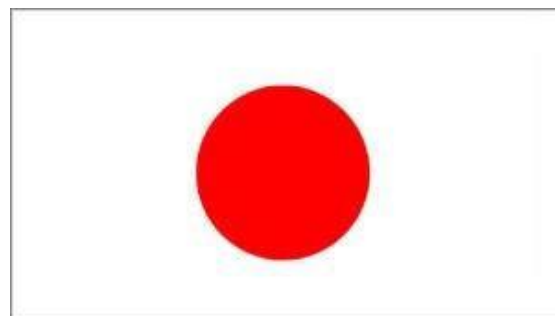


Pledge by Japan

Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 22 April 1994

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 2 August 2004

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography on 24 January 2005



Pledges

1. Developing a National Action Plan to end violence against children.
2. Further implementing existing measures: Japan enacted a law to amend the Child Welfare Act and other relevant laws in June 2019 to strengthen measures to prevent child abuse and clearly prohibit corporal punishment. With a view to further protecting the rights of children, Japan will continue to implement these measures in addition to other initiatives in force, including the 2017 Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation
3. Continued engagement with civil society.

Overview

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Japan reiterates the significance of the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto as a comprehensive set of international human rights instruments for the protection and well-being of children. Japan also recalls that the year 2019 marks the 25th anniversary of its ratification of the Convention. On this momentous occasion, Japan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to further promoting and protecting children's rights, including through the implementation of the Convention.

Commitments

Japan will continue to fulfill the obligations stipulated in the Convention and the Optional Protocols to which it is a party. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Japan particularly intends to take the following measures:

Developing a National Action Plan to end violence against children

Since February 2018, when Japan announced its intention to become a Pathfinding Country of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, the Government of Japan has been engaged in a process of formulating a National Action Plan (NAP) together with civil society. Three meetings took place between December 2018 and July 2019, with the participation of relevant ministries and agencies, experts, and civil society groups, to discuss and outline the NAP. Moreover, children in Japan will be invited to express their opinions online, which will be taken into consideration during the drafting process of the NAP. Japan will continue its efforts to formulate the NAP toward 2020.

Further implementing existing measures

Against the backdrop of an increasing number of child abuse reports in Japan in recent years, and following the latest recommendations by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in February 2019, Japan enacted a law to amend the Child Welfare Act and other relevant laws in June 2019 to strengthen measures to prevent child abuse and clearly prohibit corporal punishment. With a view to further protecting the rights of children, Japan will continue to implement these measures in addition to other initiatives in force, including the 2017 Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation.

Continued engagement with civil society

Japan will continue to engage in multi-sectorial dialogues with civil society aimed at promotion and protection of the rights of children in close cooperation and coordination with relevant ministries and agencies. Japan attaches great importance to such dialogues, and will continue to implement policies and measures in order to realize a society where all people can exercise their abilities and find their lives worth living.

Conclusion

Bearing in mind the commitments above, Japan will continue to contribute to building a better world where every child can grow up in a violence-free environment and have hopes and dreams for the future in close collaboration with the international community, including the United Nations and civil society.

