

Dialogues with Civil Society for Preparation of the Report

Focusing on cooperation with civil society in order to realize gender equality, women's empowerment and active participation, Japan had the following dialogues with representatives of civil society and reflected the results in the report as much as possible.

(1) Opinion exchange at the Liaison Conference for the Promotion of Gender Equality

- The Liaison Conference for the Promotion of Gender Equality is composed of over 100 people, including academic experts as well as representatives of the economic, labor and education communities, the media, women's organizations and other NGOs and NPOs. The Conference held opinion-exchange sessions on two occasions in order to engage in extensive dialogue with civil society actors with respect to matters to be included in the report and proposals on the report.
- In the opinion-exchange sessions, the following persons with relevant knowledge, representatives of NGOs and NPOs, and youth spokespersons stated their opinions. Opinions of general participants were also heard.

(In alphabetical order)

ASANO Mariko	Convener of Japan Women's Watch (JAWW)
FUNABASHI Kuniko	Representative of Beijing JAC (Lobbying Network of the World Conference on Women)
HIRAMATSU Masako	Representative of CSW63 NGO, President of BPW Japan and Vice Chair of National Women's Committee of the UN NGOs
INAGAKI Hinako	Representative of CSW63 Youth
KAMIYA Masako	Caretaker of International Women's Year Liaison Group and Representative Director of Japan Civil Liberties Union
MIURA Mari	Professor at Sophia University's Faculty of Law
NAKAMURA Toshihisa	Partnership & Fund Procurement Specialist at UN Women Japan Liaison Office
OKURA Tamiko	Caretaker of International Women's Year Liaison Group and former President of Society of Japanese Women Scientists
OSAKI Asako	Director of Gender Action Platform and Director of Plan International Japan
SAITO Fumie	Former President of UN Women Japan Liaison Office
TANAKA Yumiko	Japan's representative at CSW63 and Visiting Professor at Josai

TASE Kazuo
YOKONO Kaoru

International University
President and CEO of SDG Partners, Inc.
Co-President of Y20 (Youth 20) Summit 2019, an engagement
group of the G20

- Following is an outline of the main opinions expressed:

(For Section 1)

- Over the past five years, efforts have been advanced by the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation. That is a major change.
- Efforts have brought remarkable achievements not only in terms of positive actions but also in terms of rights. On the other hand, gender stereotypes still remain.
- It would be better to include "equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice" in priorities for the coming five years.
- The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are also important.
- Gender equality is a prerequisite for women's empowerment and active participation and also necessary and important for sustainable economic development. We should further raise public awareness of this fact in Japan.
- Strategic objectives A to J in the Beijing Platform for Action have already been implemented to a greater or lesser extent, with the exception of strategic objective G. The Diet should discuss the election system referred to in strategic objective G.
- Since unconscious biases underlying causes of various challenges are related to both men and women, substantial measures should be taken on an ongoing basis.
- To pass down achievements of the Beijing Platform for Action to younger generations, we should motivate young people to become aware of and start addressing challenges by themselves.
- Men in their late thirties or younger who as boys took the same compulsory home economics classes as girls perform household chores and engage in child-rearing as a matter of course. The awareness of young men is undoubtedly changing.

(For Section 2)

- The Act on Promotion of Gender Equality in the Political Field is very meaningful and of great significance.
- Independent decision-making by women in regard to work, childbirth and child-rearing and the establishment of an environment that enables such decision-making are important. Active participation of men in childbirth and child-rearing is important.
- The widening discussion on rectifying the issue of long working hours is commendable.
- In STEM fields, it is necessary to have women at the center of the process of making decisions

on policies, and it is important to make efforts at the level of elementary education.

- It is important to take measures against poverty among older women.
- Victims of domestic violence may be able to escape violence only to face the prospect of poverty.
- Amendment of provisions on sex crimes in the Penal Code is commendable. We expect that the provisions will be reviewed again in the future.
- In the future, we need to give consideration to measures against increasing the number of female “specified skilled” foreign workers due to an amendment of the Immigration Control Act.
- Reproductive health and sex education are important because they are the foundation of good health for all people.
- Modification of disaster control measures in Japan in response to the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030” is highly commendable. We should further promote the establishment of systems and education on disaster prevention so that women and other people of different statuses can participate in decision-making related to disaster prevention and disaster mitigation.
- Efforts for disaster prevention in Japan from a perspective of gender equality are appreciated worldwide.
- A perspective of gender mainstreaming is important in the promotion of digitalization.
- Japan’s UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security has been implemented and its progress steadily reported.

(For Section 3)

- It is important to link SDGs with the Beijing Platform for Action.
- It is meaningful that gender mainstreaming is specified in the major principles for the implementation of SDGs of Japan.

(For Section 4)

- It is important to strengthen gender statistics.

(2) Soliciting of opinions

- We solicited opinions from civil society via e-mail on matters to be included in the report.
- NGOs and NPOs that submitted opinions are as follows (in no particular order):
JOICFP, Japanese Federation of Women’s Organizations, Japanese Association of International Women’s Rights, YWCA of Japan, Working Women’s Network, BPW Japan, Japanese Trade Union Confederation, International Women’s Year Liaison Group, New

Japan Women's Association, JAWW, Beijing JAC, Japan Women's Network for Disaster Risk Reduction, and Plan International Japan

- Following is an outline of the main opinions expressed concerning the realization of a gender-equal society:

[Achievements in the past five years]

- Positive actions in the Act on the Promotion of Female Participation and Career Advancement and public procurement from companies promoting women's advancement based on the same Act; by virtue of these actions, the employment rate of women has increased.
- Establishment of laws related to work-style reform in June 2018
- Establishment and enforcement of the Act on Promotion of Gender Equality in the Political Field in May 2018
- Amendment of the Penal Code in June 2017: (i) the crime of rape was renamed the crime of forcible sexual intercourse etc., and the sex of a victim is no longer an issue; (ii) the penalties were toughened; (iii) the provisions on complaints were deleted; and (iv) sexual abuse by a person who has custody of a child became the crimes of "forcible indecency by custodian" and "forcible intercourse by custodian."
- The Intensive Policy to Accelerate the Empowerment of Women states that various issues faced by women, such as violence (including sexual harassment) against women, remain unresolved. These being fundamental challenges preventing women's empowerment and active participation—not to mention an unforgivable infringement of human rights—we must address these unresolved challenges now to provide women with greater opportunities for active participation.
- In the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles, which were adopted in December 2016, (i) refers to the Basic Act for Gender Equal Society, (ii) states as one of the major principles that the realization of gender equality and mainstreaming of a gender perspective are indispensable as cross-sectional values in attaining all SDGs, and (iii) advocates for the strengthening of gender statistics and collection of gender disaggregated data.
- With respect to the area of disaster prevention, the Guidelines for Disaster Planning, Response and Reconstruction from a Gender-equal Perspective, which are drawn up by the Cabinet Office, insist on the importance of assigning women to leadership roles and specify basic matters that local governments should tackle at the stages of disaster prevention, response and reconstruction. The Guidelines are used by many local governments.

[Challenges and matters to be addressed in the coming five years]

(Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work)

- Efforts for raising the percentage of management positions held by women and efforts for eliminating bad practices that are impeding the participation of women, and introduction of a quota system
- Reduction of the wage gap between men and women and introduction of the concept of equal pay for equal work
- Measures against the increasing rate of women in non-regular employment, promotion of conversion of non-regular employment into regular employment, and improvement of wages and working conditions of non-regular workers
- Measures against long working hours and departure from male-centric labor practices
- Measures against the issue of children on waiting lists for childcare facilities
- Promotion of efforts toward breaking perceptions of unpaid care and domestic work as women's work, measures against the low rate of men taking childcare leave, introduction of a "papa quota" system, and strengthening of paid childcare leave
- Promotion of women's participation in local decision-making

(Poverty eradication, social protection and social services)

- Measures against increase in poverty among older women
- Consideration for specific needs of women living with disabilities, single mothers and other socially vulnerable women
- Introduction of a national minimum wage system
- Broadening of options for contraceptive devices and agents, improvement of access to emergency contraception, approval of abortion pills in Japan, and restarting of recommendation of HPV vaccination
- Implementation of comprehensive sex education
- Resolution of the gap between boys and girls in rural areas in rates of advancement to higher education
- Implementation of comprehensive human rights education
- Establishment of an environment in which women can receive STEM education
- Reflecting of ideas of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and SDGs in the field of education

(Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes)

- Establishment of an anti-discrimination law stipulating a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women, and review of provisions concerning discrimination against women in all domestic laws
- Toughening of penalties for violence against women
- Review of amendment of the Penal Code after three years

- Toughening of penalties for sexual violence against children
- Coordination between measures against spousal violence and measures against child abuse
- Support for victims' recovery from sexual violence
- Implementation of rehabilitation programs for perpetrators of spousal violence
- Establishment of an anti-sexual harassment law that enables Japan to ratify the ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment, and ratification of the same convention
- Increase in the number of practitioners with a gender-sensitive perspective in the media
- Raising awareness regarding depictions of violence among media practitioners to encourage self-regulation
- Protection of rights of foreign women, women living with disabilities, women from *dowa* districts (areas targeted for anti-discrimination measures), Ainu women and other minority women

(Participation, accountability and gender-responsible institutions)

- Improvement of the election system for promoting women's participation in politics
- Integration of a gender perspective into the development of digitalization
- Increase in the amount of funding allocated for gender equality
- Raising of awareness of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and ratification of the Optional Protocol

(Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation)

- Promotion of women's participation in environmental measures
- Mainstreaming of gender equality in the fields of disaster prevention and disaster mitigation

(National institutions and processes)

- Strengthening of the national machinery
- Promotion of SDGs and further coordination with the Beijing Platform for Action

(Data and statistics)

- Development and improvement of gender statistics

(Other)

- Adoption of a system allowing couples to have separate surnames