# 2. The Basic Law for a Gender-equal Society (Promulgated and Enacted on 23 June, 1999)

The Basic Law lays out the five (5) pillars (basic principles) relating to the formation of a gender-equal society. It also clarifies the roles of the public administration (the state and local governments) and citizens, i.e., the responsibilities and basic policies.

### Basic Principles: Five (5) Pillars in Regard to the Creation of a Gender-equal Society

International cooperation

In consideration of the close relationship between the internal promotion of the gender-equal society and efforts by the international community, formation of gender-equal society shall be promoted based on international cooperation.

Respect for the human rights of women and men

Formation of a gender-equal society shall be promoted based on respect for the human rights of women and men.

Consideration of society systems or practices

Care should be taken so that social systems and practices have as natural an impact as possible on selecting social activities.

Compatibility of activities in family life and other activities

Formation of the gender-equal society shall be promoted so that women and men can perform their roles smoothly as household members in home-related activities.

Joint participation in planning and deciding policies, etc.

Formation of a gender-equal society shall be promoted based on securing opportunities for women and men to participate jointly as equal partners in the society in planning and deciding policies of the States or local governments, or policies of private bodies.

## Roles of the State, Local Governments and Citizens

#### Responsibilities of the state

- formulation of the Basic Plan for Gender Equality pursuant to the basic principles
- comprehensive formulation and implementation of policies related to promoting the formation of a gender-equal society, including Positive Action/Temporary Special Measures

#### Responsibilities of local governments

- implementation of policies related to promoting the formation of a gender-equal society pursuant to the basic principles
- implementation of other policies in accordance with the nature of the areas of local governments

### Responsibilities of citizens

- expected to contribute to the formation of a gender-equal society