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.

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

(1) 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.

(2) Consideration of society systems or practices

Mutual cooperation with other countries and international organizations is required.

It is necessary to examine social systems and practices so that women and men can engage in various activities.

(4) 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. (3) 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 National Government, 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