

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 Liaison Conference for the Headquarters for the **Council for Gender Equality Promotion of Gender Equality Promotion of Gender Equality** - Established in the Cabinet (July - Established in the Cabinet - A network of collaboration and Office [2001] coordination comprised of - Promote the smooth and effective - Study and deliberate on basic intellectuals from all levels and implementation of measures policies and measures and sectors of society important matters - Exchange information and President - Monitor the implementation status opinions and promote national **Prime Minister** of government measures measures - Survey the effects of government measures Vice President Members **Chief Cabinet Secretary** Chair women's groups, media, Minister of State for Gender Equality **Chief Cabinet Secretary** economic organizations, educational bodies, local Members **All Cabinet Ministers** governments, intellectuals, etc Members 12 Cabinet Ministers **Coordinators for Gender Equality** 12 Intellectuals (Director-Generals of relevant Ministries and Agencies) **Specialist Committees** Meeting of Coordinators for **Gender Equality** Secretariat Collaboration **Regional Liaison Conference** Secretariat Secretariat for the Promotion of **Gender Equality Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office** International - Secretariat for the Headquarter for the Promotion of Gender Equality, the Council for Organizations Gender Equality and Liaison Conference for the Promotion of Gender Equality - Planning and overall coordination of various matters related to promoting the formation of Coordination and cooperation a gender-equal society -Preparation of the White Paper on Gender Equality and research and studies -Dissemination and enlightenment of the Basic Act for Gender Equal Society **Local Governments** -Coordination and cooperation with local governments, private groups and international organizations Overall coordination and promotion **Related Government Bodies**

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]

- Promotion of Women's Active Participation for Revitalization of Local Economy (April, 2014)
- ·Conclusion to the Discussion on the "Action Plan for Economic Vitalization through Promotion of Women's Active Participation" and Other Issues (December, 2014)

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 and Measures to Eliminate "Violence against Women" -Promoting measures against sexual offences-(July 2012)
- Tasks and Measures to Eliminate "Violence against Women" -Follow up of the Implementation Status of Measures for the Prevention of Spousal Violence, etc. (April, 2014)

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

[Opinions]

- 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 eighth (next) periodic report to the committee (November, 2013)
- Opinions on the Implementation Status of Governmental Measures for Promotion of Gender Equality in the Area of Disaster Prevention and Reconstruction (February, 2014)

Specialist Committee on Formulating the Fourth **Basic Plan for Gender Equality**

[Purpose]

To conduct research and examination on basic vision for formulating new basic plan for gender equality.

Structure of the Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office

General Affairs Division

- General affairs
- Secretariat for the Council for Gender Equality
- Coordination with local public and private groups
- Promotion of gender equality in local communities
 International affairs
- PR / awareness-raising activities

Director General

Gender Equality Promotion Division

- Formulation and promotion of the Basic Plan for Gender Equality
- Support for women's challenges
- Positive action
- Measures for elimination of all forms of violence against women

Deputy Director General

Research Division

- Research and analysis
- Monitoring and gender impact assessment and evaluation
- Handling complaints toward Gender Equality Measures
- Formulation of the White Paper on Gender Equality

Office for Work-life Balance Policy

-Promotion of Work-life Balance

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 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 various 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 1,700 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 978 municipalities have established consultative panels and councils to consider important issues related to gender equality, and 47 prefectural governments and 901 municipalities have liaison conferences to coordinate relevant departments within their offices.

47 prefectural governments and 1251 municipalities have adopted a basic plan for gender equality, and 46 prefectural governments and 571 municipalities have enacted the ordinance for the promotion of gender equality. Furthermore, there are 372 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 294 municipalities.