

Information on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

A. Data and statistics

1. In 2000, the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan was 24.6 million, with women constituting slightly more than half - 50.2 per cent.

Over the last 10 years (since 1991) the country's population has grown by 3.8 million. The age distribution reflects the high birth rates prevalent in previous periods. Demographic processes at work in the country have resulted in an age distribution in which children and young people are in the majority. Children under 15 number some 10 million, or 41 per cent of the entire population. Some 6 per cent of the population, or 1.6 million people, are aged 60 or over.

The 11-year schooling system means that the age at which young people enter into active employment and start earning their own income is normally 18. Until this time, most children and young people are dependent on their parents or guardians. By the beginning of 2000, people aged 18 and under constituted 47 per cent of the entire population and had increased by 1.4 million since 1991. Over 1999, there was an increase of only 26,900 in this particular age group.

There is a predominance of boys in the under-18 age group: boys outnumber girls by more than 200,000, because of the higher birth rate of boys (by some 4.8 per cent). This proportion obtains only in this age group, however.

The under-18 population in towns and in the countryside numbers 3.8 million and 7.8 million, respectively, with an increase over the reporting period of 6.5 per cent and 17.5 per cent, respectively. In 2000, however, population growth rates both in towns and in the countryside dropped significantly to 0.1 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively. If this trend continues, we may predict a population shift even in 2001, with the under-18 population in towns starting to decline. In the countryside, this shift will occur in 2003-2004.

2. In making national budget allocations, priority is given to covering expenditure on social needs. In recent years, the share of budgetary funding for these needs increased from 39.9 per cent in 1999 to 43.0 per cent in 2001 of total budget expenditure. In particular, expenditure on education has increased from 23.8 per cent in 1998 to 27.8 per cent in 2001; the

reform of the health system, with the introduction of charges for certain medical services, has helped reduce the load of this sector on the national budget - expenditure on health dropped from 9.53 per cent of the national budget in 1998 to 9.09 per cent in 2001. By ensuring that services are more specifically tailored to needs and raising the levels of subsidies and material assistance paid to genuinely needy families with children, it has been possible to reduce budgetary expenditure under this head (from 6.63 per cent to 6.11 per cent).

3. Large families and extended families, with three or four generations living under the same roof, are common in Uzbekistan. The State and society provide particular care for orphans and disabled children, and considerable efforts and expenditure are devoted to ensuring their normal emotional, mental, psychological and physical development.

Thanks to extensive efforts by the State to ensure the social welfare of the younger generation, conditions have been set in place in Uzbekistan to prevent the emergence and growth of the problem of abandoned children, who constitute the most abandoned and vulnerable population group in any society. A programme for the welfare of such children has been in operation in Uzbekistan for several years, including measures to identify such children and to provide them with government support by placing them in specialized centres for their upbringing and education (children's homes and boarding establishments) or through other, alternative forms of care and guardianship.

Although, by force of national customs and traditions, Uzbek families are highly unlikely to abandon their children and orphans are usually adopted by relatives, the period 1995-1999 still saw a 5.4 per cent rise in the number of children and adolescents who, for various reasons, were deprived of parental care. These changes are largely attributable to the difficulties of the reform period; that said, the situation of orphans and homeless children in Uzbekistan is radically better than that in other States undergoing similar reforms, and their numbers are not growing as fast.

Over the period 1995-1999, 32,800 children and adolescents deprived of parental care were identified in Uzbekistan, of whom almost 99.4 per cent have been housed in various State establishments providing education and upbringing or placed under guardianship or adoption arrangements.

Uzbekistan's State educational and children's establishments include 13 infant centres housing 700 children, 25 children's homes housing 3,300 children, and 4 boarding schools, providing accommodation and education for more than 1,000 children and adolescents. In accordance with their special function, these long-term residential establishments provide the

necessary care, meals, education and upbringing for the children whom they house. Given the traditional attitudes among the people of Uzbekistan and the strong system of close family ties which has developed over the ages, the State has been able to rely on the provision of care in the homes of relatives as its favoured solution to the problem of raising children and adolescents deprived of family care. The necessary legal framework is in place in Uzbekistan to support the raising of such children in other families as the preferred approach to this problem.

As a result, the number of children deprived of parental care and being raised in other families under a system of care or guardianship is increasing, in both absolute and relative terms. Over the period 1995-1996, the number of children in this category grew by 29.2 per cent and, as a proportion of the total number of children deprived of parental care, increased from 38.6 to 41.9 per cent.

Placement of children and adolescents deprived of parental care			
	1998	1999	2000
Number of children and adolescents deprived of parental care identified over the reporting year	6 443	6 820	6 309
Number of identified children and adolescents placed	6 443	6 820	6 309
Including:			
In infant homes, children's homes and boarding establishments for orphans and children deprived of parental care and in family-type children's homes	754	749	727
Under care or guardianship or in process of adoption	5 681	6 068	5 567
Attending vocational, technical colleges, specialized secondary and higher educational establishments and other educational establishments under full State support	8	3	15

Source of data: State Statistical Office.

Under Uzbekistan's pension law, orphans who are fully supported by the State (in children's homes and boarding establishments) are entitled to a State benefit equivalent to 100 per cent of the minimum wage and children who have lost one parent and are fully supported by the State are entitled to a benefit of 50 per cent of the minimum wage. The benefits are paid into a bank account in the child's name and are handed over to the children when they attain majority age.

4. The State system of continuous education in Uzbekistan comprises the following stages:
- Pre-school education for children aged from 3 to 6-7 years;
 - Compulsory schooling: four years primary; five years incomplete secondary and two years complete secondary education or three years vocational or academic education;
 - Specialized secondary education - a form of after-school education, gradually being phased out in favour of a system of three years compulsory vocational or academic education;
 - Higher education, comprising two stages: bachelor's degree and master's degree;
 - Postgraduate education - graduate studies and doctoral studies;
 - Various forms of retraining and further training of professionals who have completed their education in accordance with the general system.

There are more than 6,700 pre-school establishments in Uzbekistan, catering for the general education and fitness needs of children and also providing special care for children with physical and intellectual disabilities.

In Uzbekistan, primary and incomplete secondary education are compulsory and free of charge. Currently there are 9,700 day-time general education schools catering for 5,996,700 children. In this way, virtually the entire population between the ages of 7 and 15 is enrolled in grades 1-9 of the general education schools, and universal access is ensured both to primary and to incomplete secondary education, constituting the nine-year school system. There are 584 out-of-school educational establishments in Uzbekistan, providing supplementary education in special fields to 504,885 children.

Children's educational coverage (as percentage in respective age group)			
	1998	1999	2000
Children in pre-school establishments	16.1	16.2	18.2
Of whom, girls	15.5	15.9	16.7
Pupils completing fourth year of general education schooling	97.5	94.3	96.6
Of whom, girls	96.3	94.9	97.5
Pupils completing ninth year of general education schooling	89.5	94.5	99.6
Of whom, girls	92.5	98.1	99.8
Pupils completing eleventh year of day-time general education schooling*	51.2	55.1	56.0
Of whom, girls	50.8	53.5	55.0

Source of data: State Statistical Office.

* Remainder receive education under the national vocational training programme in specialized secondary vocational establishments (vocational, academic and technical colleges of various types).

In 2000, the number of persons receiving education at one or another level rose to 2,722 per 10,000.

According to census data, the literacy level among the adult population aged 15 and over was 93.9 per cent in 1989, 91.8 per cent for women and 96.4 per cent for men. At the current time, the overall literacy level for those aged 15 and over is 99.2 per cent.

5. The Disabled Persons (Social Welfare) Act, adopted in 1991, affirms the rights and interests of the disabled, including disabled children, and provides for their social protection.

Particular attention is given to such matters as the provision of pre-school and out-of-school educational care for disabled children, their vocational training and their access to general, secondary, specialized and higher education, in accordance with their individual rehabilitation programmes. Special pre-school establishments, including those of a residential nature, are being created for disabled children whose condition precludes their attendance at pre-school establishments of the normal type.

Uzbek legislation makes provision for the home-based upbringing and education of disabled children, in accordance with the wishes of their parents. For this purpose, one of the parents, or person in loco parentis, receives material support and benefits as prescribed by law. In this process, the relevant educational and child-raising establishments are obliged to render assistance to parents in providing home-based education for their disabled children. Disabled children housed in residential establishments receive continuous education and upbringing, specially adapted to their social and practical circumstances and to their employment prospects. In addition, the State guarantees disabled persons full access to education and vocational training.

Indicators on disabled children			
	1998	1999	2000
Number of disabled children up to the age of 16 registered with the social welfare authorities	123 732	147 643	143 836
Number of disabled children residing in residential homes	1 373	1 463	1 481
Number of disabled children attending schools and boarding schools of a general type (not counting pupils in schools and classes for children with special mental and physical needs)	563	1 105	879
Number of pupils in schools and classes for children with special mental and physical needs	19 154	20 620	20 853

Source of data: State Statistical Office.

The State's close attention to the implementation of its social policy is manifested in the development of a programme for the medical and social rehabilitation of disabled children over the period 2001-2005. The programme is designed to set in place the foundations for a comprehensive approach to the problems of disabled children and their parents, to establish the preconditions for ensuring equal opportunities for children with special needs and their integration into society. It is one of the country's first coordinated intersectoral programmes and includes the implementation of a range of measures designed to prevent disability in children and to set in place measures for their medical, social and vocational rehabilitation.

The programme's key areas and tasks are the following:

- Developing organizational and training measures and the legal and regulatory framework for the medical and social rehabilitation of disabled children;
- Enhancing the effectiveness of measures to prevent disability in children and to ensure the medical rehabilitation of disabled children;
- Improving the conditions for the physical, cultural and emotional development of disabled children, as means of involving them in active, fully-fledged social life;
- Providing disabled children with orthopaedic aids and prostheses and other necessary appliances, as well as effective means of transport, and ensuring their access to social and cultural amenities;
- Revamping the education and vocational guidance system in line with new educational standards, upgrading vocational training and providing job placement services for disabled children aged 16 and above with an aptitude for gainful employment;
- Improving the training and further training of specialists in the medical, educational, vocational and social rehabilitation of disabled children and improving the performance of scientific research into the medical and social rehabilitation of disabled children;
- Strengthening the material and technical infrastructure of rehabilitation establishments and improving the forms and methods of medical rehabilitation, so as to ensure the full restoration of the health of disabled children.

By implementing its planned measures, the programme will make it possible:

- To reduce the risk of the birth of children with genetic and hereditary disorders and developmental defects which lead to disability;
- To ensure the widest possible coverage of disabled children by the necessary medical and social rehabilitation services;
- To enhance the performance of medical and social rehabilitation services for disabled children and to reduce the disability levels among children by at least one half;

- To ensure that all needs of disabled children for modern prosthetic and orthopaedic devices are fully met;
- To set in place the necessary conditions and preconditions to ensure that disabled children have an equal opportunity to be integrated into society.

Alongside central budget funding, it is planned to fund the programme through an extensive campaign of fund-raising among sponsors, charitable foundations and non-governmental organizations.

6. One area of concentration of the State social welfare policy for the younger generation is the prevention of juvenile crime.

A special decision on enhancing the work of the minors' affairs commissions has been adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers, with a view to stepping up educational work among minors, preventing criminal behaviour and coordinating and further enhancing the work of State authorities, community-based organizations and the minors' affairs commissions, which are responsible for activities in this area.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan has adopted statutory instruments organizing the work of the minors' affairs inspectorates and of juvenile offenders' reception and placement centres in the country's internal affairs authorities.

Social rehabilitation centres have been set up in all provinces for persons released from places of detention, including minors.

Further training courses run by the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs have been organized for minors' affairs inspectors and the staff of children's reception and placement centres. More than 150 people are trained on these courses every year.

The various measures taken to combat criminal behaviour and to conduct preventive work among minors has led to a substantial reduction in juvenile crime in Uzbekistan over the last 10 years:

(a) In 1998, 2,943 minors were handed over to the internal affairs authorities for the commission of various crimes; in 1999 - 3,041 minors; in 2000 - 3,121 minors; and over the first six months of 2001 - 1,568 minors;

(b), (c) The following sanctions have been imposed on minors:

In 1998 - 2,114 (26 were fined, 86 sentenced to punitive deduction of earnings, 34 to rigorous short-term detention and 422 received conditional custodial sentences);

In 1999 - 2,025 (38 were fined, 70 sentenced to punitive deduction of earnings, 13 to short-term rigorous detention and 323 received conditional custodial sentences);

In 2000 - 2,166 (80 were fined, 112 sentenced to punitive deduction of earnings, 14 to rigorous short-term detention and 901 received conditional custodial sentences;

(d) Sanctions involving deprivation of liberty were as follows:

In 1998 - 1,194 (10 for periods of up to 1 year, 108 for 1-2 years, 236 for 2-3 years, 490 for 3-5 years, 315 for 5-10 years, 16 for 10-12 years and 19 for 12-15 years);

In 1999 - 860 (11 for periods of up to 1 year, 61 for 1-2 years, 141 for 2-3 years, 429 for 3-5 years, 192 for 5-10 years, 13 for 10-12 years, and 13 for 12-15 years);

In 2000 - 702 (4 for periods of up to 1 year, 88 for 1-2 years, 185 for 2-3 years, 198 for 3-5 years, 210 for 5-10 years, 8 for 10-12 years, and 9 for 12-15 years),

(e) No cases of recidivism have been attested.

B. General measures of implementation

1. In Uzbekistan issues relating to the development of a healthy younger generation and the upbringing, education and comprehensive and harmonious development of children are the responsibility of:

(a) Numerous bodies with one or another status: State, sectoral, area-based, non-governmental, community-based and others;

(b) Virtually all levels of the social hierarchy: at national level, at the level of wiloyats (regions), towns and villages, and at mahallya level (local community body).

(a) Main bodies in operation

The State structures (the ministries of health, education, higher education, culture, internal affairs, labour and social welfare, and the State committees for sport and other areas), working through their relevant regional subdivisions (provincial administrations, district and city departments) are responsible for organizing, coordinating and regulating the work of all the country's specialized organizations falling under their respective authority - the primary components in the system (children's health-care establishments, pre-school, sports and educational establishments, cultural centres, theatres, clubs, etc.) - to perform their prescribed tasks in safeguarding the interests and promoting the development of children.

Work is also being performed in this area by non-governmental and community-based organizations established in Uzbekistan, such as the Women's Committee, the Children's Foundation, the international foundations Soglom Avlod Uchun and Ekosan, the Mahallya,

Navruz and Mehr-Shavkat na Salomatlik foundations, the Mahnaviyat va Mahrifat centre, the Red Crescent Society, the Vatanparvar organization and others. Those active in the area of maternity and child welfare and health promotion for the younger generation include:

Women's Committee of Uzbekistan - this organization organizes and coordinates work to enhance the role and situation of women in the society, carrying out tasks relating to the social welfare of women and promoting the health of the younger generation; it conducts measures to strengthen families, to reduce the number of divorces and to combat criminality among women; it promotes the development of a healthy lifestyle; working together with establishments in the health-care sector, it endeavours to reduce mother and child mortality and is active in the area of women's reproductive health; it cooperates with community-based associations in endeavouring to improve the spiritual and moral environment in society, to publicize the exemplary lifestyle of model families, to boost the health of the younger generation, to promote healthy family values and conducts other activities. The Committee has eponymous subdivisions in all regions, towns and districts, as well as in enterprises, organizations and mahallayas;

Children's Foundation - this organization develops and conducts programmes relating to the upbringing of children, enhancing their educational level, promoting the elaboration and conduct of comparable programmes in different regions of the country; it draws the attention of civil society and of State and non-governmental bodies to problems relating to the upbringing of children and widely publicizes appropriate child-raising methods; it provides assistance in the form of food products and clothing to parents and other people raising children; it renders material support to children victims of natural disasters, to children's hospitals and sanatoriums, and to families fostering and adopting orphaned children; it conducts measures to identify talented and particularly gifted children; it analyses and publicizes international experience in tackling entrenched children's problems; it promotes international cooperation relating to the raising of children in a spirit of friendship and mutual cooperation, and conducts other activities.

In different regions of Uzbekistan the Children's Foundation works through its own subsidiary branches;

Soglom Avlod Uchun Foundation - this body coordinates efforts by civil society and State bodies to improve the gene pool of the future generation of Uzbekistan, to safeguard motherhood and childhood, to assist with the preparation and conduct throughout the country, in particular in areas suffering from environmental disturbances, of a range of scientific, technical, production, awareness-raising, preventive and other programmes to underpin radical measures to enhance

health care and the protection of motherhood and childhood; it supports the process of building up the material and technical infrastructure of maternity and children's establishments, publicizing and applying exemplary achievements to enhance the practical work of medical and educational establishments, fitting out these establishments with up-to-date equipment and providing them with new and effective types of medication; it promotes fund-raising efforts to expand the material infrastructure of maternity and children's establishments and to boost the production of specialized instruments and medication; and it fosters the development and strengthening of international cooperation to study aspects of maternity and child care, ways of enhancing the gene pool and conducts other activities;

Mahallya Foundation - this body supports the local administrative authorities known as mahallyas and the population that they serve in the following areas: raising the social, economic and cultural level, enriching national traditions and customs; comprehensively safeguarding the interests of low-income families, the aged, war veterans, the disabled, large families, and orphans living in their respective areas; promoting the vocational aptitude of young people and, to this end, opening small enterprises and joint ventures; fostering notions of humanism and charitable service towards low-income families, orphans, the disabled, lonely people and the aged; providing material support for low-income families and families with children under 16; working together with local social welfare authorities and other bodies to provide free medical and social assistance to needy citizens and performing other services. There are more than 9,600 mahallyas working in Uzbekistan, headed by council chairmen (aksakals). Aksakal councils have been set up in various districts, towns and regions. The chairmen of these bodies are ex officio chiefs of the local Mahallya Foundation divisions for their respective area.

Mahnaviyat va Mahrifat Centre - this body draws on the resources of ancestral traditions, the lessons of the past and an analysis of successful achievements during the years since the country's independence in conducting measures to instil a sense of national pride in all members of society, to foster a respect for elders in all families and to promote a healthy intellectual environment, to ensure the well-being of families by raising awareness among all family members of the importance of health for mothers and children as a precondition for the healthy future of society; it popularizes achievements in science and culture, and the experience of developed countries; it actively participates in efforts to promote inter-ethnic harmony and to foster mutual respect. It compiles and studies initiatives and progressive social ideas catalysed

by the growth of pluralism in public thought and conducts other activities. These and its other functions are performed by the Mahnaviyat va Mahrifat Centre through its regional, urban and district subdivisions.

The work of all the State bodies and non-governmental and community-based organizations is coordinated by the Family, Mother and Child Welfare Unit of the Cabinet of Ministers, which is headed by the Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan.

(b) In Uzbekistan, the task of upholding the rights and interests of children and monitoring the observance of those rights is the responsibility of the following authorities:

At the national level:

- (i) The supreme organs of State power and administration, represented by the President of the Republic, the Oliy Majlis and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- (ii) Within the Oliy Majlis, by the Oliy Majlis Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) and the Institute for Monitoring Current Legislation;
- (iii) Within the Cabinet of Ministers, by the Centre for the Social Welfare of the Family, Mother and Child Welfare Unit, the Commission for Minority Affairs and the Committee for Religious Affairs;
- (iv) The National Centre for Human Rights;
- (v) Ministries and departments, on matters falling within their areas of competence.

At the local level:

- (i) Secretariats for social protection, the family, and mother and child welfare under the provincial, district and urban hokimiyats (local authorities);
- (ii) Ministry and departmental bodies;
- (iii) Care and guardianship bodies in the local authorities, commissions for minority affairs and other bodies;
- (iv) The Procurator's Office;
- (v) Courts of general jurisdiction;
- (vi) Private non-profit-making organizations.

(c) In Uzbekistan, issues relating to the observance of the rights of children, including the consideration of complaints and the adoption of measures to resolve problems relating to children, are dealt with by all the bodies listed above in accordance with their areas of competence. In addition, the institution of the Ombudsman has been successfully established in Uzbekistan: the Ombudsman's duties are to ensure parliamentary monitoring of the effective application of the current legislation of Uzbekistan relating to human rights by all organizations and officials through a process of receiving and addressing complaints from citizens, promoting the enhancement of legislation on human rights, conducting educational and awareness-raising activities and developing international cooperation in the area of human rights. One of the Ombudsman's priorities is to safeguard the rights of the most socially vulnerable sectors of the population, primarily, children and young people. The Ombudsman regularly monitors compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the statutes of Uzbekistan relating to the interests of children in different regions of the country and, in the light of problems identified, provides recommendations to ministries, departments and local authorities with a view to resolving children's problems. The Ombudsman is responsible for receiving and addressing complaints of violation of children's rights and a telephone hotline has been set up in the Ombudsman's office, including for children.

(d) The task of collecting and analysing disaggregated data and defining the appropriate indicators in order to design policies and programmes affecting young people under 18 is the responsibility, in Uzbekistan, both of State bodies and of non-governmental and community-based organizations, whose work is coordinated by the Family, Mother and Child Welfare Unit under the Cabinet of Ministers.

(ii) The activities of State bodies, including local authorities, are funded from the central budget; non-governmental and voluntary organizations are funded by foreign and local donors and also receive State support for their activities.

(iii) No overlap or duplication has been observed in their functions.

(iv) The problem of the development of well-rounded personalities, and the raising of a spiritually fulfilled, morally upstanding, intellectually developed, highly educated and physically healthy generation is a top priority of the Government and focused activities to this end have been declared one of the primary tasks to be undertaken as part of efforts to transform all aspects of the lives of the people of Uzbekistan.

Women and children enjoy particular attention in Uzbekistan, exemplified by the declaration of the last four years, on the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan, as, successively: “Year of the Family”, “Year of Women”, “Year of the Healthy Generation”, “Year of the Mother and Child”. Every year, State programmes are elaborated and ratified to ensure all the necessary conditions for citizens to lead full, healthy and spiritually fulfilled lives. The State programmes for a healthy younger generation and for mother and child welfare include the conduct of measures to implement the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**Structure of the State programme for a healthy younger generation
for the period 2001-2005**

- I. Enhancing conditions for the raising of healthy families and the emergence of high moral standards among families;*
- II. Stepping up the attention given by the State, society and the families themselves to ensuring the health of newborn infants;*
- III. Improving conditions to strengthen the health, promote the education and ensure the harmonious upbringing of children;*
- IV. Boosting the social and economic status and the role of women in the family and in society;*
- V. Setting in place and developing a comprehensive educational and awareness-raising system for the public on issues of strong parenthood and parental responsibility and the health of the younger generation;*
- VI. Fostering among members of the public a psychology of responsible and strong parenthood and the raising of a healthy younger generation.*

**Structure of the State programme for mother and child well-being
for the period 2001-2005**

- I. Creating the necessary conditions to strengthen the health of pregnant women and to ensure the health of newborn infants, and to enhance the observation and nursing of mothers and children with the use of the latest medical equipment;*
- II. Ensuring that newborn infants are placed under constant medical monitoring from the moment of birth, with a view to protecting them from negative influences which might threaten their healthy development, and conducting regular inoculations against various diseases and carrying out other preventive measures;*
- III. Ensuring the proper physical and mental upbringing of children from infancy and the compliance by all families with recommendations of modern medicine, educational theory and psychology;*
- IV. Enhancing the role of parents and those responsible for raising children of pre-school age, based on traditions and customs passed on from our ancestors, in a spirit of respect for the national heritage and with the application of modern teaching methods, to ensure their broad familiarity with the wealth and variety of the surrounding world;*
- V. Fostering in children, particularly those in early years of schooling, alongside their educational subjects, a respectful attitude to national values and traditions, a broad-minded attitude to life and an interest in foreign languages and in universal human values;*
- VI. Boosting the role of the mother and the family in the raising of children, in their physical and mental development until the attainment of majority age, and ensuring the inseparable bond between mother and child in all these processes.*

2. The scale and the diversity of the related tasks and the complexity and unfamiliar nature of the work involved in ensuring that children develop a wide range of interests and in raising a healthy younger generation necessitate a pooling of efforts and potential and clearly coordinated and mutually supportive actions by all participants in this process.

On 20 November 2000, at the extended meeting of the coordinating committee set up to prepare Uzbekistan's national report on compliance with the Plan of Action and the recommendations of the World Summit for Children (1990), it was decided to form a partnership of State and non-governmental bodies and community-based organizations to promote cooperation for the benefit of the children of Uzbekistan.

The following main areas and tasks have been identified by the partnership for 2001 and following years:

- Ensuring implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in all regions of the country;
- Ensuring unconditional compliance with all measures under the State Soglom Avlod and the mother and child programmes and with other government decisions designed to protect the interests of children;
- The collection, collation and preparation of information and analytical material reflecting Uzbekistan's experience in safeguarding the interests of children and the strategy, priorities and mechanisms for tackling a wide range of problems related to the interests and development of children;
- Strengthening and expanding measures to tackle the following problems:
improving conditions for raising healthy families and boosting the intellectual and moral standards in families; further enhancing the role and status of the mother in society and ensuring favourable conditions for motherhood and childhood, particularly in large families in rural areas; stepping up the attention given to health-care measures for mothers and to the prenatal development and birth of healthy infants; enhancing the conditions, environment and prospects for the proper physical and mental upbringing of children from early infancy; strengthening the role of parents, educators and the mahallyas in ensuring that children are raised in accordance with the best traditions and customs, in a spirit of respect for national and international values; developing the potential of the younger generation to think for themselves and to participate in efforts to ensure that their country prospers;

- Exploring the advisability and possibility of publishing an annual compendium of data and analytical material reflecting work on raising a healthy younger generation in Uzbekistan;
- Studying, disseminating and distributing to grass-roots organizations the decisions of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on children, scheduled for September 2001;
- Formulating and launching the partnership's integrated plan of action, aimed at achieving new goals and pursuing a strategy for safeguarding the interests and development of children in the twenty-first century.

Interrelationships within the cooperative partnership for children

Family, Mother and Child Welfare Unit of the Cabinet of Ministers

State bodies	Non-governmental organizations	Community-based organizations
Provincial, city and district subunits	Provincial, city and district subunits	Provincial, city and district subunits
Primary links (institutions, organizations)	Primary links (institutions, organizations)	Primary links (institutions, organizations)
Educational and child-raising institutions	Family	Mahallya

3. (i) Over the last few years, work has been under way in Uzbekistan to provide information about the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to disseminate its provisions among members of the public. A monitoring and analysis board has been established in the office of the Ombudsman, which, working together with the women's committee, closely monitors the status of implementation of the Convention by State and voluntary organizations and by local authorities.

The monitoring and analysis board makes recommendations to State authorities and community-based organizations on ways of improving the practical application of the Convention's provisions and on steps to raise public awareness of the rights of the child.

A task force has been formed from among members of the Children's Foundation, the provincial hokimiyats and Uzbek lawyers, teachers and journalists, to popularize the Convention, by conducting meetings, courses and seminars on its provisions and principles.

Information about the Convention, the status of children in Uzbekistan and the country's national statutes is primarily disseminated through a process of lively discussion and debate. Meetings are organized in the hokimiyats, in residential areas and in schools, hospitals, children's sanatoriums and children's leisure centres.

Uzbek radio and television stations are broadcasting a series of programmes explaining the provisions of the Convention, with the participation of members of State and non-governmental organizations and also of children themselves.

Work is under way to prepare and publish an Uzbek translation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A children's pamphlet on the Convention has already been prepared and published, in Russian and Uzbek. An Uzbek-language handbook on children's rights has also been prepared and published.

(ii) In general education schools a course is taught on the foundations of the State and the law. Starting from the 2001/02 school year, a special course on the Constitution of Uzbekistan will be taught at all levels of continuous education.

On 29 August 1997, the Uzbek Parliament ratified a national programme to enhance legal literacy among the public-at-large, identifying the following priority areas of State policy on legal education:

- Enhancing the legal literacy and the social commitment of the public in the mutual relations between citizens, society and the State;
- Strengthening the role of local authorities, community-based associations and the mass media in fostering the legal literacy of the public;
- Providing the public with legal information and ensuring State support for the publication and dissemination of specialist and popular legal literature;
- Improving the techniques and methods of legal education and training;
- Developing a modern system of legal education, training and further specialist training;
- Encouraging research into the theoretical foundations of the popular sense of justice in the country, based on the application of national traditions and international experience.

Following the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, a special course on human rights was introduced in all schools, colleges and universities in 1997. To ensure the necessary conditions for the teaching of this course:

- Sections or faculties for the study of human rights and freedoms have been set up in all higher and secondary educational establishments in the country;
- In the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with the cooperation of the National Human Rights Centre, a department has been set up on the theory and practice of human rights;
- Six different educational courses have been prepared, including on such topics as international standards in human rights, human rights, and human rights and the work of the internal affairs authorities, which have been widely introduced and textbooks have been published on the human rights course for colleges and schools;
- Theoretical and practical seminars on the topic of teaching the human rights course during the transitional period have been conducted jointly by the Ministry of Higher and Special Education and the Ministry of Public Education, together with UNDP, for school and college teachers, with the participation of international experts.

Part II

The text of the Convention on Human Rights in the State language - Uzbek, as well as brochures and other handbooks, are being transmitted to the Human Rights Committee.

New bills:

1. Decision of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 30 April 1998 on ratification of the Family Code.
2. Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of 12 April 1999, ratifying the necessary legislative instruments for the implementation of the Family Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This decision ratifies the statute on care and guardianship and the statute on the adoption of minor children, the fostering of children and the placement of children in families and under protection.
3. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 10 June 1999, establishing the State Zulfiya prize.

4. Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of 30 December 2000, ratifying the procedure for the processing and issuing of identity documents to Uzbek citizens under the age of 16. This decision is designed to suppress attempts to abduct children illegally from the Republic of Uzbekistan.

New institutions:

1. Family, Mother and Child Welfare Secretariat, under the Cabinet of Ministers.
2. Committee for Youth Affairs of the Oliy Majlis.
3. Commission for Family and Women's Affairs of the Oliy Majlis.

Newly implemented policies:

By its decision of 25 May 2000, the Oliy Majlis set priorities for the law-making and monitoring work of its committees and commissions for the period 2000-2002 relating to children and young people.

These included, in particular:

Committee on the Budget and Banking and Financial Issues

On progress in implementing the national programme to enhance legal standards in civil society - second half of 2000;

On application of the laws to combat juvenile crime (together with the Commission for Youth Affairs) - second half of 2000;

Committee for International Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary Relations

On implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child - first half of 2002;

Committee for Social Affairs and Employment

On application of the Population Employment Act (together with the Commission on Family and Women's Affairs) - first half of 2000;

Based on the provisions of article 17 of the Family Code (on medical examinations for intending spouses) in situ verification of compliance with the State programme to ensure the health of the younger generation - first half of 2000;

On compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (together with the Committee for Youth Affairs) - second half of 2002;

Committee for Science, Education, Culture and Sport

On progress in implementing the national specialist training programme (together with the Committee for Youth Affairs);

On application of the Education Act (together with the Committee for Youth Affairs) - first half of 2002;

Committee for Defence and Security Matters

On officer training in military staff colleges (together with the Committee for Youth Affairs) - first half of 2000;

On organizing work to enhance the intellectual and moral development of young people entering military service (together with the Committee for Youth Affairs) - second half of 2000;

Committee for Youth Affairs

On officer training in military staff colleges (together with the Committee for Defence and Security Matters) - first half of 2000;

On progress in implementing the national specialist training programme (together with the Committee for Science, Education, Culture and Sport) - first half of 2000;

On organizing work to enhance the intellectual and moral development of young people entering military service (together with the Committee for Defence and Security Matters) - second half of 2000;

On application of the laws to combat juvenile crime (together with the Committee for Legislation and Judicial and Legal Affairs) - second half of 2000;

On implementation of the national specialist training programme for secondary and vocational education (together with the Committee for Science, Education, Culture and Sport) - first half of 2002;

On application of the State Youth Policy (Foundations) Act - second half of 2001;

On application of the Education Act (together with the Committee for Science, Education, Culture and Sport) - first half of 2001;

On compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (together with the Committee for Social Affairs and Employment) - second half of 2002;

Commission for Family and Women's Affairs

On application of the Citizens Health Care Act (work of maternity hospitals, the constant supervision of pregnant women and their newborn children) (together with the Committee for Social Affairs and Employment) - first half of 2001;

Studying the influence of environmental factors on the development of children and the question of preventive measures;

Studying application of the provisions of the Family Code relating to the work of the care and guardianship authorities - second half of 2001;

Studying the issue of iodine deficiency and its effect on the younger generation.

The Cabinet of Ministers holds quarterly meetings of its relevant units to discuss implementation of the State programmes to safeguard the interests of children. These discussions are held in the relevant ministries, departments and local authorities.

Work relating to the discussion, collection and analysis of information and the preparation of State programmes is carried out with the direct participation of local non-governmental and international organizations.

Newly implemented programmes

1. Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of 3 September 1999 on additional measures to support large and low-income families in the construction of their own homes.
2. Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of 24 June 1999 on measures to establish and develop a network of private children's pre-school establishments.
3. Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of 4 May 1999 on additional measures to encourage the manufacture of children's goods and women's sanitary products.
4. Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of 15 February 2000 on the State programme to promote a healthy younger generation.
5. Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of 4 March 2000 on measures to support the work of the international non-governmental charitable foundation Soglom Avlod Uchun.
6. Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of 18 May 2000 on organizational measures to implement the Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

7. Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of 21 September 2000 on enhancing the work of the minors' affairs commissions.
8. Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of 29 November 2000 on additional measures to develop the material and technical infrastructure of vocational colleges.
9. Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of 5 February 2001 on the State programme on mother and child welfare.
10. Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of 23 May 2001 on measures to organize programmes for the development of computer technology for the period 2001-2005, to ensure wide access to the international Internet information system, with particular attention to the wide-scale introduction of the latest computer technology as part of the teaching process in general education schools, colleges and specialized schools and in institutions of higher education.
11. Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of 30 May 2001 on the provision of assistance for the work of the Uzbek youth movement Kamolot.
