**COMMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE SENT BY THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN RELATION TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 68/268**

**1.** With reference to the Questionnaire sent by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on 25 March 2019 regarding the General Assembly (GA) Resolution 68/268, the Government would like to submit its comments herein below.

**a) Comments by the States on the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 68/268, including those provisions addressed to States**

The Government of Turkey cooperates fully with the human rights treaty bodies and submits its periodic reports in order to demonstrate the progress made on the implementation of the treaties to which it is a party.

It furthermore takes the necessary steps to address the recommendations pointed out by the treaty bodies in their concluding observations.

Turkey believes that word limits for all State party documentation specified in paragraph 16 of the GA Resolution 68/268 is an effective way to focus on priority issues with regard to the progress made in the application of a respective treaty. In that regard, it has complied with the specified word limits in the periodic reports it has submitted since the adoption of the Resolution.

It also supports the simplified reporting procedure as it enables a more streamlined process while preparing the periodic reports. In accordance with the simplified reporting procedure, it is currently preparing its 5th periodic report under the Convention Against Torture based on the list of issues prepared by the Committee Against Torture.

In accordance with the recommendation made in paragraph 3 of the GA Resolution 68/268, Turkey will, in the short term, update its Common Core Document with a view to provide comprehensive information on the most recent developments in Turkey, as well as the changes made in its governmental structure.

**b) Comments by States on the state of human rights treaty body system in view of the upcoming review by 9 April 2020, of the effectiveness of the measures taken in order to ensure their sustainability, and, on any further action to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system**

Turkey gives utmost importance to the independence and impartiality of the human rights treaty bodies. It believes that members of the treaty bodies should act in an impartial manner in their consideration of the periodic reports submitted by State Parties and should not politicize issues related to human rights.

In that regard, it supports the recommendation made in paragraph 9 of the GA Resolution 68/268 to the human rights treaty bodies, towards achieving greater efficiency, transparency, effectiveness and harmonization through their working methods.

In accordance with the recommendation made in paragraph 23 of the GA Resolution 68/268, Turkey believes that ability for the members of its official delegations not present at the meeting to participate in the consideration of periodic reports through videoconference enhances the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system as it enables representatives from different public institutions to contribute to the consideration of periodic reports on matters related to their work, in particular, representatives from various ministries who could not be present at the meeting.

Turkey also supports the efforts to increase coordination and predictability in the reporting process with the aim of achieving a clear and regularized schedule for reporting by States Parties (paragraph 34 of GA resolution 68/268).

It is believed that cooperating with States Parties and taking into consideration at the extent possible States’ overall reporting obligations to all treaty bodies and other relevant calendar of work while scheduling the reporting and review process will help increase the efficiency and effectiveness of these processes by insuring for example that there is no overlap of reviews in a certain period of time that may impact on the overall workload for the State concerned.