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4 November 2011

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honour to refer to the examination of the sixth periodic report of Japan at the Committee's forty-fourth session, held in July 2009. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/6/Add.1). You may recall that in paragraph 59 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested Japan to provide, within two years, further information regarding the specific areas of concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 18 and 28 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the information submitted by Japan on 5 August 2011 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure (CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/6/Add.1). At its fiftieth session, held in October 2011 in Geneva, the Committee examined the information provided by Japan and adopted the following assessment.

The Committee **welcomes the implementation** of the recommendation made in **paragraph 28**, and further recommends that the State party include **in its next periodic report** detailed information on the outcome of the Third Basic Plan for Gender Equality. The Committee also recommends that, in light of this outcome, the State party indicate the additional measures taken to reach gender equality.

.../...

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The Committee considered that the recommendation made in **paragraph 18** concerning discriminatory provisions in the Civil Code and in the Family Registration Law **had been partially implemented**: while the draft law, which amends parts of the Civil Law and the Family Registration Act (tentative name), includes setting the same minimum age for marriage for both men and women, introducing a system to allow the retention of separate family names for spouses and equalizing shares in succession between a child born in wedlock and a child born out of wedlock, it does not provide for the abolition of the six-month waiting period required for women before remarriage and has not yet been adopted by the Cabinet.

Therefore, the Committee recommends that the State party provide, **within one year**, additional information on:

a) Actions taken with respect to the adoption of the draft law amending the Civil Code, which sets the minimum age for marriage at 18 for both women and men; allows for the choice of surnames for married couples in line with article 16 (g) of the Convention; and equalizes shares in succession between a child born in wedlock and a child born out of wedlock; and

b) Actions taken with respect to the preparation and adoption of legal provisions abolishing the six-month waiting period required for women but not men before remarriage.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Japan on the implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Dubravka Šimonović  
Rapporteur on follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women