

6. Expansion of Women's Participation in Policy and Decision-making Processes

Positive action

"Positive provision of opportunities for either women or men within necessary limits to redress gender disparities in terms of formation of a society where both women and men shall be given equal opportunities to participate voluntarily in activities in all fields as equal partners in society" (Article 2, The Basic Act for a Gender Equal Society)

■ Target of "30% by 2020"

With the aim of achieving the target of "increasing the share of women in leadership positions to at least 30% by 2020 in all fields of society" ("the target of 30%" set in 2003), numerical targets for women's participation were set in the Third Basic Plan for Gender Equality for a wide range of fields, including politics, national and local governments, private sector, education and research.

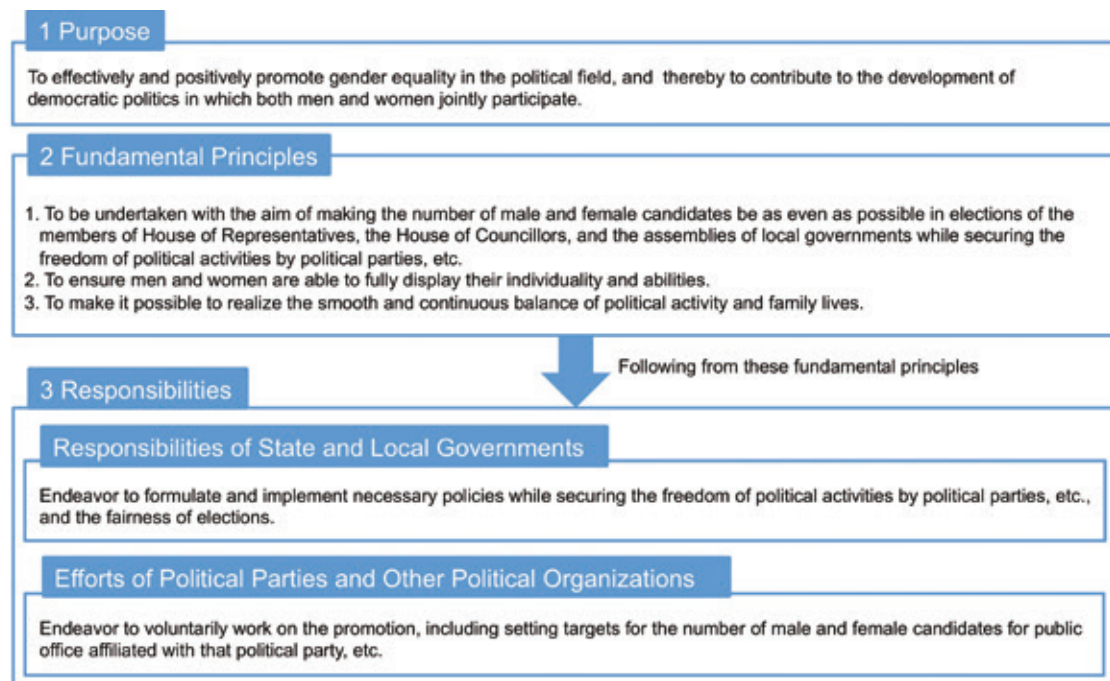
The Fourth Basic Plan shows the highly ambitious targets that could be achieved if all-out efforts are made in each field for the expansion of women's social participation. The plan also includes a target regarding the layer of women in previous stage who will assume leadership positions in the future. (See page 24-25)

■ Expansion of Women's Participation in National Diet Members

Women's participation in the field of politics is an important task to make efforts in order to achieve the objective of raising the proportion of female election candidates for the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors to 30% by 2020.

● Act on Promotion of Gender Equality in the Political Field

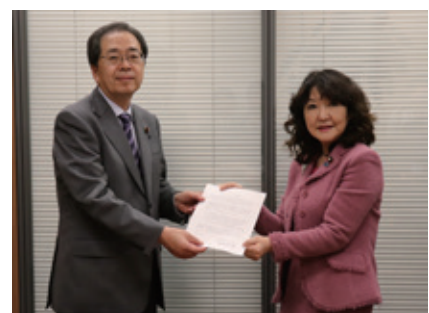
"The Act on Promotion of Gender Equality in the Political Field" was established through lawmaker-initiated legislation and subsequently promulgated and enacted in April 2018.



● Government's Efforts

In accordance with the Fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, the government has requested political parties to consider introducing positive actions to increase the proportion of women candidates in national and other elections and to create an environment conducive to participation and advancement by women lawmakers, such as a support system for work-life balance.

In addition, the government has been providing information, including a map it created that vividly shows the situation of women's participation in politics.



Encouragement to political parties to increase the proportion of women candidates