinking water should reach 98 per cent throughout the country by 2020, and water quality should meet all established health standards. Access to the centralized water supply should reach 100 per cent in towns by 2020, while in rural areas it should double to 80 per cent.

473. Under the Code on Public Health and the Health-care System, the public health service carries out monitoring and disease control measures to prevent a worsening of water-use conditions and counter the adverse effects on public health of unsafe drinking water.

474. In 2010, 82 per cent of the country's population had piped drinking water; in 2007, the proportion was 78.4 per cent, in 2008 81.1 per cent, and in 2009 81.2 per cent.

475. The situation with regard to the safety of drinking water from the centralized water supply system is stable. In the first few months of 2010, the rate of non-compliance with chemical standards was 1.7 per cent; for microbiological standards, the figure was 1.4 per cent.

476. Across the country, 2,831 centralized water supply facilities are monitored by the public health service. The number of water mains not meeting public health standards was 133, or 4.9 per cent.

477. Since 2006, the Ministry of Health has been taking steps to modernize the existing laboratories of the public health service and supply them with up-to-date laboratory equipment.

478. At the initiative of the Ministry of Health, issues relating to the provision of piped drinking water have been incorporated into the performance rating of local administrative heads with a view to improving the supply of drinking water to the population.

479. Work to monitor public health and the state of the environment is ongoing.

Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site

480. The Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site is one of the three largest nuclear testing sites in the world.

481. Pursuant to a Government decision, the territory of the former nuclear testing site was designated reserve land on which economic activity was prohibited. The radiation situation is closely monitored and the land is being turned over to economic use in accordance with established procedure.

482. In order to ensure the social protection of the population in the testing site area, the Act on Social Protection of Persons Affected by Nuclear Tests at the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Testing Site was adopted.

483. A radiation monitoring project supported by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is currently under way, and also a project on sustainable land-use planning supported by the Government of the United Kingdom.

484. In order to address the environmental, economic and social problems in the Semipalatinsk environmental disaster zone, a programme for a comprehensive solution of the problems of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site for 2005–2007 was implemented.

485. The need to address the problems of the Semipalatinsk site is now pressing and is recognized by the international community. The General Assembly of the United Nations, in recognition of the seriousness of the situation, has adopted four resolutions on the provision of assistance to the region.

486. The “Zhasyl Damu” sectoral programme for 2010–2014, approved pursuant to Government Decision No. 924 of 10 September 2010, includes measures for a comprehensive solution of the problems of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site:

- Measures to restrict physical access to the strict-control zone;

- Monitoring of economic activity on the site.
487. The following issues will also be considered:
- Optimization of the State's administration of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site;
 - The status of the facilities on the site;
 - The conduct of comprehensive research on the state of the natural environment throughout the former testing site and preparation of an environmental passport for the site;
 - The lifting of the reserve-land designation of some of the testing site so that it can be used for economic activity in the future;
 - A survey of the site to determine local radioactive contamination and measures for the remediation/clearance of the most hazardous areas and the disposal and storage of nuclear waste;
 - Monitoring with a view to minimizing or preventing future contamination of the Shagan river and potential contamination of the Irtysh river.

Aral Sea

488. The crisis in the Aral Sea basin is worsening. Without concerted efforts by the countries of the Aral Sea region and the international community, it is impossible to overcome the crisis.

489. Under the loan agreement of 22 October 2001 between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Syrdarya Control and Northern Aral Sea Phase I Project), which was ratified pursuant to Act No. 307-II of 20 March 2002, the aforementioned Project is being implemented using World Bank loan funds and funds from the country's central budget.

490. In 2009, the first stage of the Syrdarya Control and Northern Aral Sea Phase I Project was completed, and planning for the implementation of the second stage is under way.

491. The aim of the Project is the successful development of the Kazakh section of the Syrdarya river basin in order to ensure the safety and improvement of the environment, more rational use of water resources and the improvement of living conditions for the population.

492. Plans under the Project include the construction of an additional spillway on the Shardara dam with a flow rate of 500 cubic metres per second, the restoration and strengthening of 50 kilometres of existing dykes, the straightening of the river channel in the lower reaches of the Syrdarya basin to accommodate the winter floods, and the construction of a hydroelectric power station at Aklak to regulate the lakes in the delta.

493. In 2007–2009, scientific research was carried out to develop methods of environmental rehabilitation in the Aral Sea region.

494. Analysis of child and adult morbidity in Kyzylorda province over the past 10–15 years, carried out as part of a study, shows that the incidence of a number of diseases exceeds the national average. The incidence of cancer is particularly high in the town of Kyzylorda.

495. For the first time, an electronic database has been developed pertaining to levels of pesticides and heavy metals in the environment and in women's breast milk in the Aral Sea region; it has been updated with new information on the towns of Kazaly and Kyzylorda.

Interested institutions and individuals can use this material to make informed decisions or recommendations on the improvement of the environmental situation in the region.

496. Recommendations have been drawn up to reduce the negative impact of environmental factors and increase the body's resistance to them, and also recommendations on the establishment of environmental quality targets in the Aral Sea region.

Adolescent health

497. In 2008–2010, the “Healthy Lifestyle” programme was implemented in Kazakhstan; under the programme, with the support of relevant ministries and departments and also NGOs and the media, press conferences, competitions, round tables, campaigns and other events were organized with a view to promoting a healthy lifestyle, preventing risk factors and socially significant diseases, providing training on health matters and preventing smoking, alcoholism and drug addiction. Sporting and cultural events, games and competitions were also organized and visual information materials, such as posters, booklets, leaflets, guides for parents, pocket calendars, football shirts, baseball caps and handbags, were distributed. Video and audio recordings on the prevention of socially significant diseases, tuberculosis and smoking were produced. Billboards and light boxes on various aspects of a healthy lifestyle were set up in all regions of the country. National campaigns were organized to mark the International Day of Families and International Children's Day. These campaigns included training seminars for medical workers in educational institutions and voluntary organizations, and also round tables on matters of family planning, reproductive health care and abortion prevention, including visits to villages by doctors.

498. Steps have been taken to prevent alcoholism and smoking.

499. A ban on the sale of tobacco products to persons under 18 has been introduced, and the sale of alcohol to persons under 21 is prohibited (art. 159 of the Code on Public Health and the Health-care System).

500. With a view to preventing road-traffic accidents among children, adolescents and young people, every year a month-long campaign is organized on the theme “The safety of children on the roads depends on all of us”. It includes round tables and training seminars for primary school teachers, health scientists and medical workers in educational institutions.

501. There are now 1,349 special medical teams in general-education schools serving more than 16,000 children, and more than 6,000 medical offices (in 82 per cent of general-education schools) and 487 dental offices have opened.

HIV/AIDS

502. A programme to counter the AIDS epidemic in Kazakhstan for 2006–2010, approved by Government Decision No. 1216 of 15 December 2006, was implemented in order to strengthen measures to control the AIDS epidemic and bring laws and regulations into line with international standards.

503. The programme included campaigns to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Kazakhstan. The epidemiological situation with regard to HIV infection in Kazakhstan has stabilized.

504. The strategy for reducing harm from drug abuse in Kazakhstan is integrated into the Government's prevention policy: the country has 168 help centres, including 24 mobile ones, which provide education, information, advice and a syringe- and needle-exchange service for intravenous drug users.

505. A network of centres has been set up to provide anonymous voluntary testing for HIV and psychosocial counselling. A sentinel surveillance system has been set up to monitor HIV infection, which will make it possible to determine the prevalence of HIV infection among the various population groups. In 2010, HIV prevention programmes were delivered to 66.5 per cent of intravenous drug users — that is, they received syringes and condoms through the year and they know where to go for HIV testing. In 2009, the figure was 59.9 per cent.

506. A campaign is under way to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV; this includes express diagnosis of HIV infection in pregnant women and prophylactic antiviral treatment for HIV-positive pregnant women during pregnancy and childbirth and for newborns.

507. First-aid posts, large in-patient clinics and AIDS centres now keep a minimum supply of antiretroviral drugs. Chemoprophylaxis is provided for secondary opportunistic infections (pneumocystis pneumonia and toxoplasmosis) in HIV-positive adults and children.

508. In 2010, HIV/AIDS prevention campaigns were conducted through cooperation between government institutions and 97 NGOs.

509. Resources from international donors have been mobilized: in 2010, international organizations awarded grants worth 1,064,384,000 tenge. These included the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which awarded a grant of 786,729,000 tenge.

510. From 1987 to 2010 inclusive, 15,771 persons, including 349 children, were registered in Kazakhstan as infected with HIV.

511. There are 24 children under 14 who are HIV-positive (1.3 per cent of cases), while those aged 15 to 19 account for 1.6 per cent of cases (2.6 per cent in 2009). Persons aged 15 to 49 account for 96.2 per cent of all registered cases of HIV infection. Older age groups account for an increasing proportion of registered cases.

512. Children infected with HIV during the outbreak of 149 cases in South Kazakhstan province in 2006 are provided with medical counselling by health-care specialists from Kazakhstan and from scientific centres in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Israel, Cuba and international organizations, including WHO, UNICEF and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Ministry of Health carries out weekly monitoring of the epidemiological situation with regard to HIV infection in the province and the status of HIV-positive children.

513. A total of 103 children are currently receiving specific antiretroviral treatment, and 3 are receiving treatment for concurrent illnesses. Of the 149 HIV-positive children, 11 have died of concurrent illnesses not linked to HIV infection and 1 has been adopted by citizens of the United States of America.

514. In order to provide ongoing medical observation, treatment and rehabilitation for HIV-positive children, a mother-and-child centre for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases has opened in Shymkent with 60 inpatient beds, an outpatient diagnostic department and a training centre.

515. The province's medical facilities have been upgraded: a provincial children's hospital, a blood centre, a sterilization unit and a maternity home have been built, and medical facilities have been fully supplied with medicines and expendable medical items.

516. Every year, HIV-positive children and their parents spend a period of rest and psychological rehabilitation at the Alatau Children's Sanatorium in Almaty, the National Mother and Child Centre in Astana or the Ardagerler uii centre in Shymkent. One child has received treatment at the Adas clinic in Israel.

517. In conjunction with UNICEF, multidisciplinary teams of medical workers and psychologists from Kazakhstan and other countries, including States of the former Soviet Union, were formed with a view to reducing negative attitudes to HIV-positive children and their families and eliminating social tension. In every population centre where such children were found, the teams gave talks in schools and kindergartens with pupils, parents and teachers and appeared in the media to speak about a tolerant attitude towards the affected children. The Provincial Centre for AIDS Prevention and Control has provided training for mothers on caring for HIV-positive children.

518. The age structure of the HIV-positive population in 2010 is set out below:

- 15–19 years old – 32 persons – 1.6 per cent (2.6 per cent in 2009);
- 20–29 years old – 759 persons – 38.2 per cent (40.2 per cent in 2009);
- 30–39 years old – 786 persons – 39.5 per cent (38.4 per cent in 2009);
- 40–49 years old – 297 persons – 14.9 per cent (13.9 per cent in 2009);
- 50–59 years old – 74 persons – 3.7 per cent (3.2 per cent in 2009);
- 60 years old – 16 persons – 0.8 per cent (0.4 per cent).

519. A total of 24 children under 14 are HIV-positive (1.3 per cent).

520. The 15–49 age group accounts for 96.2 per cent of all registered cases of HIV infection. Older age groups account for an increasing proportion of registered cases.

521. The distribution of cases by socio-professional status is as follows:

- 67.6 per cent (1,344) are not working (2008 figure: 70.9 per cent; 2009: 70.5 per cent);
- 18.2 per cent (361) are manual workers (2008 figure: 12.6 per cent; 2009: 15.4 per cent);
- 4.1 per cent (82) are white-collar workers (2009 figure: 3 per cent);
- 0.4 per cent (8) are pensioners (2009 figure: 0.3 per cent);
- 5.8 per cent (115) are foreign nationals (2008 figure: 6.9 per cent; 2009: 6.7 per cent);
- 1 per cent (19) are college and higher education students (2009 figure: 1 per cent);
- 0.1 per cent (1) are military personnel;
- 1.6 per cent (32): status unknown.

522. The proportion of working persons among those infected with HIV is gradually increasing.

523. Measures to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic have encompassed the following 12 areas:

1. Refinement of legal policy and establishment of an appropriate legal and social environment;
2. Implementation of prevention programmes;
3. Implementation of a strategy for reducing harm from intravenous drug use;
4. Implementation of a strategy for preventing sexual transmission of HIV;
5. Establishment and maintenance of special facilities for the provision of services;

6. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV;
7. Post-exposure prophylaxis;
8. Prevention of secondary illnesses in HIV-positive persons;
9. Prevention of HIV transmission through blood transfusions;
10. Implementation of treatment, care and support programmes in accordance with international standards for antiviral treatment of persons infected with HIV and AIDS patients;
11. Implementation of social projects for HIV-positive persons;
12. Improvement of epidemiological surveillance and monitoring, assessment, planning and forecasting of response measures.

524. At the initiative of AIDS centres, healthy lifestyle centres and voluntary organizations, various public events have been organized to reach out to young people on the subject of AIDS. These include theatrical performances, drawing and composition competitions, concerts, television game shows, and question and answer sessions. A public awareness programme is being carried out at discotheques.

C. Social security and childcare services and facilities (arts. 26 and 18, para. 3)

525. Kazakhstan attaches particular importance to article 26 and article 27, paragraph 3, of the Convention, and to paragraphs 26–28 and 51–53 of the Committee's recommendations on child and family welfare.

526. The country has established a comprehensive system of support for families with children and mothers with many children.

527. The Act on State Benefits for Families with Children entered into force in 2006 and provides for the payment of:

- A lump-sum State benefit on the birth of a child, irrespective of the family's income;
- A childcare allowance for children under 1 year old, irrespective of the family's income, the amount of which differs depending on the number of children in the family;
- Child benefit for every child under 18 payable to low-income families with a per capita income lower than the cost of the basket of goods.

528. As at 1 January 2011, 329,200 persons received childbirth benefit, an increase of 27.4 per cent in comparison with 2007. The total amount of benefit paid was 15.2 billion tenge, 3.6 times more than in 2007.

529. During the period in question, 130,600 persons received the childcare allowance, a drop of 59.9 per cent compared with the same period in 2007. The total amount of allowance paid was 19.1 billion tenge, an increase of 52.8 per cent compared with 2007.

530. The drop since 2007 in the number of persons receiving the childcare allowance, paid for from the central budget, followed the introduction in 2008 of a social payment for childcare paid to working mothers from the State Social Insurance Fund.

531. Some 745,800 children received the benefit for children under 18 from low-income families, an increase of 5.4 per cent in comparison with 2007; the total amount paid was

9.1 billion tenge. Of the total sum, 74.5 per cent was paid to children living in rural areas, who accounted for 73 per cent of recipients of the benefit.

532. Following the entry into force in 2010 of the Act on Amendments and Additions to Legislation on Social Support for Certain Groups, which was adopted in accordance with the President's address to the people of Kazakhstan of 6 February 2008, social support for families with children was further developed.

533. Furthermore, the amount of benefit paid on the birth of the fourth child and subsequent children has increased more than fourfold since 2007, to 70,650 tenge.

534. The childcare allowance for children under 1 year old has increased on average by a factor of more than 2.4 and stands at:

- 7,772 tenge for the first child;
- 9,185 tenge for the second child;
- 10,598 tenge for the third child;
- 12,011 tenge for the fourth child and subsequent children.

535. A new type of social benefit has been introduced for parents and guardians of children with a disability, equivalent to 100 per cent of the minimum wage of 14,952 tenge.

536. The criteria for awards to mothers with many children have been changed: the Altyn alqa gold pendant is now awarded to mothers of 7 or more children (previously 10 or more) and the Kumīs alqa silver pendant is awarded to mothers of 6 or more children (previously 8 or more). In addition, the special State benefit paid to them has been increased from 3.9 to 6 times the notional monthly unit. Some 194,100 mothers with many children have received State awards totalling 14.8 billion tenge.

537. As a result of the measures taken, the system of State support for children with disabilities has been improved through the payment of benefits to persons directly involved in their upbringing and development; the amount of childbirth benefit now varies depending on how many children the family already has; the significance, status and number of large families has been boosted; and the country's demographic situation has improved.

538. In order to provide further social support to low-income families in addition to child benefit, current legislation provides for targeted social assistance to families whose per capita income is below the poverty line. The amount paid is equivalent to the difference between their per capita income and the poverty line.

Targeted State social assistance

(As at year end)

	<i>Number of recipients</i>			
	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Total	224 817	244 152	240 294	194 481
<i>Including assistance to:</i>				
Children (total)	137 563	147 922	145 331	118 512
<i>Of whom:</i>				
Children of preschool age	59 150	65 787	67 852	58 070
Children of school age	78 237	81 956	76 906	60 371
Disabled children under 16	176	179	573	71

	<i>Number of recipients</i>			
	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Students, cadets, full-time trainees, including master's and doctoral students	4 841	6 131	6 301	5 357
Disabled persons (categories 1, 2 and 3)	2 115	2 462	2 042	1 555
Pensioners	1 012	1 333	1 028	652
Unemployed persons registered with employment agencies	26 313	22 550	21 516	17 476
Self-employed persons	14 823	23 480	23 672	18 017
Employees	7 336	9 206	9 575	7 409
Persons caring for children	29 654	29 091	28 997	24 047
Other groups	1 160	1 977	1 832	1 456

Targeted social assistance

	<i>Total amount (tenge)</i>			
	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Total	2 519 253 500	3 406 422 300	3 276 450 800	2 785 459 100

Including assistance to:

Children (total)	1 545 580 300	2 077 074 900	1 992 335 300	1 700 578 900
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Of whom:

Children of preschool age	685 073 900	933 113 300	928 459 800	812 189 800
Children of school age	859 472 900	1 142 368 200	1 058 938 600	887 936 200
Disabled children under 16	1 033 500	1 593 400	4 936 900	452 900
Students, cadets, full-time trainees, including master's and doctoral students	49 335 500	85 996 700	85 721 700	76 731 000
Disabled persons (categories 1, 2 and 3)	13 928 900	22 208 300	16 783 800	12 958 000
Pensioners	6 577 600	11 075 000	7 883 600	5 301 600
Unemployed persons registered with employment agencies	361 670 100	406 296 300	367 883 700	295 695 400
Self-employed persons	121 076 500	246 797 900	257 001 600	220 706 300
Employees	48 754 200	88 705 400	95 264 600	76 856 500
Persons caring for children	363 219 600	445 884 900	429 323 900	377 858 300
Other groups	9 110 700	22 382 800	24 252 100	18 773 100

539. In 2010, 194,500 individuals with income below the poverty line received targeted social assistance, which represented a 13.5 per cent drop in comparison with 2007.

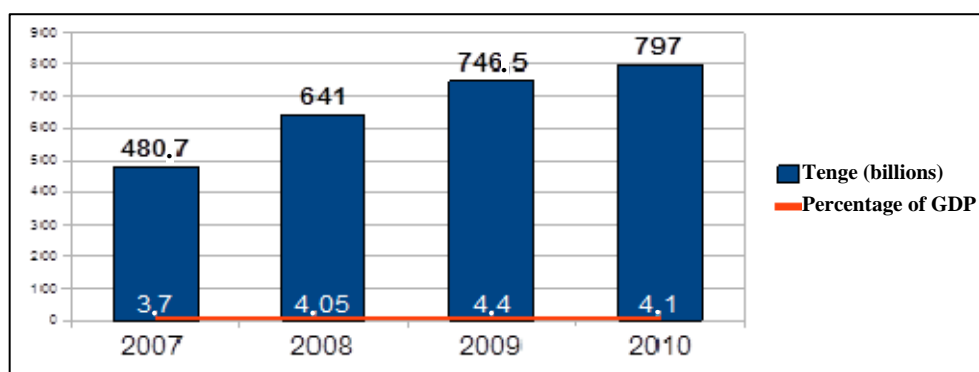
VIII. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28, 29 and 31)

540. Article 30 of the Constitution guarantees free secondary education. This rule is also set out in the Education Act, in line with articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

541. National budget expenditure on education increases every year.

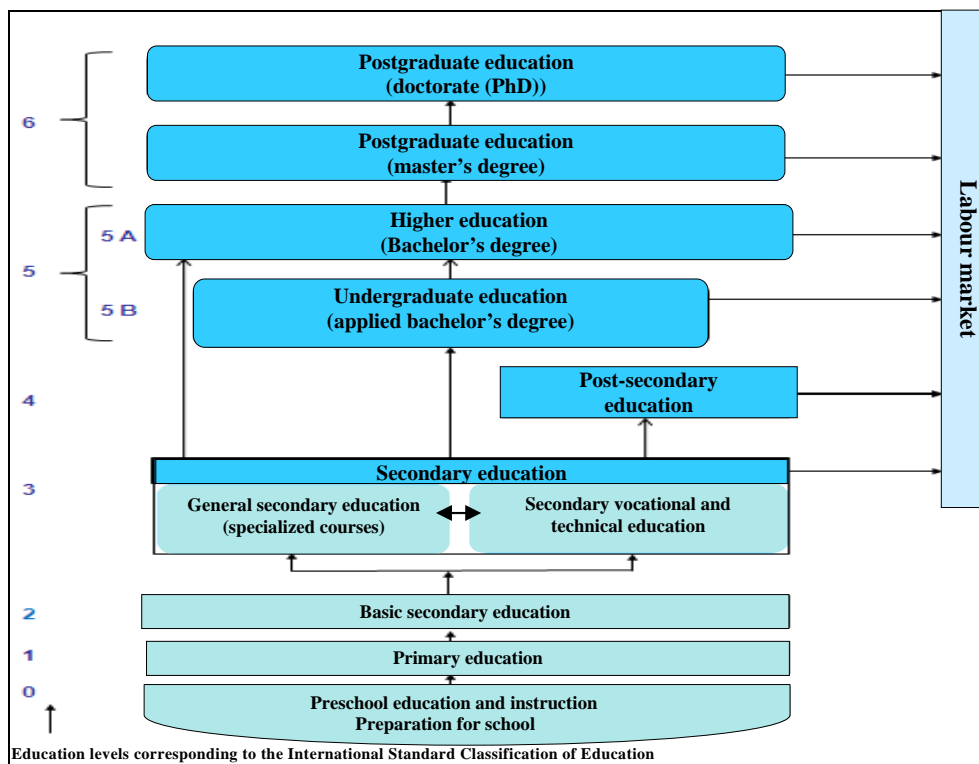
542. The proportion of the budget spent on education is as follows:

- In 2007 – 480.7 billion tenge or 3.7 per cent of GDP;
- In 2008 – 641.0 billion tenge or 4.05 per cent of GDP;
- In 2009 – 746.5 billion tenge or 4.4 per cent of GDP;
- In 2010 – 797.0 billion tenge or 4.1 per cent of GDP.



543. The education system in Kazakhstan, which is based on the principle of continuity and consistency of curricula, comprises the following education levels:

1. Preschool education and instruction;
2. Primary education (the period for completion of the general-education curriculum at the primary level is four years);
3. Basic secondary education (the period for completion of the general-education curriculum at the basic secondary level is six years);
4. Secondary education (general secondary education, technical and vocational education) (the period for completion of the general-education curriculum at the general secondary level is two years);
5. Post-secondary education (the period for completion of post-secondary vocational curricula, apart from medical specialties, by persons with general secondary education is at least two years, and by persons with technical and vocational education, at least one year);
6. Higher education;
7. Postgraduate education.



544. In the 2010/11 academic year, according to data from the Ministry of Education and Science, there were:

- 7,516 State general-education day schools;
- 78 evening schools;
- 115 private schools;
- 1,897 schools offering advanced courses in various subjects, including 129 gymnasiums and 66 lycées.

545. There are 33 schools in Kazakhstan offering instruction in three languages.

Number of pupils and teachers in State general-education day schools

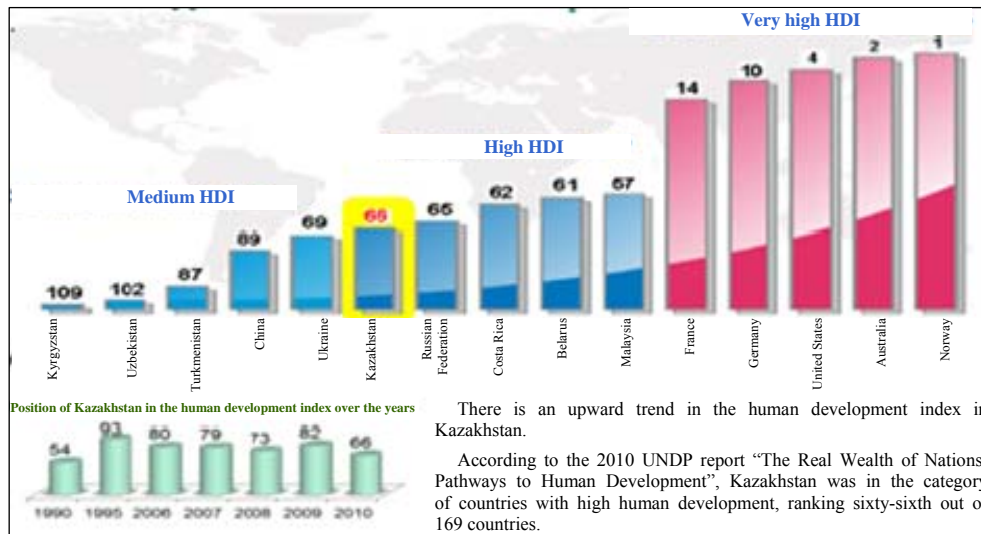
(As at the start of the academic year)

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Total number of pupils	2 627 400	2 561 600	2 534 000	2 531 000
<i>Of whom:</i>				
In primary schools	30 500	31 000	27 700	27 200
In basic schools	100 200	100 000	98 200	90 200
In secondary schools	2 525 800	2 435 600	2 378 700	2 359 400
In schools for children with developmental disabilities	15 900	15 300	14 700	14 400
In schools for children and adolescents with special educational needs	800	700	700	600
In "school-kindergarten" complexes	22 500	23 800	21 900	21 700
Total number of pupils taking advanced courses in various subjects	327 700	308 400	329 600	330 200
<i>Of whom:</i>				
In gymnasiums and gymnasium classes	131 100	124 500	152 200	150 300
In lycées and lycée classes	50 600	49 200	53 700	60 900
Total number of teachers	279 100	276 800	282 200	286 700

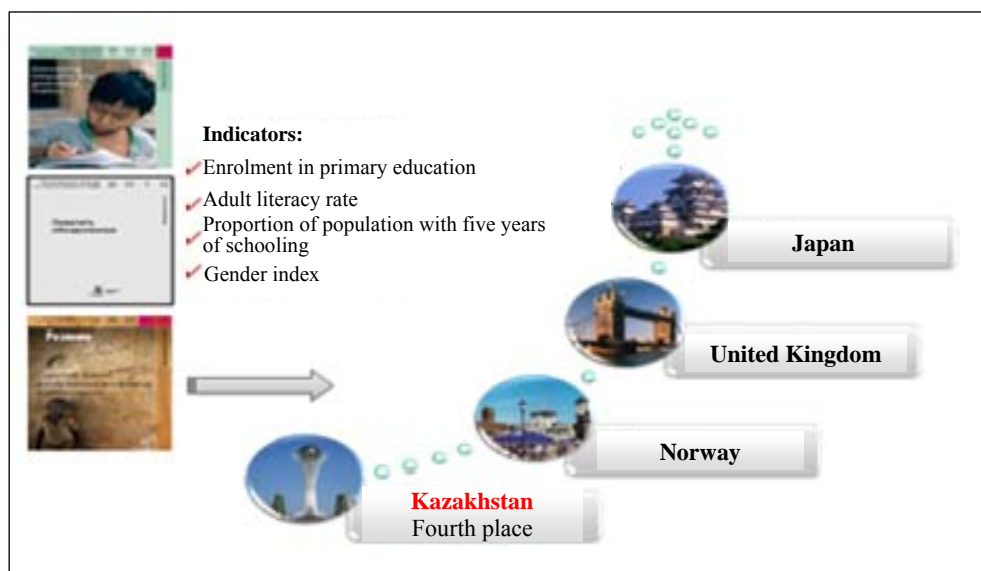
Number of pupils in State general-education day schools by groups of grades

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Total number of pupils	2 697 900	2 608 700	2 544 000	2 500 500
<i>Of whom:</i>				
In urban areas	1 430 600	1 272 400	1 236 100	1 192 800
In rural areas	1 267 400	1 336 300	1 307 900	1 307 700
Total in grades 1–4	934 600	948 000	943 300	944 000
<i>Of whom:</i>				
In urban areas	493 000	461 800	457 100	452 000
In rural areas	441 600	486 200	486 200	492 000
Total in grades 5–9	1 401 900	1 360 100	1 308 800	1 235 700
<i>Of whom:</i>				
In urban areas	754 100	676 900	648 600	600 300
In rural areas	647 800	683 200	660 200	635 500
Total in grades 10–11 (12)	344 600	300 600	292 000	320 900
<i>Of whom:</i>				
In urban areas	169 000	133 700	130 500	140 500
In rural areas	176 400	166 900	161 500	180 300
In special-education institutions	16 700	16 000	15 400	15 000

Human development index (HDI)



High rankings of Kazakhstan in the Education For All Development Index in 2009–2011



546. In order to ensure that children enjoy the right to a quality education, Kazakhstan implemented the State programme for the development of education 2005–2010.

547. The overall cost of the programme was 165,664.9 million tenge.

548. As a result of the implementation of the State programme for the development of education 2005–2010, all levels of the education system had a network of appropriate institutions by 1 July 2010. The structure of the education system has been brought into line with the International Standard Classification of Education. The groundwork is being laid for the introduction of the 12-year education model. Technical and vocational education has been restructured. Three-level training for professionals has been introduced: bachelor’s degree, master’s degree and doctorate. A classification of specialisms in higher and

postgraduate education in Kazakhstan has been approved, with expanded groups of specialisms.

549. A national system to assess the quality of education has been established; it incorporates elements of independent external evaluation, including licensing, performance appraisal, accreditation, ranking, a single national examination, interim State monitoring and a comprehensive school-leaving examination.

550. Equipment in educational institutions is being upgraded.

551. In 2009 alone, 640 biology laboratories, 536 multimedia language laboratories, 10 physics laboratories and 78 chemistry laboratories were installed in schools, and 721 schools were supplied with additional interactive whiteboards. A total of 3,450 schools now have multimedia language laboratories, an increase of 2,661 since 2005.

552. The quality of education is improving.

553. Inclusive education is being developed.

554. The issues of free hot food and transport for secondary school pupils are being addressed.

555. The number of staff provided with State funding for higher and postgraduate education increased from 25,710 in 2005 to 35,425 in 2010.

556. Work is under way to develop the use of information technology in education. In 2010, there was one computer for every 18 pupils. In 2005, the figure was one computer for every 41 pupils (36 in rural areas).

557. A total of 98 per cent of schools are connected to the Internet (97 per cent in rural areas); in 2005, the figures were 75 per cent and 70 per cent respectively. Some 34 per cent of schools have broadband Internet access.

558. Kazakh school pupils participated in an international comparative study, the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2007, and took fifth place in mathematics and eleventh place in science among fourth-grade pupils from 36 countries.

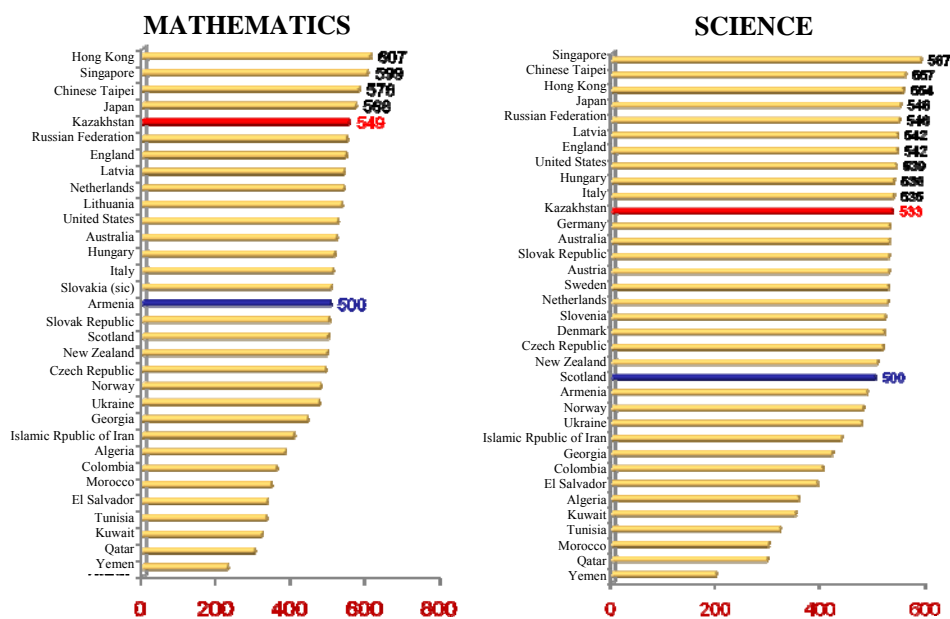
559. National higher education institutions have been taking steps to achieve world-class status: Kazakhstan has joined the European Higher Education Area and has signed the Bologna Declaration.

560. The number of students wishing to obtain quality higher education is growing. More than 20,000 Kazakhs are studying abroad. Around 3,000 recipients of the President's international "Bolashak" scholarship are studying in 27 countries around the world.

561. Steps are being taken to make the country's higher education system more attractive to foreigners. More than 10,000 foreign nationals are studying in the country's higher education institutions.

562. Social partnership is developing. In 2010, 32 memorandums and agreements were concluded with large companies, such as the joint-stock companies KazMunaïGaz, Kazakhstan Temir Zholy, Kazakhtelekom, Kazakhmys, Kazinzhiniring and Kazpochta, and with regional administrations.

Results achieved by Kazakhstan in the international comparative study TIMSS 2007



563. The development of the education system in the new circumstances is becoming a decisive factor in the country's socioeconomic growth; hence the adoption of the State programme for the development of education 2011–2020.

564. The amount of funding provided from the central budget for the first phase of the programme (2011–2015) is 461.1 billion tenge.

565. Serious attention is paid in the programme to access to preschool education.

566. The proportion of national budget expenditure allocated to preschool education and instruction in recent years has been about 0.1 per cent of GDP. In countries that are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the figure is 1 to 2 per cent of GDP.

567. In order to eliminate the shortage of places in preschools, a special sectoral programme known as the “Balapan” programme has been developed for 2010–2014. A sum of 216,283.5 million tenge is being provided to fund the implementation of the programme in 2010–2014.

568. The purpose of the programme is to meet the population's need for quality preschool education and instruction services.

569. In order to achieve this goal, Kazakhstan plans to create more than 300,000 places in preschools that are to be built using budgetary and extrabudgetary funds, bought back and transferred to community ownership, and in renovated and modernized preschool buildings.

570. As at 1 July 2011, there were 6,960 preschools in Kazakhstan (6,446 in 2010), attended by 481,000 children (446,400 in 2010).

571. As part of the implementation of the “Balapan” programme, the number of preschools in the network has increased by 514 since 2010 (222 kindergartens and 292 mini-centres). The growth of the network has been achieved as follows:

- Construction of 30 kindergartens (6,200 places);

- Opening of 292 mini-centres (9,200 places) and 95 private kindergartens (7,500 places);
- Return of 97 previously privatized kindergartens, opening of kindergartens on the ground floors of residential buildings, release of stand-alone buildings in community ownership that are currently rented out, transfer of other buildings and premises suitable for preschools (11,600 places).

572. As a result, 41.6 per cent of the total number of children aged 1 to 6 have the opportunity to receive preschool education in kindergartens. Some 88.9 per cent of all 5- and 6-year-old children attend school preparation.

573. By 2015, 74 per cent of children will be receiving preschool education and instruction, and by 2020 the figure will be 100 per cent.

574. In addition, all children aged 5 and 6 will attend school preparation in educational institutions.

575. With a view to establishing an innovative, multilingual education model, the number of schools providing education in three languages will increase from 33 to 700.

576. By 2015, all pupils in general-education schools will be provided with free textbooks and digital education resources, funded from local budgets.

577. The provision of up-to-date equipment for school gymnasiums will be addressed.

578. The process of providing schools with new physics, chemistry and biology laboratories and language and multimedia laboratories, together with services for their maintenance, will continue; the proportion of the cost covered by local budget funds will increase from 35.6 per cent to 80 per cent.

579. In addition, new schools will be built so that the triple-shift system and the risk of accidents in schools can be eliminated. By 2015, at least 200 schools will be built using central budget funds and the same number using local budget funds.

580. The system of technical and vocational education plays a key role in satisfying the interests of the individual, meeting labour market needs and fulfilling the potential for economic and social development.

581. According to government statistics, there were 786 technical and vocational education institutions as at 1 July 2010, including 306 vocational lycées and 480 colleges. This is an increase of 64 compared with the same period in 2005. Some 22.8 per cent of them are located in rural areas.

582. A total of 32.7 per cent of those leaving general-education schools continue their education in vocational lycées and colleges, 24.8 per cent after the ninth grade and 7.9 per cent after the eleventh grade.

583. There are 609,000 people studying in technical and vocational education institutions, of whom only 36.3 per cent receive government funding.

584. There are 177 specialisms and 416 qualifications for those training as specialists in technical and service occupations.

Rest, leisure and cultural activities (art. 31)

585. In order to implement article 31 of the Convention, Kazakhstan is taking steps to promote the right of the child to rest and to participate fully in cultural and artistic life.

586. In 2008, the Association of Sociologists and Political Scientists conducted a survey of the implementation of children's right to participate in cultural life, as part of

government social-sector procurement by the Ministry of Education and Science. The survey was conducted in 63 schools in Kazakhstan, in 18 self-governing cities and provincial and local centres and 14 rural district centres. The study covered 1,511 pupils in junior, middle and senior grades. It revealed that all Kazakh children have access to children's libraries, but not all children, particularly in rural areas, have access to cultural, leisure and entertainment facilities. Some 80.5 per cent of pupils believed that school was the main place where children learned practical skills for participation in cultural life. Most pupils and teachers — between more than half and two thirds — in the schools surveyed noted that those schools offered children opportunities for leisure, rest and play, and also various forms of supplementary education.

587. Steps were taken, based on the results of the survey, to organize children's leisure and implement their right to cultural life.

588. In 2010, there were 23,396 school sports clubs, 425 sports schools for children and young people, 563 clubs for children and adolescents and 330 music and art schools for children and adolescents in Kazakhstan.

589. In 2010, there were 8,791 organizations providing leisure and health-improvement activities for children during the summer holidays: 212 countryside camps, 7 of which operated all year round, 5,900 camps attached to schools, 84 sanatorium-type camps, 1,628 specialist and debating camps, and 967 sports and tented camps.

590. There are 8,751 facilities providing leisure activities for school pupils: 676 backyard clubs, 3,029 special-interest clubs and 5,046 school playgrounds.

591. A total of 1,953,351 schoolchildren, or 83 per cent of all pupils in the first to tenth grades, have access to some form of leisure, health-improving or recreational activity.

592. A total of 886,222 pupils were provided with health-improving recreation, 11 per cent of them in countryside health-improvement facilities.

593. The number of leisure facilities for children is increasing and the network of backyard clubs is expanding: there are now 112 in Karagandy province, 79 in East Kazakhstan province, 60 in Pavlodar province and 46 in Kostanay province.

594. Steps have been taken to expand, renovate and maintain the network of children's health-improvement facilities: a year-round educational and health-improvement centre has opened in Pavlodar province, the camp for orphaned children in Kostanay province has been renovated, and steps are being taken to maintain the network in East Kazakhstan province, which has 26 facilities, North Kazakhstan province, which has 19 facilities, and West Kazakhstan province, which has 13.

595. During the summer holidays, 153 sports camps were in operation in Kazakhstan, providing activities for 3 per cent of the total number of pupils.

IX. Special protection measures

A. Refugee children (art. 22)

596. Article 47 of the Children's Rights Act, entitled "Protection of the rights of refugee and displaced children", provides that:

1. Refugee and displaced children have the right to protection of their interests.
2. The guardianship and custody authorities at the place where the child is located and local migration services shall cooperate to obtain information about the

existence and place of residence of the child's parents or other legal representatives, and if necessary shall send the child to medical or other institutions whose function is to protect the rights of the child.

597. In 2008, a special report by the Human Rights Commissioner on the observance of the rights of refugees and repatriates in Kazakhstan was published; it was the outcome of work under a joint project of the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner in Kazakhstan and the Kazakhstan office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

598. The report analysed the problems faced by refugees and repatriates and summarized the results of the monitoring carried out during the project with regard to the observance of the rights of refugees and repatriates, including children.

599. The Refugee Act, which sets out the legal status of asylum seekers and refugees in Kazakhstan, entered into force on 1 January 2010. Refugees enjoy the protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In addition to legal assistance, they receive financial and humanitarian assistance from NGOs and international organizations.

600. Under current domestic law, social services are provided to stateless persons who are permanently resident in Kazakhstan. Stateless persons who are temporarily resident in Kazakhstan, including refugees, are not eligible for government social protection measures.

601. Existing legislation on migration policy requires further improvement. In this connection the President has approved a national migration policy framework for 2007–2015.

602. According to data from the Migration Police Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, there were 226 child refugees living in Almaty and South Kazakhstan provinces and the city of Almaty as at 15 January 2011, 66 of whom were of preschool age and 160 of school age. A total of 106 had come from Afghanistan, 5 from the Islamic Republic of Iran, 1 from Kyrgyzstan, 1 from Pakistan, 2 from China and 11 from Uzbekistan. One hundred of these child refugees were born in Kazakhstan.

603. Under articles 8 and 47 of the Education Act, the State guarantees all citizens of Kazakhstan free general secondary education in accordance with the national mandatory education standards.

604. In accordance with article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, equal rights for every child are enshrined in Kazakh law; therefore, the children of foreigners and stateless persons who have a residence permit are provided with opportunities for in-depth learning of their native language.

605. Refugees' associations have been established in Almaty, such as the Afghan Cultural Centre, the Association of Afghan Women Refugees, the Afghan School, attended by more than 60 children, and a kindergarten for Afghan children.

606. Kazakhstan participates actively in the work of UNHCR.

607. An agreement on cooperation between the Government of Kazakhstan and UNHCR, signed in Astana on 14 November 2007, entered into force on 7 April 2011.

B. The administration of juvenile justice (art. 40)

608. Investigations of criminal offences committed by or against minors are the subject of particular monitoring. Every month, the status of investigations of crimes in this category is analysed and, on the basis of the analysis, instructions are issued to step up efforts to identify persons, including parents, adult acquaintances and friends, who lure minors into

criminal activity or the commission of other offences and to take action against them under criminal, civil, family or administrative law.

609. There have also been cases in which the constitutional rights of minors were violated during pretrial investigations. In 2008, there were seven such violations. These included three minors who were acquitted because of departmental failings in the referral to court of criminal proceedings relating to particularly serious offences: in Aktobe province, a minor named Ten was acquitted because of insufficient evidence of his guilt on a murder charge; in Akmola province, Rudobaba was acquitted of an offence under article 145, paragraph 2, of the Criminal Code; and in North Kazakhstan province, Baimanov was acquitted of an offence under article 177, paragraph 1, of the Criminal Code. Three individuals were the subject of unwarranted criminal proceedings: in North Kazakhstan province, A. A. Kolbasov, under article 103, paragraph 3, of the Criminal Code, and A. Y. Kovalenko, under article 257, paragraph 2 (a); and in Aktobe province, B. T. Khaliullin, under article 96, paragraph 2. One minor was unlawfully detained: A. R. Kamenskikh, suspected of causing grievous bodily harm, in North Kazakhstan province.

Juvenile justice

610. On 19 August 2008, a policy framework for the development of a juvenile justice system during the period 2009–2011 was approved pursuant to a presidential decree, and on 18 November 2008, an action plan to implement the policy framework was approved pursuant to a Government decision.

611. The main objective of the policy framework is the gradual introduction and development in Kazakhstan of elements of a juvenile justice system that will result in more effective and higher-quality administration of justice in respect of minors at all stages of the process. The policy framework proposes the establishment of specialized units to work with minors in the Ministries of Justice, Internal Affairs and Education and Science, in the courts and procurators' offices, and at the bar.

612. A juvenile police force has been operating since 1 April 2008 within the internal affairs agencies of Bostandyk district in the city of Almaty and Almaty district in the city of Astana. Since June 2011, work has been under way to establish juvenile police units throughout the country.

613. There are specialized juvenile law offices in Astana, Almaty, Kokshetau, Pavlodar and Yekibastuz, staffed by lawyers and social workers who have passed a special competition. There are juvenile courts in Almaty and Astana.

614. Under the action plan for the implementation of the policy framework, the post of chief juvenile justice expert in the Directorate of the Committee on the Penal Correction System and 15 posts of special inspector for juvenile justice in the penal correction departments of the provinces and the city of Astana were created in 2009.

615. Pursuant to Government Decision No. 494 of 31 May 2010, 591 additional staff were recruited to probation offices in 2010. This number included 241 additional juvenile justice experts recruited to district and city probation offices.

616. The main objective of juvenile justice is to prevent juvenile delinquency and child neglect and homelessness, and to reduce the number of cases in which criminal penalties are imposed on minors.

617. Under the policy framework on juvenile justice, the units responsible for organizing the work of neighbourhood police officers for juvenile affairs in the system of internal affairs agencies have become juvenile justice units (Ministry of Internal Affairs Order No. 281 of 10 June 2011 on organizational and staffing matters). There is also now a possibility of exemption from criminal liability for juveniles in the event of reconciliation

of the parties (art. 67 of the Criminal Code, “Exemption from criminal liability following reconciliation with the victim”).

618. Mediation procedures have been enshrined in the law: the Mediation Act and the Act on Amendments and Additions to Legislation on Mediation, both dated 28 January 2011, set out the basis for the use of mediation procedures in disputes arising from civil, labour, family and other legal relations, with account taken of the particular characteristics of cases affecting the family and children.

619. The juvenile courts are continuing to operate successfully; they are courts with comprehensive jurisdiction, which hear not only criminal cases involving offences committed by juveniles and direct violations of the rights of juveniles, but also, *inter alia*, civil cases concerning a child’s place of residence, the withdrawal, restriction or restoration of parental rights, and the adoption of children; disputes regarding guardianship, custody and fostering of children; and cases concerning administrative offences (infringements of the rights of minors, such as the non-fulfilment by parents or persons acting *in loco parentis* of their responsibilities regarding the upbringing of a child or the involvement of a minor in the commission of an administrative offence).

620. The number of cases heard by the juvenile courts has doubled over the past two years. Most juveniles who have committed a criminal offence receive suspended sentences. This year, only 11 per cent of juveniles received custodial sentences; in Astana, the figure was 8 per cent.

621. Analysis of investigative practice shows that alternatives to pretrial detention are increasingly being used in respect of juveniles.

No.	Reporting period	Imposition of travel restraints and pledge of good conduct	Recognizance	Release of juvenile under a supervision order	Bail	House arrest	Pretrial detention
1	2007	74	4	31	2	11	600
2	2008	96	5	10	1	1	571
3	2009	2 979	59	704	0	7	534
4	2010	2 481	56	635	0	11	293

622. There were 600 cases of pretrial detention in 2007 and 293 in 2010 — a drop of 45.1 per cent.

623. Cooperation with the NGO sector is developing. The Chance Centre for Social and Legal Support has been operating in Astana since 2010 with the support of the local administration and UNICEF and is implementing a project to offer effective community-based alternatives to the placement of children in closed State institutions or pretrial detention and the imposition on them of custodial sentences.

624. As a result of the measures outlined above, the number of custodial sentences imposed on juveniles has fallen (in approximately 60 per cent of cases a suspended sentence or re-education measure is imposed), the number of instances of reconciliation has doubled, and over the past four years the number of children serving sentences in correctional colonies or held in pretrial detention has halved.

625. With a view to training juvenile justice experts, the Supreme Court, in conjunction with the Institute of Justice of the Academy of Public Administration attached to the Office of the President, has developed a special programme and thematic plan for the training of judges who specialize in hearing cases involving juveniles.

Children deprived of their liberty, including any form of detention, imprisonment or placement in custodial settings (art. 37 (b) and (d))

626. On 26 June 2008, Kazakhstan ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, signed in New York on 24 September 2007, and undertook to develop an independent national preventive mechanism.

627. Since the Optional Protocol was ratified, the establishment of a national preventive mechanism, a model of such a mechanism and the legislative framework for it have been discussed many times at conferences, round tables, working meetings and seminars.

628. In establishing a national preventive mechanism, it is vital to ensure that it has a mandate adequate for the performance of its functions.

629. All closed institutions, including those for children, are visited under the national preventive mechanism. A total of 244 institutions have been designated for possible inspection under the mechanism.

630. In the penal correction system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, there are now four young offenders' institutions and one segregated area for girls in institution LA-155/4 of the penal correction department in the city of Almaty and Almaty province. Over the past three years, the number of convicted persons held in these institutions has been falling. The planned capacity of young offenders' institutions was 1,300 places; in fact, there were 449 juvenile inmates in such institutions in 2008, 427 in 2009, and 243 in 2010, three of whom were female.

631. In this context, a decision was taken to use the equipment and teaching resources from four young offenders' institutions to establish a single institution in Almaty, where conditions of detention will be closer to international standards, with a limit of 350 places in premises with an area of 1,223 m².

632. Holding convicted juveniles in Almaty, which is the centre of the country's cultural life and has a mild climate, will make the process of re-education more effective. This initiative was supported by the Procurator-General's Office.

633. The convicted juveniles from the young offenders' institutions in Aktobe and Ust-Kamenogorsk have now been relocated to Almaty.

634. Pursuant to an order of the Ministry of Justice, the young offenders' institutions in Aktobe and Ust-Kamenogorsk have been converted into open prisons for adult inmates with a record of good behaviour. This has alleviated the problem of overcrowding in the rest of the country's open prisons.

635. It is anticipated that the relocation of inmates from the young offenders' institution in Petropavlovskoye will be completed by the end of June 2011.

636. In 2010, 170 convicted juveniles were conditionally released before the end of their sentence; in 2009, the figure was 157.

637. As at 1 January 2011, 707 juveniles convicted but not in detention were registered with the probation offices of the penal correction system. The figure for 2010 was 1,286.

638. Pursuant to Ministry of Justice Order No. 305 of 21 October 2004, instructions for the organization of re-education work with convicts in correctional institutions of the Ministry of Justice were approved with a view to improving the effectiveness of re-education and assisting the administrations of institutions. Boards of trustees have been established, and also parents' committees made up of convicts' parents and other close relatives.

639. Public oversight commissions are responsible for public monitoring of the observance of the rights of inmates in all young offenders' institutions.

640. The inmates of young offenders' institutions are provided with education with a view to full personal development, broadening of their horizons and enhancement of their intellectual capabilities. There are now five general-education schools operating within young offenders' institutions, attended by inmates who have not received secondary education; part of the teaching is in the State language. In addition to the teaching in the general-education schools, extracurricular club activities are offered. In these clubs, inmates learn drawing technique, applied art and computer literacy.

641. There are five libraries in young offenders' institutions, where inmates have access to fiction, legal literature, newspapers and magazines. Inmates also have the right to take out subscriptions to periodicals at their own expense. In 2010, the library holdings in young offenders' institutions amounted to 43,212 books.

Children in street situations

642. Under the Act on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, Child Neglect and Homelessness, a whole range of steps are being taken in different areas to prevent child neglect and homelessness and juvenile delinquency.

643. Since 2007, the Interdepartmental Commission for Minors and their Rights has been operating under the Government of Kazakhstan. At its meetings, the Commission has discussed more than 30 issues, including 10 relating to the prevention of child neglect and homelessness. Similar commissions, bringing together representatives of relevant government bodies, operate in all regions of the country.

644. With a view to increasing legal literacy and reducing adolescent neglect and homelessness, the Ministries of Education and Science, Internal Affairs, Health and Justice developed an interdepartmental plan in 2010 to prevent juvenile delinquency and child neglect and homelessness.

645. Regular spot checks and campaigns, such as "Children and night work", "Adolescent", "Street", "Concern" and "The road to school", are carried out in conjunction with government bodies, NGOs and the public, in order to identify neglected and homeless children.

646. In 2010, the Ministry of Internal Affairs conducted the campaigns "Children are our future", from 15 April to 15 May, and "The police and school", from 13 September to 6 October. During these campaigns, more than 10,000 lectures and talks, 500 seminars, more than 1,000 round tables and 300 briefings were held on the prevention of alcohol abuse, alcoholism, drug addiction and smoking among minors. Around 2,000 surveys were conducted among school pupils and teachers to determine the effectiveness of the work of school police inspectors. More than 1,000 sporting events and more than 800 cultural and recreational events were organized.

647. One of the most effective means of early prevention of juvenile delinquency is to provide free leisure activities for adolescents and to involve them in sessions at sports clubs.

648. In that connection, all the departmental gymnasiums of the Ministry of Internal Affairs offer sessions free of charge to minors from troubled families. These sessions are attended by around 10,000 minors.

649. An integrated database providing a single register of disadvantaged minors has been created. The database contains information on children who are absent from school without valid reason, those in special education institutions, those who are victims of cruelty and

violence, those who are from troubled families or are neglected or homeless, and those sent to rehabilitation centres for minors.

650. In Kyzylorda province, there is a rehabilitation centre for disadvantaged children.

651. The town of Saran has a centre for problem families, a family support centre, three children's homes and an adolescents' club.

652. In 2010, 374,655 socially vulnerable children received assistance to the value of around 1.7 billion tenge under the campaigns entitled "The road to school" and "Concern". In 2009, around 439,000 children received assistance to the value of 1.6 billion tenge.

653. In addition, socially vulnerable school pupils receive assistance from a general education fund. The total amount of contributions to general education funds was 5.5 billion tenge or 1.7 per cent of total expenditure on school maintenance. In 2009, the figure was 4.6 billion tenge, or 1.6 per cent.

654. In order to organize work with troubled families and neglected children effectively, 3,139 social care teachers and more than 7,000 psychologists have been recruited to schools. In addition, 1,500 police inspectors work in schools.

655. Surveys are carried out in conjunction with NGOs, such as the Sandzh Research Centre and the Centre for the Social Adaptation of Children, with a view to the early detection of family problems, and recommendations are drawn up in that area.

656. The following guides have been published: "Family problems: causes and prevention" and "The organization of family counselling in schools".

657. Under the memorandum of cooperation between the Human Rights Commissioner of Kazakhstan and the UNICEF office in Kazakhstan for the period July to November 2011, rapid assessments of the situation of the most vulnerable children and children from high-risk groups living in urban areas of Kazakhstan are expected to be carried out; these will cover aspects of the sexual exploitation of and domestic trafficking in children, and neglect and violence.

658. It is anticipated that NGOs will be involved in studying the situation of street children.

C. Economic exploitation, including child labour (art. 32)

659. Legislation on the protection of children from labour exploitation is being refined. For example, the Act on Amendments and Additions to Legislation on the Protection of Children's Rights includes the concept of "economic exploitation of the child" and enshrines the child's right to protection from economic exploitation.

660. The provisions of ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (Geneva, 17 June 1999) and ILO Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (Geneva, 26 June 1973) have been incorporated in Act No. 9 of 19 December 2007 on Amendments and Additions to Legislation on Labour and Social Security.

661. For example, article 30 of the Act states: "Employment contracts may be concluded with citizens who have reached the age of 16. With the written consent of a parent, guardian or adoptive parent, an employment contract may be concluded: (1) with citizens who have reached the age of 15, provided they have received basic and general secondary education in an institution of secondary education; (2) with students who have reached the age of 14, provided the work is performed in their free time outside school, is not harmful to their health and does not disrupt their education; (3) with persons under the age of 14 to

work in cinematography organizations, theatres, theatrical and concert organizations or circuses by participating in the creation or performance of works, without compromising their health or moral development, subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 2.2 of this article. An employment contract with a minor must be signed by a parent, guardian or adoptive parent as well as by the minor.”

662. Article 16 of the Children’s Rights Act states that children over 14 have the right, with their parents’ permission, to take part in socially useful work in their free time outside school that does not harm their physical, moral or mental state, provided their health and stage of development so permit. Paragraph 4 of the article prohibits the recruitment of children for heavy physical labour in harmful or hazardous working conditions or their involvement in such labour. Their working must not disrupt their education.

663. Pursuant to Order No. 185-ó of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of 31 July 2007, a list was approved of workplaces and occupations involving heavy physical labour and harmful (extremely harmful) or hazardous (extremely hazardous) working conditions in which the employment of persons under 18 is prohibited.

664. With a view to informing the public about the exploitation of child labour, a 12-day national information campaign against the exploitation of child labour is conducted every year. During the campaign, spot checks are carried out throughout the country to identify cases of exploitation of child labour, talks are held with children to explain the characteristics of child labour, booklets and guides relating to the exploitation of child labour are distributed, and press conferences, round tables, seminars, competitions and concerts are held. Every year, more than 4,000 events are organized during the campaign, reaching more than 300,000 adults and children.

665. In 2007, a survey was conducted in conjunction with the Association of White-Collar Women Employees and a guide entitled “The worst forms of child labour in Kazakhstan: an assessment of the situation and measures taken” was produced.

666. A joint workplan to eliminate the worst forms of child labour and implement ILO Convention No. 182 for 2009–2011 has been under implementation since 2009.

667. In 2009, 900 children were found to be working in cotton and tobacco fields in Almaty and South Kazakhstan provinces; in 2010, 532 cases of child labour were identified.

668. In 2010, State labour inspectors carried out more than 18,000 inspections to ensure that employers were complying with national labour law. During every inspection, the State labour inspectors must check for the unlawful use of child labour.

669. Following the inspections, administrative measures were taken against officials who had allowed the use of child labour.

Drug abuse (art. 33)

670. A programme to combat drug abuse and the drug trade in Kazakhstan for 2009–2011 was approved.

671. The “Youth against Drugs” campaign is ongoing in Kazakhstan. In June 2010, public events were held in all the large towns and regions of the country to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and aimed at raising public awareness of the problem of drug abuse and strengthening social attitudes against drug use.

672. The Committee to Combat the Drug Trade in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in conjunction with the Astana city administration and the capital’s internal affairs department, conducted a large-scale campaign entitled “Freedom. Happiness. Life”. The campaign was publicized in the media.

673. A sum of 2,176,000 tenge was allocated for the above campaigns under the programme to combat drug abuse and the drug trade for 2009–2011.

674. Processions, bicycle rides, concerts, competitions, quizzes, sports contests and round tables were organized in all regions of the country.

675. The National Scientific and Practical Centre for Medical and Social Problems of Drug Abuse, a State-owned public enterprise under the Ministry of Health, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and Science, has continued its work on the introduction of a diagnostic computer program for psychological testing of the risk of dependence on psychoactive substances.

676. In 2010, the computer program was approved and introduced in 161 secondary schools in Pavlodar, Astana and Almaty.

677. Three-day training seminars for psychologists and social care teachers were held in the above cities on means of early detection in children and adolescents of the risk of developing a dependence on psychoactive substances. A total of 161 specialists received training: 61 in Astana, 75 in Almaty and 25 in Pavlodar.

678. A sum of 6.0 million tenge was allocated to the Ministry of Health for the implementation of the above campaign under the programme to combat drug abuse and the drug trade for 2009–2011.

679. A system has been developed to monitor how effectively the computer program for determining psychological resilience is used in educational institutions, and a preliminary assessment has been conducted in schools in Karagandy, Pavlodar and Taraz. Following the monitoring, conclusions have been drawn about the effectiveness and safety of the program.

680. Surveys have also been carried out among various population groups in a number of regions.

681. In 2010, a survey was conducted in Akmola province. The results revealed the main reasons why young people start using drugs: 44.4 per cent cited peer pressure and 13.8 per cent lack of employment. Some 19.2 per cent of respondents said that they had witnessed drug use. A total of 79.9 per cent had never encountered drug dealers. Some 61.9 per cent of respondents had obtained information about drugs from the media, 17.4 per cent from specialist literature, 12.3 per cent from friends and 7.0 per cent from their parents.

682. According to a survey carried out in North Kazakhstan province, the most common reasons for drug abuse among young people were the influence of other people or peer pressure (24 per cent), lack of employment (leisure) (16.4 per cent), the lure of the “forbidden fruit” (9.9 per cent) and ignorance of all the consequences of drug abuse (8.6 per cent).

683. In 2010, more than 128 lectures and 1,500 talks on the prevention of alcoholism and smoking were organized in conjunction with healthy lifestyle centres and were attended by more than 96,000 pupils.

684. Higher education institutions have organized 189 round tables, 206 training seminars and 152 campaigns and have produced 210 brochures and 22 videos on the harm caused by and consequences of drug abuse. Drug prevention units have been set up in 5,020 schools around the country.

685. “Thinking together” advice points are provided for parents, with the involvement of medical experts on drug abuse, inspectors from the internal affairs agencies, psychologists and social care teachers.

686. Educational institutions have permanent thematic stands and book displays in their libraries, and anti-drugs information sheets promoting healthy lifestyles are produced.

687. Educational institutions have established mobile teams to campaign against drugs, and the heads of institutions have given particular teachers responsibility for implementing the programme. Courses are held every year for teachers.

688. For example, in 2010, four advanced training courses on prevention of HIV, drug addiction and crime were held, two of which focused on work to prevent HIV, solvent abuse, drug addiction, alcoholism and smoking by developing pupils' life skills. The courses were attended by more than 120 people.

689. In order to assist teachers in general-education schools, the National Institute of Advanced Training, with the support of the National Medical and Educational Association and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), has developed a handbook for parents on the prevention of HIV, drug addiction, solvent abuse, alcoholism and smoking.

Children belonging to a minority (art. 30)

690. The State assists the country's minorities and ethnic groups, and pursues a policy of preserving and reviving their cultures and ethnic identities.

691. All ethnic groups have extremely high civil and social status. Their members do not act as representatives of the ethnic minorities to which they belong, but are seen rather as citizens of the united people of Kazakhstan possessing the full range of rights. The interests of ethnic groups are protected through the guaranteed representation of the Assembly in Parliament: the nine members of the Majilis elected by the Assembly represent its interests, and thus all the interests of every ethnic group in the country.

692. In the field of information, the country has more than 35 ethnic newspapers and magazines. Newspapers and magazines are published in 11 languages, and there are radio broadcasts in 8 languages and television broadcasts in 7. In 2010, 76,995,600 tenge was allocated to support ethnic media outlets, including the newspapers *Ukrainski novini*, *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Kore il'bo*, *U'gur avazi*, *Vatan*, *Aq bars* and *Akhyska*.

693. The 50 theatres in Kazakhstan include 9 mixed theatres, 15 Russian theatres and 1 Korean, 1 German, 1 Uzbek and 1 Uighur theatre.

694. Under the State programme for the development and use of languages for 2011–2020, approved pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 110 of 29 June 2011, an effective system of State support for the languages of the ethnic groups living in Kazakhstan has been established.

695. The country's educational institutions are implementing a fundamental provision: the right of ethnic groups to study in their native language.

696. Of the country's 7,516 general-education schools, 1,524 use Russian as the language of instruction, 58 use Uzbek, 14 Uighur and 2 Tajik, while 2,097 schools are mixed.

697. Of the 2,261 preschools, 272 use Russian as the language of instruction and 3 use other languages; there are 808 educational facilities for children that use two languages of instruction; and there are 190 Sunday schools run by ethnocultural associations, where members of 30 ethnic groups study their native languages.

698. Pupils leaving general-education schools where the language of instruction is Uzbek, Uighur or Tajik may, if they wish, sit the single national examination in the State language or Russian. Depending on their results in the examination, school leavers have the right to enrol in post-secondary and higher education institutions.

Information on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (New York, 6 September 2000)

699. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, which Kazakhstan has ratified, prohibits the direct participation in hostilities and the conscription into the armed forces of persons who have not attained the age of 18 years. The provisions of the Optional Protocol have been incorporated in article 41 of the Children's Rights Act, which prohibits the recruitment of children for participation in hostilities or armed conflict and the creation of children's military units, and in article 23 of the Military Obligations and Military Service Act, which provides for the conscription for a term of military service of citizens aged between 18 and 27 years.

700. The current state of relations between the State and religions in Kazakhstan shows that the country has established the legal, ideological and social conditions necessary for the peaceful coexistence of representatives of different religions and ethnic groups.

701. Kazakhstan is an active member of the international movement for peace and security and is opposed to all terrorist acts that endanger the life, health or peace of mind of civilians. In April 2010, legislation was adopted to strengthen guarantees of the protection of the civilian population and the responsibilities of law enforcement officials for counter-terrorism operations.

702. Act No. 31 of 18 February 2005, the Anti-Extremism Act, establishes administrative and criminal penalties for the recruitment of children for participation in armed conflict.

703. A legal information campaign is under way in Kazakhstan with a view to prevention and the protection of children from participation in hostilities and armed conflict.

704. Coordination councils for the prevention of religious extremism among young people are in operation in all the country's provinces. Councils of veterans and Afghan soldiers, and also NGOs, are engaged in the military-patriotic education of young people. "Ulan", a military-sports game, takes place in Kazakhstan; its principal aim is children's patriotic education and physical development.

705. All educational institutions offer general legal education sessions and organize events, campaigns, lessons and round tables to explain the principles and provisions of the Optional Protocol. For example, round tables on armed conflict in peacetime and on international terrorism and children were held in Astana in 2010. Every year, activities, school assemblies and lessons, such as "The events in Beslan", "What is terrorism?" and "War does not have a child's face" are organized to commemorate the events in Beslan.

706. The provisions of the Optional Protocol are studied in school under the subject of basic health and safety.

707. Military boarding schools and academies have developed action plans for the study of the Optional Protocol.

708. In the 2010/11 academic year, there were four provincial cadet boarding schools in Kazakhstan offering in-depth pre-conscription training, attended by more than 980 pupils, and 22 cadet classes in general-education schools attended by 500 pupils. These institutions are in Akmola, East Kazakhstan, Zhambyl, Pavlodar and Karagandy provinces and in the city of Astana.

709. In order to encourage pupils in basic schools to choose a career in the armed forces at an early age, three national military boarding schools have opened, attended by 1,350 pupils.

710. The main purpose of military schools is to teach the State language and foreign languages and to provide young people with intensive physical training. Education in military schools lasts for two years: the tenth and eleventh grades.

711. In 2010, a survey was conducted to determine children's level of knowledge about their rights and the fundamental international instruments, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A total of 193,025 children from around the country were surveyed. The survey included a number of questions about the participation of children in armed conflict.

712. The results of the survey showed that in 5 of 16 provinces in Kazakhstan, children were well informed about their rights and were aware of the main provisions of the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict. In the remaining regions, the level of awareness ranged between 52 per cent and 70 per cent. Almost 100 per cent of pupils surveyed in Akmola and East Kazakhstan provinces, 77.7 per cent in Zhambyl province, 76.5 per cent in Kyzylorda province and 75 per cent in Mangistau province were aware that persons who had not attained the age of 18 could not take a direct part in hostilities and could not be conscripted into the armed forces. In all provinces, children said that they had not taken part in armed conflict, had not witnessed or been victims of armed conflict and hoped that they never would be.

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

713. Kazakhstan, having ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (Geneva, 17 June 1999) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, done at New York on 6 September 2000, has demonstrated its commitment to the comprehensive protection of children.

714. In January 2006, Kazakhstan prepared and submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child its initial report on the implementation of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

715. In 2010, Kazakhstan ratified the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, which makes it possible to monitor what becomes of children in other States.

716. Efforts are under way to address the issue of accession to the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, the purpose of which is to protect children internationally from wrongful removal or retention and establish procedures to ensure their prompt return to the State of their habitual residence.

717. The President of Kazakhstan has now signed the Act on Amendments and Additions to Legislation on the Protection of Children's Rights. The Act not only introduces the concept of "economic exploitation of the child" but also enshrines the child's right to protection from economic exploitation. "Exploitation of the child" means the worst forms of child labour, including the sale of children and prostitution.

718. Criminal penalties for sexual offences against minors have been made significantly tougher: new provisions have been added to articles 120, 121, 122 and 124 of the Criminal Code concerning sexual acts committed by persons with child-rearing or educational responsibilities (parents, guardians and teachers).

719. Article 120 of the Criminal Code provides for imprisonment for up to 20 years for sexual violence against minors.

720. The penalty for those with child-rearing or educational responsibilities is more severe. After they have served their prison sentence, they are prohibited from working with children for 10 to 20 years.

721. The law criminalizes the production and circulation of materials or objects with pornographic depictions of minors and also the recruitment of minors to participate in pornographic performances (art. 273-1, “Production and circulation of materials or objects with pornographic depictions of minors or their recruitment to participate in pornographic performances”).

722. The law establishes administrative and criminal penalties for the dissemination in Kazakhstan of media items containing information and material aimed at promoting a culture of cruelty, violence and pornography.

723. On 3 June 2011, a court in Astana issued a decision in case No. 2-1078/11 on halting the dissemination in Kazakhstan of foreign media and Internet resources promoting child pornography.

724. In order to protect children from sexual harassment, the law imposes additional restrictions on persons convicted of such offences. They may apply for parole only after they have served at least three quarters of their sentence. In order to prevent exploitation and protect children who work, the law prohibits the sale to minors of periodicals that publish material of an erotic nature.

725. In this connection, a provision has been added to article 14 of the Media Act prohibiting the sale to minors of periodicals that publish material of an erotic nature.

726. The Ministry of Internal Affairs monitors the implementation of national law regarding the protection of children who are victims of and/or witnesses to crimes, including domestic violence, sexual and economic exploitation, abduction and trafficking.

727. The Government of Kazakhstan has adopted an action plan to combat trafficking in persons for 2009–2011.

728. The following cases have been brought in relation to offences in these categories:

- In 2007:
 - 16 cases under article 128 of the Criminal Code (trafficking in persons);
 - Five cases under article 133 of the Criminal Code (trafficking in minors) — two from the internal affairs department of West Kazakhstan province and one each from the internal affairs departments of Atyrau, North Kazakhstan and South Kazakhstan provinces;
 - Four cases under article 125, paragraph 3 (b), of the Criminal Code (abduction for the purpose of exploitation);
 - Two cases under article 126, paragraph 3 (b), of the Criminal Code (unlawful deprivation of liberty for the purpose of exploitation);
 - Seven cases under article 270 of the Criminal Code (recruitment for prostitution).

729. In 2007, 17 individuals were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

730. For example, on 6 October 2007 a case was discovered in Shymkent in South Kazakhstan province in which a female minor had been sold by Ms. U. M. Angarbekova to a brothel run by Ms. S. S. Aitbaeva.

731. In this case, Ms. Angarbekova was sentenced by the courts to seven years’ imprisonment and Ms. Aitbaeva to six years’ imprisonment.

- In 2008 there were:
 - 15 cases under article 128 of the Criminal Code (trafficking in persons);
 - Five cases under article 133 of the Criminal Code (trafficking in minors) — two from the internal affairs department of Akmola province and one each from the internal affairs departments of West Kazakhstan, Mangistau and North Kazakhstan provinces;
 - Four cases under article 125, paragraph 3 (b), of the Criminal Code (abduction for the purpose of exploitation);
 - Eight cases under article 126, paragraph 3 (b), of the Criminal Code (unlawful deprivation of liberty for the purpose of exploitation);
 - 11 cases under article 270 of the Criminal Code (recruitment for prostitution).

732. In 2008, 24 individuals were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

733. In Akmola province in January 2008, Mr. S. K. Pagikyan, intentionally, by means of deception and for his own unlawful financial gain, in conspiracy with Mr. I. A. Ilyin took Ms. T. D. Bulyskhina, born in 1992, to Astana and sold her to Mr. A. B. Amrin, who forced her into prostitution.

734. Continuing their crimes, Mr. Pagikyan and Mr. Ilyin, together with Mr. Z. M. Falman, by means of deception recruited a female minor for sexual exploitation. They were sentenced by the Shortandy district court in East Kazakhstan province to 10 years' imprisonment for the two episodes.

- In 2009 there were:
 - 20 cases under article 128 of the Criminal Code (trafficking in persons);
 - 16 cases under article 133 of the Criminal Code (trafficking in minors) — 7 from the internal affairs department of West Kazakhstan province, 3 from the internal affairs department of Akmola province, 2 each from the internal affairs departments of North Kazakhstan and South Kazakhstan provinces and 1 each from the internal affairs departments of Atyrau and East Kazakhstan provinces;
 - Seven cases under article 125, paragraph 3 (b), of the Criminal Code (abduction for the purpose of exploitation);
 - Three cases under article 126, paragraph 3 (b), of the Criminal Code (unlawful deprivation of liberty for the purpose of exploitation);
 - Seven cases under article 270 of the Criminal Code (recruitment for prostitution).

735. In 2009, 24 individuals were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

736. On 8 January 2009, the senior physician at the Atyrau province maternity home, Mr. Z. Z. Kushaliev, born in 1956, was caught in the act of selling a newborn child, born in 2008, to Ms. S. K. Kuanova, born in 1982, for US\$ 4,000.

737. Criminal proceedings were instituted in this case on 8 January 2009 under article 133, paragraph 2 (h), of the Criminal Code. In June 2009, Mr. Kushaliev was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

- In 2010 there were:
 - 22 cases under article 128 of the Criminal Code (trafficking in persons);
 - 17 cases under article 133 of the Criminal Code (trafficking in minors);
 - 127 cases under article 125 of the Criminal Code (abduction);

- 137 cases under article 126 of the Criminal Code (unlawful deprivation of liberty);
- Seven cases under article 270 of the Criminal Code (recruitment for prostitution);
- 191 cases under article 271 of the Criminal Code (establishment or maintenance of a brothel, and procuring).
- A total of 193 individuals were sentenced by the courts to deprivation of liberty:
 - Five under article 128 of the Criminal Code (trafficking in persons);
 - Five under article 133 of the Criminal Code (trafficking in minors);
 - 32 under article 125 of the Criminal Code (abduction);
 - 16 under article 126 of the Criminal Code (unlawful deprivation of liberty);
 - 135 under article 271 of the Criminal Code (establishment or maintenance of a brothel, and procuring).

738. In 2010, there were two cases resulting in guilty verdicts under article 133 (trafficking in persons), in which six individuals were convicted.

739. Over the past four years, the number of crimes committed against minors has fallen by 5–7 per cent, from 6,274 to 5,945. A similar trend was seen in 2011. Over the first seven months of 2011, 4,388 crimes were committed against minors, of which 140 involved rape, 74 sexual acts of a violent nature, and 70 intercourse or other sexual acts with a person under the age of 16.

740. Under the framework legal policy in Kazakhstan, legislative measures are being taken to protect children more effectively from the negative impact of their social environment, and priorities in law enforcement practice are shifting from punitive measures to prevention and protection by minimizing the imposition on juveniles of punishment and preventive measures that involve separation from society.

741. With a view to protecting minors from criminal violations of their rights, a range of measures are being implemented, in conjunction with civil society institutions and other relevant government bodies, to prevent, detect and investigate such crimes.

742. For example, a major national campaign, “Don’t become a victim of human trafficking!”, which included the use of campaign trains, was organized in March 2009 in conjunction with the Association of Crisis Centres of Kazakhstan and the Embassy of the United States of America in Kazakhstan as part of the special preventive operation “STOP Trafficking”.

743. Following the information campaign, a scientific and practical conference entitled “Combating trafficking in persons: exchange of experience, development of strategic approaches and strengthening of cooperation” took place with the participation of the United States Embassy in Kazakhstan, the UNICEF office in Kazakhstan, the OSCE centre in Kazakhstan, and government bodies and NGOs involved in protecting the rights and freedoms of victims of human trafficking.

744. In September 2009, the Ministries of Internal Affairs, Justice, and Education and Science, as well as the United States Embassy in Kazakhstan and an NGO, the Feminist League, organized a theatrical performance entitled “Night Stars”, based on true stories of victims of human trafficking, as a preventive measure aimed at school pupils and students from the city of Astana and Akmola province.

745. At the same time, information booklets and CDs were distributed as part of the “Say no to slavery” campaign.

746. Qorghau, the first crisis centre for the rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking, was established in Astana in 2009 with the support of the Ministry of Justice. It is funded from the national budget.

747. In November 2009, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Association of Crisis Centres organized a seminar in Kazakhstan entitled “Combating trafficking in persons: exchange of experience, development of strategic approaches and strengthening of cooperation”, attended by a European Commission expert on combating trafficking in persons and by other international representatives.

748. In May, October and December 2009, seminars on combating trafficking in persons in Kazakhstan were held in Aktau, Pavlodar and Aktobe, organized by the Charter for Human Rights Foundation and attended by staff of internal affairs departments and procuratorial officials.

749. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has set up a nationwide direct telephone helpline, 11616, accessible from landlines and mobile telephones in all regions of the country, for the purpose of detecting and halting cases of human trafficking and providing legal, medical and psychological assistance to victims.

750. Kazakhstan has children’s advice centres and telephone helplines and has set up a free 24-hour telephone number, 150, which any child may dial for assistance.

751. Work is now under way, in conjunction with NGOs, to raise awareness and improve legal literacy among members of the public, including children, with regard to trafficking in persons and the economic and sexual exploitation of women and children.
