**1.** Turkey has been party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) since 1985, as well as to its Optional Protocol since 2002.

Article 9 of the CEDAW regarding “Nationality” reads as follows:

*“1. States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality. They shall ensure in particular that neither marriage to an alien nor change of nationality by the husband during marriage shall automatically change the nationality of the wife, render her stateless or force upon her the nationality of the husband.*

 *2. States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children.”*

It should be noted that Article 90/3 of the Turkish Constitution in 2004 ensures that the provisions of the international agreements in the area of fundamental rights and freedoms are superior in case of a conflict with national law.

In Turkey, equal regulations have been made applicable for women and men in terms of acquisition of Turkish citizenship.

With an amendment made in 2001 in Article 66 of the Turkish Constitution, it is possible for a child to acquire Turkish citizenship if either of his/her parents is Turkish.

Article 66 entitled “Turkish Citizenship” reads as follows:

*“The child of a Turkish father or a Turkish mother is a Turk.”*

The Turkish Citizenship Law (No. 5901), adopted in 29.05.2009, defines the procedures of acquiring, changing and loosing nationality for women and men.

Article 16 of the Law No. 5901 entitled “Acquisition of Turkish Citizenship by marriage” reads as follows:

*“(1) Turkish citizenship is not acquired automatically upon marriage to a Turkish Citizen. However, aliens who have been married to a Turkish citizen at least for three years and who are still married, can apply to acquire Turkish citizenship. Applicant married to a Turkish citizen is required to fulfill the following conditions. The applicant:*

*a) shall live in family unity;*

*b) shall avoid acts not compatible with the marriage unity;*

*c) shall not pose a threat on national security and public order.*

*(2) In case the spouse who is a Turkish citizen dies after the application is lodged, then*

*the applicant is not required to fulfill clause (a) of the first paragraph.*

*(3) In decision of annulment of marriage, aliens who acquired Turkish citizenship with marriage can preserve their Turkish citizenship, if two sides have entered the marriage contract in good faith.”*

**2.** No differences exist between the mother and father who have been granted Turkish citizenship in terms of their children’s acquiring citizenship.

The consequences for children of acquiring Turkish citizenship through naturalization are stated below:

a) The children of parents who have simultaneously acquired Turkish citizenship are granted Turkish citizenship depending on their parents.

b) In the event that any parent acquires Turkish citizenship, their children are granted Turkish citizenship depending on the parent, provided that the non-Turkish spouse consents.

c) A child who was under the guardianship of a parent at the time when that parent has acquired citizenship shall also be granted Turkish citizenship depending on the parent, provided that the non-Turkish spouse consents.

d) In case there is no consent, the judge serving in the country where the mother or father regularly resides shall decide on the procedure to be applied.

e) In case one parent had died, the child shall be granted Turkish citizenship depending on the parent who has acquired Turkish citizenship.

f) Children who were born out of wedlock by a mother who has acquired Turkish citizenship shall also be granted Turkish citizenship depending on the mother.

**3.** No discrimination exists against women in respect of the wording or application of the Turkish Citizenship Law. Turkish Citizenship Law contains provisions to prevent statelessness, regardless of women, men and children. For instance, a child born in Turkey, but acquiring no citizenship from his/her alien mother or alien father acquires Turkish citizenship by birth (Art. 8 of Law No.5901).