**Information for Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council**

**Answers to your questionnaire on current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms**

**JAPAN (As of May 2020)**

1. **Do current processes in the State allow for, or encourage, a consideration of gender balance when nominating, electing and appointing** **experts for human rights organs such as the Advisory Committee and treaty bodies? Do these processes ensure publicity, transparency, and participation by civil society organizations and/or other actors?**

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have been commissioning each municipality to nominate candidates for Human Rights Volunteers considering gender balance to realize a gender-equal society and properly deal with human rights issues pertaining to women.

1. **Does the State take into account the gender composition of the treaty bodies or the Advisory Committee at the time of nomination or election?**

Yes, Japan gives consideration to gender balance at the time of nomination and election for the Advisory Committee and treaty bodies.

1. **Does the State have any good national practices related to the nomination, election and appointing processes for human rights organs such as the Advisory Committee and treaty bodies? Do these processes take into account gender when nominating, electing, or appointing?**

N/A

1. **How does the State take into consideration its obligations concerning non-discrimination and women’s right to equal access to participation, as well as its obligations under Article 8 of CEDAW to ensure women’s equal participation in the work of human rights organs when nominating or appointing candidates for those organs and mechanisms?**

Japan places great emphasis on women’s active participation in the human rights mechanisms of international organizations. For example, Japan has achieved gender parity in terms of the members of the human rights treaty bodies, providing three female members out of a total of six members to those bodies. In addition, Japan has also provided a female member to the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee.

1. **How many women has the State nominated to human rights organs and mechanisms in the last five years (such as the Advisory Committee or treaty bodies)?**

The number of total Human Rights Volunteers in Japan is 14,000 and about 46% of these have been female over the last five years.

【the reference data】

　46.7% (as of January 1,2019)

　46.4% (as of January 1,2018)

　46.1% (as of January 1,2017)

　46.1% (as of January 1,2016)

　45.5% (as of January 1,2015)

Regarding the Advisory Committee and treaty bodies, Japan has nominated four female members over the last five years.

1. **Does the State take any action to publicize and encourage women to apply for the special procedures mandate-holders vacancies?**

N/A

1. **What are the main challenges within your country in tackling the issue of gender balance when nominating and electing candidates for human rights organs and mechanisms such as the Advisory Committee, treaty bodies and the special procedures?**

N/A

1. **Are there good practices by the State or other stakeholders that ensure gender parity? If yes, could you please share these practices?**

The Act for the Establishment of the Cabinet Office sets forth the establishment of the Council for Gender Equality in the Cabinet Office pursuant to the Basic Act for Gender Equal Society as an important policy-making unit in order to contribute to the design, planning and overall coordination necessary for integrating each administrative agency with regard to major policies of the Cabinet. Please be aware that there are only five important policy-making units, including the Council for Gender Equality and those concerned with economic and fiscal operations and scientific and technological innovation.

The Council for Gender Equality is headed by the Chief Cabinet Secretary and composed of relevant Ministers and academic experts. Moreover, the Basic Act stipulates that male and female academic experts must each account for no less than 40% of the total number of academic experts.

Related articles of the Basic Act for Gender Equality Society are shown below.

Article 24　(1)　The Chief Cabinet Secretary shall serve as chairperson.

Article 25

(1)　The persons listed in following items shall serve as Council members:

(i)　those who are designated by the Prime Minister, among Cabinet ministers except for the Chief Cabinet Secretary;

(ii) persons appointed by the Prime Minister among those who have distinguished insight into the Formation of Gender Equal Society.

(2)　The number of members in item (ii) of the preceding paragraph shall not be less than half of the number of members provided for in the same paragraph.

(3)　Neither the number of male nor the number of female members in item (ii) of paragraph (1) may fall below four-tenths of the total number of the members.

1. **Are there recommendations directed to States, international bodies, or other entities, that you wish to make in order to strengthen and inform this report?**

N/A