



ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԱՇՏԱԿԱՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՅՈՒՑՉՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

URGENT

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and in response to the latter's Note dated 18 May 2012 has the honour to convey the information of the Government of the Republic of Armenia with regard to the Questionnaire on the work and employment of the persons with disabilities, pursuant to the resolution A/HRC/19/11.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Attached: 3 pages.

Geneva, 17 July 2012



OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Geneva

Point 1

The process of employment of persons with disabilities is regulated by the Law of the Republic of Armenia on "Social protection in case of employment and unemployment of population", according to which persons with disabilities are considered out of competition and there are additional guarantees providing for equal opportunities for them, as well as different programs (which are described in Point 3).

Point 2

There is no separate law or other legal act in the Republic of Armenia regulating discrimination against persons with disabilities, however it is regulated by separate provisions of different legal acts, in particular, the Constitution of the RA (Article 14.1), The Labor Code of the RA (Point 3, Article 3), Law on "Social protection in case of employment and unemployment of population" (Point 2, Article 11). The Article 10 of the Draft Law on «Protection of rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities», entitled «Elimination of discrimination against persons with disabilities», includes norms excluding discrimination against persons with disabilities in general. There is a similar provision in the Article 4 of the Draft law.

Point 3

The following programs are being implemented in order to promote employment of persons with disabilities (data as of 2011):

1. 118 persons with disabilities were included in 2011 program «**Vocational education, rehabilitation of work skills for unemployed people with disabilities seeking for a job**», 14 of which got hired.
2. 225 persons out of competition in the labor market were included in the program «**Partial compensation of wages to the employer hiring groups out of competition in the labor market**», 116 of which were persons with disabilities. The number of persons with disabilities included in the program increased each year. Thus, as of January 1, 2012 number of persons with disabilities registered in the territorial centers of the "State Employment Service" amounted to 1290, which is for 1.1% higher than in 2011.
3. 4 persons with disabilities were listed as private entrepreneurs in the program "**Financial support to the unemployed and unemployed persons with disabilities seeking for a job for state registration with the purpose of engaging in entrepreneurship**".
4. 1 person has been seconded within the program "**Compensation of secondment expenses of unemployed and unemployed persons with disabilities seeking for a job**".
5. 11 workplaces were adapted within the program "**Adaptation of workplaces at the employer for persons with disabilities seeking for a job**".
6. Every year **Job fair** and **Career Day** are organized in the Republic of Armenia for people seeking for a job (the program is implemented with the USAID support). Non-governmental and other organizations dealing with the issues of persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities themselves participated in the mentioned programs.

"Gyumri center of professional rehabilitation for persons with disabilities" state non-commercial organization has been functioning since 2011. It provides for services of work skills rehabilitation, professional training and consultation for persons with disabilities seeking for a job. The specialists of the center assess work (professional) skills of persons with disabilities, provide for information about their education, training, different areas of professional activities and labor market, provide for psychological aid for persons with disabilities in order to disclose their work skills, support in hiring of persons with disabilities and perform other functions.

The center monthly supports 700-800 beneficiaries upon their visit to the center or the services for them and their family members are provided in their houses (social-psychological aid during home visits).

In addition, in order to ensure the social inclusion and realization of work skills of persons with physical disabilities prosthetic-orthopedic equipment, wheelchairs, deaf-aids and other rehabilitating equipment are provided for them free of charge. The State enriches the list of the mentioned equipment from year to year and attaches high priority to the quality improvement.

Since 2007 european deaf-aids of higher quality for children and young persons with disabilities have been purchased.

Eye prosthetics is made and programs of provision with sound-producing equipment are implemented.

Since 2008 the program of provision with computers with «Arev» («Sun») system for visually impaired persons has been implemented by state budget means. This program stipulates computer training and provision of computers with the above-mentioned system.

The program of publication of books with special characters (Braille), preparing copybooks, recording of "Speaking books" for visually impaired is being implemented. Ordered by the State this service is provided by the "Union of Blinds of the Republic of Armenia" Non-governmental organization.

Services for mentally impaired persons are provided by the day center of the "Prkutyun" ("Salvation") Non-governmental organization. It serves 50 beneficiaries with mental problems in Yerevan. The employees of the center are paid from the state budget. The beneficiaries are provided with the following in the center: one-time meal, medical aid, social-psychological aid, teaching handicraft, various crafts and craftsmanship, organization of leisure activities (cultural events etc)

Point 4

Answers to this point are contained in the Point 3.

Point 5

Non-governmental organizations dealing with the issues of persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities themselves are engaged in the process of elaboration of legislation regulating those issues. The legal acts under elaboration are discussed with and sent for opinion to them, posted on the website, as well as round tables, seminars, public discussions are organized.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia is elaborating new Draft Law on «Protection of rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities» in order to bring the acting legislation into

conformity with the requirements of the Convention. Currently the interested institutions and non-governmental organizations are widely discussing the Article 14 of the Draft relating to the employment of persons with disabilities in order to elaborate a quota system for the promotion of employment of persons with disabilities or other alternatives to provoke interest of employers in hiring persons with disabilities.

Point 6

As of January 1, 2012 176.506 persons with disabilities were registered in the Republic of Armenia. 120.000 of which are of working age and 8% of which are employed.

Point 7

1. Since January, 2010 «Human Dignity and Peace» (HDP) foundation jointly with the Dutch organization «Activa International» and the «Employment State Service» agency have been implementing program «Persons with disabilities in Armenia as a promising labor force» financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

The program has the aim to support persons with disabilities to find job and facilitate their social inclusion due to new methods and approaches of providing their employment. The program is implemented in 4 Marzes of Armenia and in 29 Employment Centers of Yerevan.

2. Since 2012 the program "Improving living standards of persons with disabilities through promotion of their employment" has been implemented with the USAID support aimed at ensuring equal opportunities for employment and availability of jobs for persons with disabilities in Armenia.