

Mission permanente de l'Etat du Koweït
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
Genève



الوفد الدائم لدولة الكويت
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جنيف

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson
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CH-1201 Geneva

M 337/2018

The Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and would like to refer to the letter OHCHR/TESRPRD/DESIB/HRESIS dated on 17 August 2018 regarding the preparation of the report in relation with the theme “Empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education”.

The Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait encloses herewith the replies of the Public Authority of the Disabled to the questions mentioned in the letter.

The Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 23 October 2018



Ann. Ment.: (1)
M.M/r.b.

Replies of the Public Authority of the Disabled

Replies to question 1

a.

- Article 13 of the Constitution of the State of Kuwait regarding care of the orphan by the State.
- Law No. 11 of 1965 on compulsory education applied to every Kuwaiti male or female under the age of ten at the primary level, and under the age of seventeen at the intermediate level.
- Law No. 8/2010 on Persons with Disabilities and its amendments.
- Law No. 21/2015 on the Rights of the Child.
- Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 16 of 2016 for the issuance of Regulations No. 21/2015 on the Rights of the Child.
- The Council of Ministers issued Resolution No. 1264 on “authorizing all government agencies in coordination with the Public Authority of Disabled to follow-up the implementation of the provisions of Law No. 8 of 2010 on the rights of persons with disabilities and all relevant conventions in order to ensure the achievement of the goals established by the Authority. And to instruct the Authority to submit periodic reports to the Council of Ministers on this matter”.
- At the government policy level, UNDP advisory services, together with civil society organizations, have been collaborating to develop a plan of action for educational support, provide measurements for performance development, and promote efforts to support inclusive education through a plan consistent with the State of Kuwait Vision 2035 for persons with disabilities.

b.

- The State, represented by Public Authority of Disabled, provides educational support to students with disabilities from 3 to 21 years of age who have been issued an educational decision and enrolled in one of the approved schools of the Public Authority and the Disabled, which include 29 furnished and equipped kindergartens, 15 Arabic schools

and 17 bilingual schools. The budget allocated for educational support for the current year 2018/2019 is 35 million Kuwaiti dinar taking into account that setting up a special need classes with all necessary resources like equipment warrants a higher capital than setting up inclusive classes. Inclusion requires extra devotion and the provision of resource rooms and trained teachers to support children with mental and psychological disabilities.

- The Authority shall guarantee the full tuition fees and shall make available sums and financial allocations to children with disabilities according to the type and degree of their disabilities to meet their other needs.
- The formation of a joint committee of specialist from the Public Authority of the Disabled, and the Ministry of Education to monitor and follow up on plans to implement laws and regulations supporting the integration of children with disabilities into mainstream education.

Replies to question 2

- In accordance with article 22 of Chapter 5 of Law No. 8/2010 on raising the awareness of the society about the rights of persons with disabilities, which maintains a sense of dignity and respect, a campaign called “Qodraty” was launched with the slogan “My abilities distinguish me”. What are your abilities? The campaign targets the Kuwaiti society in general and persons with disabilities in particular. *The Campaign aims to:*
 - Encouraging people with disabilities to employ their energies and invest in their abilities.
 - Establishing an appropriate status for persons with disabilities as a significant human resource in society.
 - Creating constructive dialogue on how to make Kuwaiti society more inclusive.
 - Changing the perception of the abilities of persons with disabilities.

b.

- The staff of the higher administrative authority include representatives of the civil society organizations related to the affairs of individuals with disabilities in general and children in particular, in accordance with article 49 of Law No. 8/2010, which stated that the Authority has higher council concerned with setting goals and general policies. This Council is formed by the Minister of Social and labor affairs including members of a number of ministers and specialists. The law stipulates that the Council shall include two elected representatives from associations of public benefit to ensure that the voices of the concerned parties are heard and they can participate in policies and decision-making. The Council's meeting reports about the Authority's activities and progress shall be submitted annually to the Council of Ministers and the National Assembly.
- The Board of Directors of the Authority includes, in addition to the Authority's officials, a selection of political figures and decision-makers in the State, in addition to representatives of a number of civil society organizations concerned with the affairs of persons with disabilities, such as the Center for Education and Evaluation of the child.

c.

- The Public Authority of Disabled implements the provisions of Law No. 8/2010 , which grants support to both the family caring for the disabled, and the caregivers responsible for child development and rehabilitation to be able to participate effectively in the society, in cooperation with the Public Institute for Social Security and Kuwait Credit Bank.
- The State supports the participation of civil society organizations concerned with the representation of children with disabilities and their families. Officials in the Public Authority of the disabled hold regular meetings with the officials of these institutions in order to achieve full participation in policy making and planning to enable them to participate in the decision-making process.

d.

- The Public Authority of the Disabled is intensifying its efforts to ensure that children with disabilities are integrated into community and meet their specific needs by activating the articles of Law No. 8/2018, which contributes against isolation, and gives many benefits to the child such as financial allocations, educational, social and psychological services.
- To encourage the inclusion of children with disabilities in their communities, and to promote family care, and to ensure that the family is committed to providing care for persons with disabilities. The above-mentioned law gives a number of benefits to the family caring for the disabled, such as social protection, financial, and housing services.

Reply to question 3

- The Higher Committee of Civil Defense, headed by the Ministry of the Interior and all the concerned members of all the ministries, bodies and institutions of the State reaching (25) entities, is responsible for the implementation of the means and measures of emergency plans, general disasters and alternative plans. Experiments and exercises on the virtual reality are carried out to determine the readiness, and coordination between the agencies and teams involved in the areas of dealing with emergency situations and related issues in order to achieve rapid response from the various ministries with all the necessary preparations and civil protection measures to ensure the security and safety of all citizens, residents and buildings. And to provide all civil defense and civil protection methods and measures in accordance with the emergency plans identified in this regard.

Reply to question 4

- Confirming participation in decision-making processes, the Kuwaiti National Assembly formed two committees, one on human rights in general, and the other on persons with disabilities in particular, responsible for submitting proposals on the Priority Committee on amending some provisions of laws related to the rights of persons with disabilities, giving it priorities on the agenda of the National Assembly.

Reply to question 5

- The establishment of “Friends of the disabled” Group, which was established pursuant to Article 68 of Act No. 8/2010, concerned with persons with disabilities to monitor the violations, problems and difficulties faced by persons with disabilities in order to ensure getting their rights and to protect them from exploitation, abuse or violation of dignity by individuals, families or governmental and private institutions.
- The Public Authority of the Disabled has established the following committees to monitor and follow up on educational services provided to persons with disabilities.
 - The Visits and Interviews Committee, which follow up private schools, centers, nurseries and rehabilitation institutions for persons with disabilities, is responsible for the accreditation of the educational bodies through visits and disclosure of any observations or violations of the requirements, and its conducts interviews with the teaching and working staff in educational institutions.
 - The Monitoring and Inspection Committee, which hold periodic visits during the school year to monitor any violation.
 - The Committee for the Study of Special Cases is responsible for issuing educational decisions and directing the student to the appropriate educational entity related to this disability.

Reply to question 6

- Yes
 - a.
 - The State, represented by the Central Department of Statistics, is keen to provide national statistical data in cooperation with various agencies, including data related to social and education services. Children with disabilities enrolled in general and private schools are registered through Ministry of Education.

- The Public Authority for the Disabled has completed the data automation project for persons with disabilities, including the registration of children with disabilities who have received educational support and enrolled in Arabic and foreign private schools accredited by the Authority.

b.

- 16 children reside in the care and rehabilitation centers of the Public Authority of the Disabled.
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