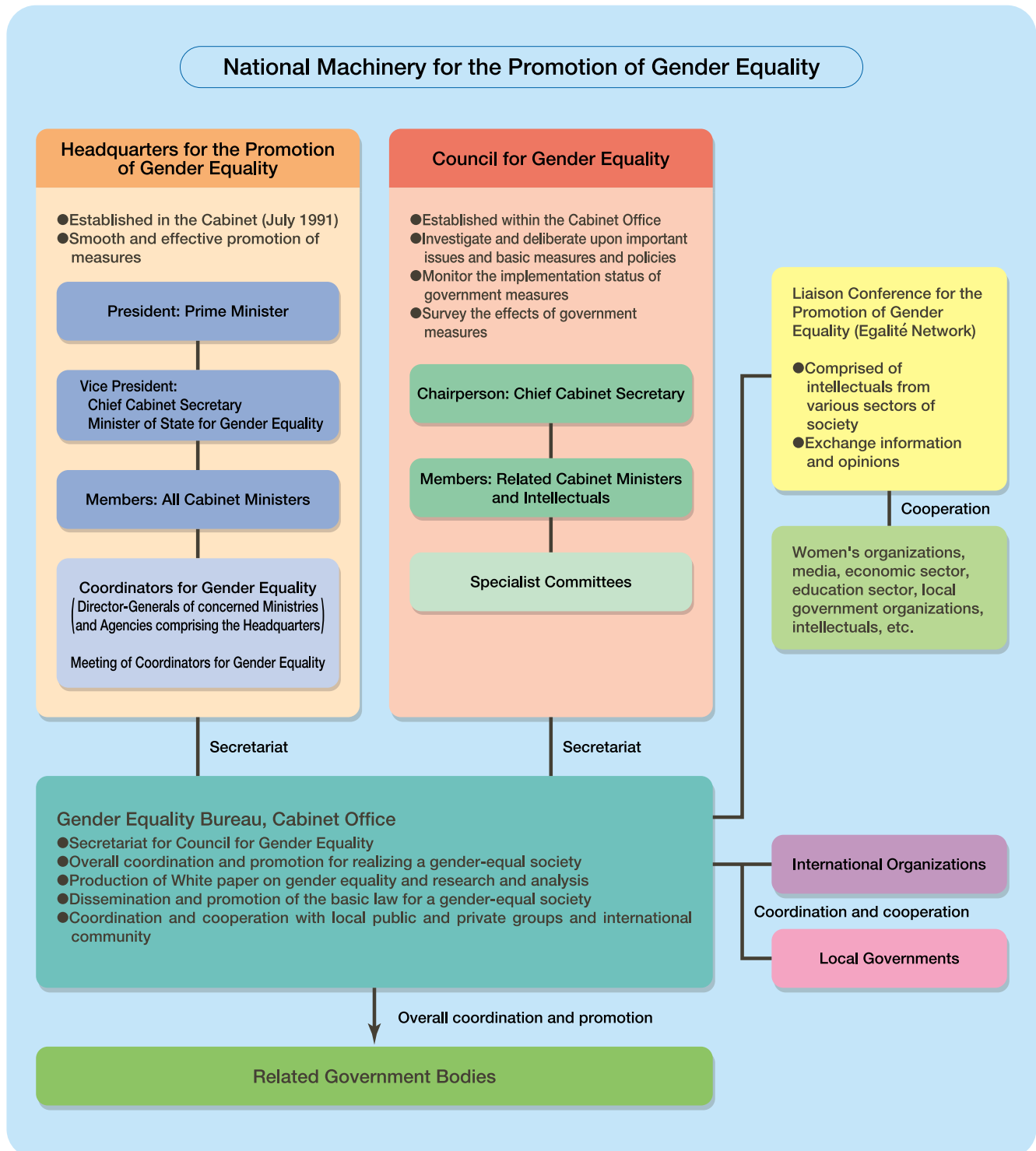


III National Machinery

推進体制

1. National Machinery for the Promotion of the Formation of a Gender-equal Society

In January 2001, at the time of the reorganization of central government in Japan, the national machinery for the promotion of gender equality in Japan was enhanced and strengthened, thanks to the establishment of the Council for Gender Equality and the Gender Equality Bureau.



Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality

The Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality (hereinafter referred to as “Headquarters”) was established as the body to facilitate smooth and effective promotion of measures regarding the formation of a gender-equal society. The prime minister chairs the proceedings of the Headquarters, and the chief cabinet secretary and the minister of state responsible for gender equality serve as deputies for the prime minister. The Headquarters comprises all Cabinet ministers, and high level government officials such as director-generals from the ministries and agencies concerned are appointed by the prime minister to act as coordinators for gender equality. The coordinators for gender equality from each ministry or agency hold regular meetings as a means of enhancing inter-ministerial cooperation.

Council for Gender Equality

The Council for Gender Equality serves three major purposes. Firstly, it is required to submit its opinions with regard to the Basic Plan for Gender Equality to the prime minister.

Secondly, and supplementary to requirements of the first task, the Council is required to study and deliberate upon basic policies and measures and important matters with regard to promotion of the formation of a gender-equal society in response to consultations with the prime minister or other Cabinet ministers. The results of study and deliberation are then submitted to the Cabinet ministers or the prime minister for their consideration.

The third purpose of the Council is to monitor the implementation status of government measures for a gender-equal society and study the impact of government measures on the formation of a gender-equal society. Results and opinions are submitted to the prime minister and other Cabinet ministers.

Gender Equality Bureau

The Gender Equality Bureau of the Cabinet Office serves as the secretariat for the Headquarters and the Council for Gender Equality. It is responsible for overall planning and coordination of various matters related to the promotion of the formation of a gender-equal society.

Moreover, the Bureau compiles the government white paper entitled Annual Report on the State of Formation of a Gender-equal Society. The planning and implementation of study and research is also the responsibility of the Bureau, as are publicity activities and awareness raising efforts among the public. In publicity and awareness-raising efforts the Bureau cooperates with local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international organizations.

Liaison Conference for the Promotion of Gender Equality (Egalité Network)

In the French language *Egalité* means “equality” and it is this word that has been borrowed from the original French to be used in the title of the *Egalité* Network, the commonly used term for the Liaison Conference for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

The *Egalité* Network was established on September 3, 1996 to promote national activities among all sectors and levels of society on information and opinion exchange about gender equality. The Network holds general assemblies twice a year, in addition to which smaller scale meetings are held on a flexible basis in order to promote information and opinion exchange at the broadest and most fundamental level. Through such activities, *Egalité* Network actively promotes approaches towards the realization of a gender-equal society, including providing information on the government's policies as well as on international trends.

The Cabinet Office's Four Councils of Important Policies

To better fulfill its mission as the Cabinet and Prime Minister's brain trust, the Cabinet Office has four councils overseeing key policy fields, each headed by the Prime Minister or the Chief Cabinet Secretary and composed of relevant Ministers and distinguished experts.

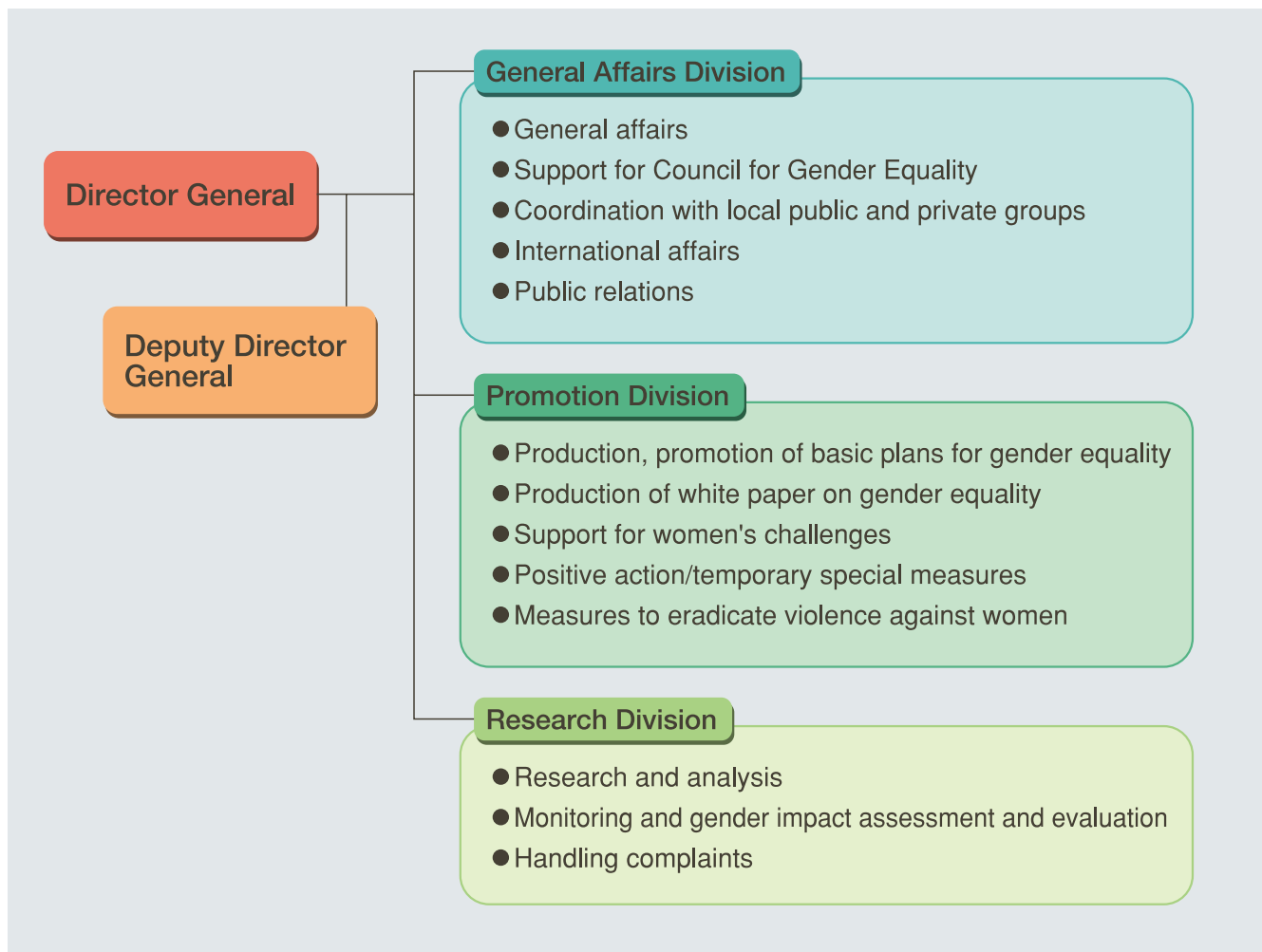
Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy

Council for Science and Technology Policy

Central Disaster Management Council

Council for Gender Equality

Organization Chart of Gender Equality Bureau at the Cabinet Office



2. Council for Gender Equality and Specialist Committees

Specialist Committee on Basic Issues

Studies and deliberates basic perceptions of gender equality and individual, priority issues of great concern to people and closely related to the basic perceptions (from May 2001)

REPORTS

"Interim Report on Deliberation on a System that Gives a Married Couple an Option to Retain Separate Surnames" (October 2001)

"Measures to Support Women's Challenges" (April 2003)

Specialist Committee on Violence against Women

Studies and deliberates on measures for the future while considering each of the fields, violence from husbands or partners, sexual crimes, prostitution, sexual harassment, and stalking behavior (from April 2001)

REPORTS

"Towards Smooth Enforcement of the Law for the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims" (October 2001, April 2002)

"Reports on How the Law for the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims is enforced and so forth" (June 2003)

"Tasks to be tackled on Violence against Women and Measures to it" (March 2004)

Council for Gender Equality

Chairperson: Chief Cabinet Secretary
Council members: 12 cabinet ministers designated by the Prime Minister, and 12 intellectuals appointed by the Prime Minister.

Specialist Committee on Monitoring and Gender Impact Assessment and Evaluation

Studies and deliberates whether the Basic Plan for Gender Equality is being steadily implemented in each ministry and agency, as well as on government measures and other matters affecting the formation of a gender-equal society, in order to reflect the viewpoints of gender equality to every social system (from July 2004).

Specialist Committee on the Declining Birthrate and Gender Equality (till Dec. 2006*)

Studies and deliberates on the relation between the declining birthrate and gender equality, through analyzing statistical data, etc. (from July 2004).

REPORTS

"International Comparison of the Social Environments regarding Declining Birthrates and Gender-Equality" (September 2005)

"Domestic Analysis of the Social Environment regarding the Declining Birthrates and Gender-Equality" (September 2006)

* To be reorganized as a specialist committee to deliberate measures to promote work-life balance.

The Council for Gender Equality is chaired by the chief cabinet secretary and comprises 12 cabinet ministers and 12 intellectuals respectively designated and appointed by the prime minister.

As of the end of 2006, the members appointed from intellectual circles include representatives from academia, persons from business circles, governor-level public officials, representatives from labor unions, lawyers, members of the mass media and representatives from women's organizations. It is a stipulation concerning the composition of the Council that it should not be skewed overtly in favor of men or women (the ratio should not become greater than 60:40 in favor of either men or women) (Article 25.3 of the Basic Law for a Gender-equal Society).

To execute its mandated duties, the Council currently delegates work to four specialist committees listed above. The Specialist Committee on Support Measures for the Balancing of Work and Child Raising, the Specialist Committee on Monitoring and Handling Complaints, the Specialist Committee on Gender Impact Assessment and Evaluation, the Specialist Committee on the Basic Plan for Gender Equality, and the Specialist Committee on the Declining Birthrate and Gender Equality were previously established, and have already completed their missions.