2. The Basic Act for Gender Equal Society (Promulgated and Enacted on 23 June, 1999)

The Basic Act lays out the five pillars (basic principles) relating to the formation of a gender-equal society. It also clarifies the roles of the public administration (the national and local governments) and citizens, that is, the responsibilities and basic policies.

### Basic Principles: Five (5) Pillars in regard to the Formation of a Gender Equal Society

- **Respect for the human rights of women and men**
  - It is necessary to ensure a society in which everyone respects the dignity of women and men as individuals, where there is no gender-based discriminatory treatment, and where women and men can demonstrate their abilities as individuals.

- **International cooperation**
  - Mutual cooperation with other countries and international organizations is required.

- **Consideration of society systems or practices**
  - It is necessary to examine social systems and practices so that women and men can engage in various activities.

- **Compatibility of activities in family life and other activities**
  - It is necessary to ensure that people can fulfill their family roles while also working, learning and participating in community activities.

- **Joint participation in planning and deciding policies, etc.**
  - It is necessary to ensure opportunities for participation in deciding policies in all fields.

### Roles of the State, Local Governments and Citizens

#### Responsibilities of the National Government

- 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