**Turkey’s comments in reply to the questionnaire of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council on current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms**

Empowering women in all areas of society and achieving equal opportunities for women and men are among Turkey’s priorities. In line with this understanding, Turkey attaches importance to nominating/appointing women to decision-making positions in politics, judiciary and bureaucracy as well as within the treaty bodies or other monitoring mechanisms of international organizations.

Nominating competent women professionals to key positions within international organizations is not only in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, but is also a manifestation of the pivotal role women play in Turkish society. It is a source of pride for Turkey that Dr. Nilüfer Oral, who is a leading legal expert on climate change, protection and the ocean, was nominated by Turkey and elected to the International Law Commission in 2017. Furthermore, Professor Aşkın Asan was nominated by Turkey and elected to the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), the independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence also (known as the Istanbul Convention). Previously, Professor Feride Acar was a member/president of GREVIO and she also served as a member of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) between 1997-2005 and 2015-2018.

Associate Professor Saadet Yüksel, who was nominated by Turkey, was elected as a judge to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Turkey in 2019. Her predecessor was also a woman.

Turkey has also recently nominated two highly qualified women, Ambassador Ebru Barutçu Gökdenizler and Ambassador Naciye Gökçen Kaya to the positions of Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, respectively. This demonstrates Turkey’s readiness to promote women to the top management of the UN, as well as its willingness to contribute to furthering the UN’s human rights agenda.

Turkey employs a gender balanced approach when appointing experts for organs and mechanisms of international organizations. As can be seen from the examples provided above, Turkey acts in line with its obligations under Article 8 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by providing women with the opportunity to represent their Government at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations without any discrimination. The Turkish Government will continue to nominate and encourage women to apply for senior positions within the human rights organs and mechanisms of the international organizations.