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COUNTRY UNDER REVIEW: Ecuador
Statement by Turkey

Thank you Madame President,

We would like to thank the delegation of Ecuador for their comprehensive and informative National Report.

We appreciate the economic achievements in Ecuador going hand in hand with social, inclusive and redistributive policies that significantly improved the daily lives of people. Particularly the application of the concept of "good living" generates a solid base for the nourishment of human rights.

Turkey also welcomes the constitutional provision to allocate at least 6 percent of the gross domestic product to health and education services as well as the increase in public social investment.

We recognize that Ecuador hosts the largest number of refugees in Latin America. As of March 2012, 56.000 refugees have been recorded. In 2008 Ecuador adopted a comprehensive refugee policy. The Enhanced Registration Project provided refugee status to nearly 28.000 refugees. We praise the sincere efforts of the Government of Ecuador in this particular field.

We are pleased to note that, 2008 Constitution upheld children's rights and the principle of their best interest, protecting them against all forms labor and economic exploitation and prohibiting children of less than 15 years of age from working.

The constitution also introduced a specialized system of justice for children that established that deprivation of liberty as exceptional and children would be detained separately from adults.

We gladly observe the efforts of Ecuador to eradicate child labor in coordination with series of institutions as well as number of NGOs.

In this particular field, Turkey recommends setting the minimum age for contracting marriage at 18 years for girls and boys.

The steps of the Government to alleviate violence against women by establishing courts specialized in women's issues and family violence merits particular attention.

We recognize the efforts of Ecuador to promote women's political participation within the executive branch, as the principle of parity is constitutionally pursued.

The Constitution also provides special attention for persons with disabilities. We attach importance to the provisions reserving jobs for persons with disabilities and Ecuador's decision to increase its budget for social services.

I thank you Madame President.