

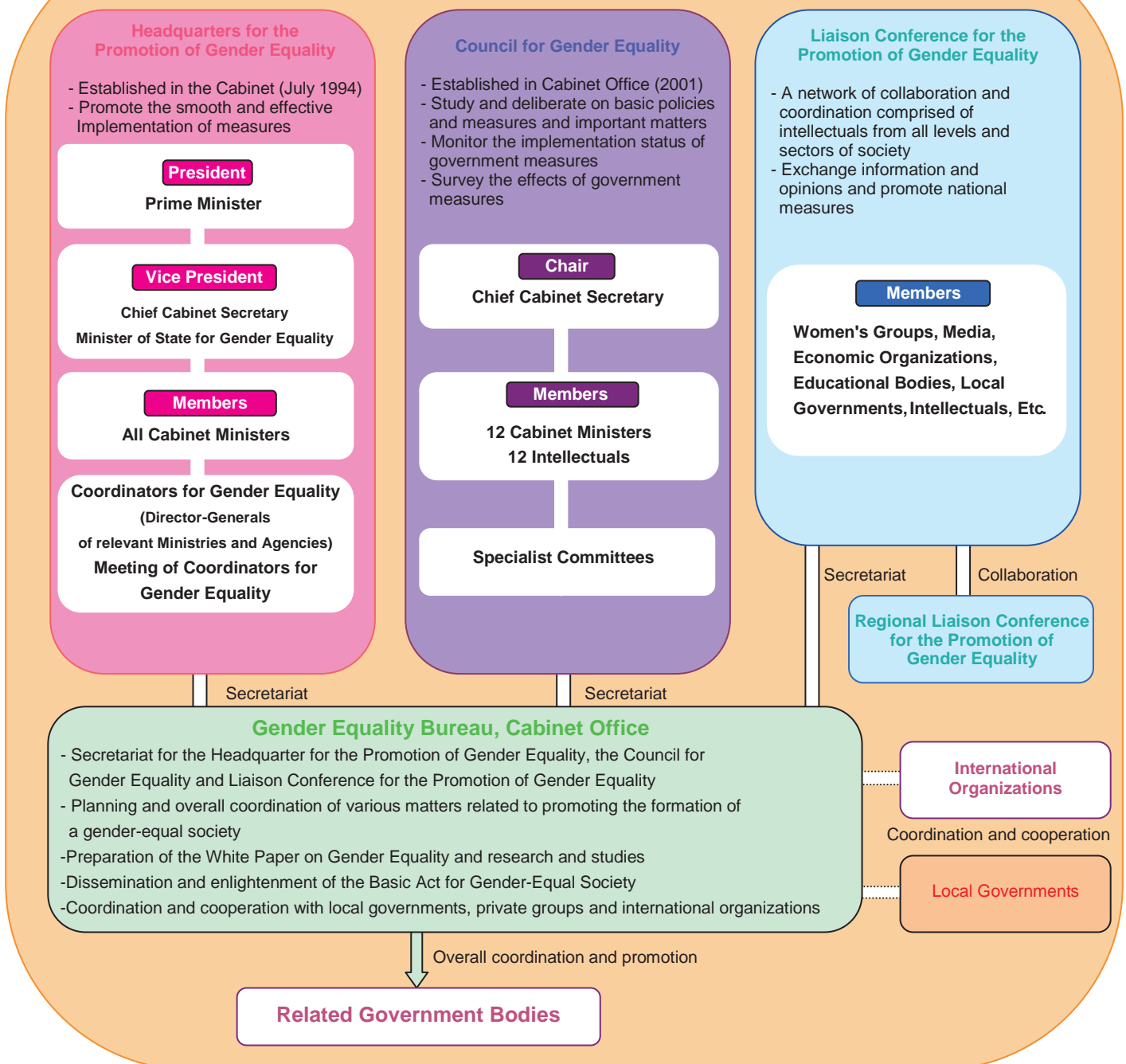
II Measures for Gender Equality

1. Framework for Promotion of Gender Equality

■ National Machinery for the Promotion of the Formation of a Gender-Equal Society

As part of the reform of the Central Government implemented in January 2001, the Council for Gender Equality and the Gender Equality Bureau were established, whereby the national machinery for the promotion of gender equality in Japan has been significantly strengthened.

Structure for the Promotion of the Formation of a Gender-Equal Society



Council for Gender Equality and Specialist Committees

Specialist Committee on Basic Issues and Gender Impact Assessment and Evaluation

[Purpose]

To conduct research and examination on basic philosophies, measures that should be taken from the perspective of gender equality, and the effects, etc. of relevant measures on formation of a gender-equal society, in the context of important tasks for promoting gender equality.

[Reports]

"Report on Basic Issues and Gender Impact Assessment and Evaluation" (February 2012)

- Formulation of the economic society in which women can be active
- Measures for Promotion of Positive Action in Political Fields, Administrative Fields, Employment Fields, Science and Technology Fields, and Academic Fields

"Report on Basic Issues and Gender Impact Assessment and Evaluation" (December 2012)

- Measures for Promotion of Positive Action in Administrative Fields, Employment Fields, Subsidy Fields, and Public Procurement Fields

Specialist Committee on Violence against Women

[Purpose]

To conduct research and examination on what kind of measures to take to prevent violence and support victims, while keeping in mind the various fields of spousal violence, sexual crimes, prostitution, trafficking in persons, sexual harassment, and stalker actions.

[Reports]

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

"Basic Concept of Measures for Violence against Women" (July 2005)

"Execution Status of the Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims" (March 2007)

"Tasks and Measures to Eliminate Violence against Women"

- Promoting measures against sexual offences-(July 2012)

Council for Gender Equality

Chair Chief Cabinet Secretary

Members 12 cabinet ministers (designated by the Prime Minister)

Specialist Committee on Monitoring

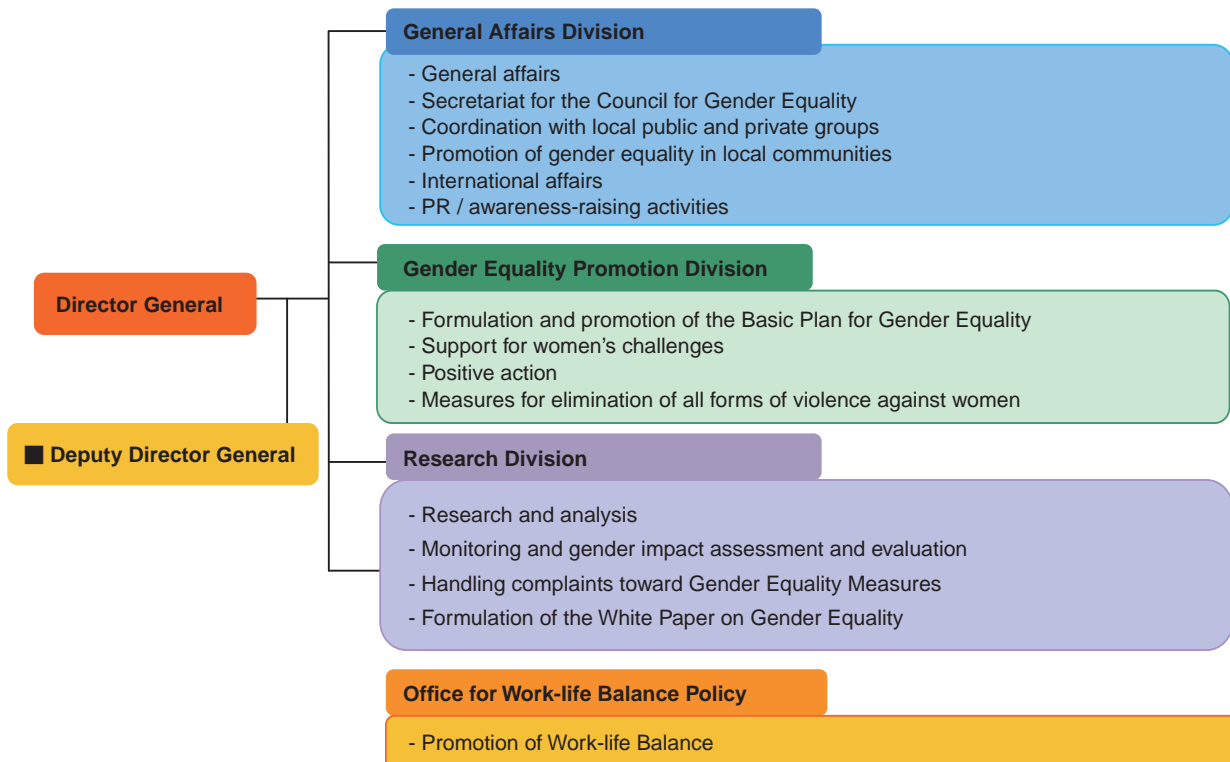
[Purpose]

To monitor the state of implementation of measures included in the Third Basic Plan for Gender Equality, and encourage strengthening of efforts.

[Opinions]

- Opinions on the state of implementation of the Third Basic Plan for Gender Equality
 - Related to "rebuilding employment and safety nets" and "realizing social systems that allow more diverse lifestyles" (July 2012)
 - Related to "promotion of gender equality in disaster prevention and reconstruction" (December 2012)
- Status of response to the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and points to consider when preparing seventh and eight (next) periodic report to the committee (November, 2013)

Structure of the Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office



Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality

The Headquarter for the Promotion of Gender Equality (hereinafter referred to as “Headquarter”) 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 Headquarter, and the chief cabinet secretary and the minister of state responsible for gender equality serve as deputies for the prime minister. The Headquarter 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, 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 prime minister or the Cabinet ministers 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.

Liaison Conference for the Promotion of Gender Equality

The Liaison Conference for the Promotion of Gender Equality was inaugurated in 1996 with a view to promoting the exchange of information and ideas as well as to facilitating necessary coordination among all sectors and levels of society, in order to promote national activities to create a gender-equal society.

This conference holds plenary meetings every year, in addition to which forums are held on a flexible basis in order to promote information and exchange opinions with the general public from all levels and sectors of society, thereby actively pursuing initiatives for the creation of a gender-equal society. In addition, at the conference small “teams” are established for each individual theme for individual important issues for promoting gender equality, and specific and practical activities are conducted.

In order to step up its developmental activities throughout Japan to accelerate progress towards the achievement of gender equality, the Liaison Conference makes use of its nationwide network. Also, in cooperation with the Regional Liaison Conferences for the Promotion of Gender Equality, which have set up a “national-regional network for gender equality,” the Liaison Conference is actively implementing a wider variety of more effective initiatives.

Gender Equality Bureau

The Gender Equality Bureau of the Cabinet Office serves as the secretariat for the Headquarters, the Council for Gender Equality and the Liaison Conference for the Promotion of 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 are 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.

Local Government

Sections in the local governments (47 prefectural governments and approximately 1,800 municipalities) in overall charge of administration and liaison conferences to promote the formation of a gender-equal society are placed in departments with various names.

47 prefectural governments and 920 municipalities have established consultative panels and councils to consider important issues related to gender equality, and 47 prefectural governments and 859 municipalities have liaison conferences to coordinate relevant departments within their offices.

47 prefectural governments and 1186 municipalities have adopted a basic plan for gender equality, and 46 prefectural governments and 523 municipalities have enacted the ordinance for the promotion of gender equality.

Furthermore, there are 363 centers, comprehensive facilities to implement projects for the promotion of gender equality (PR / education campaign, consultation services, inter-exchange programs, etc.), in 45 prefectural governments and 286 municipalities.

Note: All data are as of April 1, 2012.