Speech of the Head of the Social Department of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
Ms. Djoldosheva N.K. at the forum: “Current status of children with disabilities and the planned steps for the realization of their rights”.

Dear forum participants!
Dear ladies and gentlemen!

An outline/thesis

First of all, let me welcome you on behalf of the Government and a delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic, and express my sincere gratitude to the organizers of the forum, and wish you a fruitful work.

I have an important mission - to participate at the Fourth Central Asian Child Protection Forum.

I am confident that the Forum will facilitate constructive exchange of views and experiences on a range of issues that will ultimately determine the priority areas for the implementation of quality policy and legislation related to the rights of children with disabilities.

In all nations and at all times children evoke the most tender feelings. Children are a symbol of our future as they continue our deeds. And they need our protection, especially children with disabilities.

Our country is undertaking a lot of activities to protect children. I should note that we have carried out enormous work to improve the legal framework for the protection of children, which abide by the international law standards. We ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994.

To create a sustainable child protection system, we adopted a new version of the Children’s Code in 2012, which reinforced the mechanisms of gate-keeping, and triggered immediate effect. Thus, the number of children placed in residential institutions since the enactment of the Children’s Code has decreased by 43%.

Realizing that people with disabilities require special protection needs, the Kyrgyz Republic approved and then signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011.

The Government has also adopted a strategy for the development of social protection system of the population of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2012-2014, which contains provisions on the “Social protection of persons with disabilities” and “Social protection of children and families in difficult situations”.

We can list numerous successful legislative initiatives, but I would like to give examples of their practical implementation.
One such example is the work on the prevention of disability. Prevention is the most effective method and it provides greater economic and moral effects rather than working with the consequences.

The prevention of birth defects and other diseases is carried out by providing pregnant women with anti anemia drugs and folic acid, providing delivery rooms with diagnostic equipment, and introduction of modern perinatal technologies (in the framework of the WHO “Safe Motherhood”).

In these regards, fortification of flour and salt iodization is being carried out; its effectiveness was proved at the global level in reducing the incidence of congenital neural tube defects in the fetus due to folic acid deficiency and mental retardation in children and adults due to iodine deficiency.

Perinatal screening of pregnant women is implemented for early detection of defects in all health care organizations. Up to 64% of maternity institutions are covered by the WHO / UNICEF pre-natal care. More than 25 items of new perinatal technologies to produce a healthy offspring and the health of the mother were introduced under this program.

Phased expansion of effective perinatal technologies in previously unreached areas of the country is under way. The program “Improving the quality of care in children’s hospitals with limited resources” is currently being implemented. The program is based on the recommendations of the WHO. The successful implementation of this program will significantly improve the results of treatment of the most common diseases of childhood. Therefore, it will help reduce mortality and iatrogenic disability.

The program “fortification of home food for children aged 6-24 months by means of vitamin and mineral supplements “Gulazyk” is equally being implemented. Under this program, all the children of this age, including those with disabilities receive a free vitamin and mineral supplement called “Gulazyk”, which significantly reduces the prevalence of anemia and other micronutrient deficiencies.

Comprehensive work is being carried out on the prevention of child abandonment (including children with disabilities) through the “hotline” in hospitals and all 3 orphanages. There is a day care department in all orphanages. The number of children in permanent establishments is gradually decreasing with a proportionate increase of children in day care departments. In the specialized children’s homes, this department provides free rehabilitation services to children with disabilities from the community.

Despite the current budget deficit, the amount of social benefits for children with disabilities has increased twice since 2010. Prosthetic and orthopedic products, wheelchairs, and rehabilitation services have been provided.

Social services are available in three neuropsychiatric centers that house 391 children with disabilities. All these institutions are included in the “Optimization Plan for the management and financing of residential institutions” for the purpose of the re-integration of children with disabilities in the family and social services at the places of their residence.
To ensure that children with disabilities have access to education, the educational development strategy in the Kyrgyz Republic until 2020 has given the top priority to inclusive education. Within the first three-year implementation plan, the standards of equipping inclusive and special schools with teaching materials, handout material and other equipment will be developed.

The new requirements will be developed and approved for the design estimates for the construction of buildings for all levels of education taking into account needs of children with disabilities. In the area of inclusive education, at present, 10,925 children with disabilities are included in the educational process, which makes up 46.4% from the total amount of children with disabilities. In 673 secondary schools, over 4,050 children are covered by inclusive education.

Dear forum participants!

Talking about our future plans, I would like to note the following tracks in our activities.

Activities have been initiated on the prevention of disability that will continue through the introduction of newborn screening for congenital malformations, creating supervisory system for congenital malformations and development of medical genetic services.

The development and implementation of a multi-sectoral program for the protection of child and adolescent health is under way. In 2014, multi indicative cluster survey will be conducted to evaluate health of children and women. The results of this study will allow making the necessary adjustments to our plans in the sphere of health protection.

Monthly social benefits for children with disabilities will be increased, and to the possible extent, we will strive to bring it to a living wage. We are also planning to develop minimum social standards of social services for day-care centers that provide services to children with disabilities; rehabilitation and habilitation programs for children with disabilities with participation of their families.

According to various studies, the main reason for leaving children with disabilities in the residential institutions is a difficult financial situation of families.

Based on the Strategy for the Development of Social Protection for 2012-2014 to provide compensation for domestic labor in accordance with the capabilities of the budget, we are considering various options to ensure payment to parents caring for children with disabilities.

By 2014, all residential institutions for children with disabilities will be transformed under the Optimization Plan. The main goal of transformation is to increase the number of alternative services for children with disabilities in their places of residence. Currently, we are initiating a pilot project to identify, provide social support to children and families in difficult situations, including CWD.
An important area of work is to improve the conditions of access and return of children to schools (including CWD), and expanding the network of evening classes for children who have breaks in training and learning difficulties, and providing an adaptation environment for CWD.

In order to identify and provide counseling to families with children with disabilities on issues of education and training, it is planned to expand the network of psychological, medical, and educational guidance.

Finally, there is an important addition to our plans: in line with the Development strategy of social protection, we are developing a set of measures for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In conclusion, I would like to wish all of us a constructive and fruitful work!

Thank you!