

# **National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security**

## **Third Edition (2023-2028)**

Revised in April, 2023

### **1 Background and History**

#### **(1) Background to the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325**

On October 31, 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (S/RES/1325 (2000), hereinafter referred to as "WPS"), which positioned women as "active agents" at all levels of international conflict prevention, resolution, peacebuilding and peacekeeping<sup>1</sup>.

Behind this was a long-standing trend in the protection of women's human rights since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, led by the United Nations<sup>2</sup>. In particular, the following events led to the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 1325: (a) In the 1990s, after the end of the Cold War, the large-scale of sexual violence in conflict such as in the former Yugoslavia, the civil war in Rwanda, and other conflicts drew the world's attention; (b) The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, stated that "increasing the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protecting women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation" would be one of the key strategic objectives; (c) At the same time, the civil wars in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda led to the international recognition of sexual violence as a weapon and tactic of war rather than a byproduct of war, and in 1998 the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court<sup>3</sup> stipulated sexual violence in conflict as a war crime; and (d) The Windhoek Declaration and Namibia Platform for Action (2000)<sup>4</sup> included women's participation and gender mainstreaming in multidimensional peace operations, which had the strong support of civil society and NGOs in conflict-affected countries.

#### **(2) Four Pillars**

Security Council resolution 1325 has four pillars which require gender mainstreaming in all efforts: (a) Participation: equal and full participation of women in all stages of conflict prevention and resolution, peace negotiations, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding; (b) Prevention: prevention of conflict related sexual violence, gender-based violence and human rights violations; (c) Protection: protection from conflict related sexual and gender-based violence and human rights violations and provide relief for such victims; and (d) Relief and recovery: gender-sensitive humanitarian relief and recovery, reconstruction, and development assistance.

#### **(3) Adoption of subsequent WPS resolutions**

Complementing Security Council resolution 1325, nine Security Council resolutions related to WPS (hereinafter referred to as "Related resolutions") were successively adopted by 2019<sup>5</sup>

(ten resolutions in total, including Security Council resolution 1325, hereinafter referred to as "WPS resolutions"). The related resolutions add new elements while including the implementation of the contents of Security Council resolution 1325. Efforts described in the WPS resolutions are collectively referred to as the "WPS agenda." The following are the main features of each WPS resolution.

Security Council resolution	Main Features
S/RES/1325 (2000)	The first Security Council resolution incorporating "women" in the context of international peace and security.
S/RES/1820 (2008)	The first Security Council resolution explicitly recognizing sexual violence in conflict as a key peace and security issue and a war crime.
S/RES/1888 (2009)	A resolution to strengthen the implementation of Security Council resolution 1820 through the exercise of women's leadership and the establishment of effective support mechanisms. Appointment of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC) to address sexual violence in conflict, primarily through the UN interagency initiative UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, in cooperation and coordination with relevant stakeholders.
S/RES/1889 (2009)	A resolution to emphasize the need to promote participation of women—especially women's organizations—in peace negotiations, processes and reconstruction at an early stage.
S/RES/1960 (2010)	Resolution to establish a mandatory reporting system for the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1820 and 1888.
S/RES/2106 (2013)	Resolution to strengthen existing Security Council resolutions on preventing and addressing sexual violence in conflict.
S/RES/2122 (2013)	A resolution that demonstrates a more integrated approach through the implementation of various measures related to women, peace and security (WPS). Focuses on women's leadership and active participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.
S/RES/2242 (2015)	A resolution inviting an Informal Experts Group on WPS to regularly report to the Security Council. Also states that counterterrorism and prevention of violent extremism will be integrated into WPS.

S/RES/2467 (2019)	The first resolution to explicitly recognize the importance of a survivor-centered approach to sexual violence in conflict. The resolution also stated that the needs of victims and survivors should be included in all efforts addressing peace agreements, transitional justice, and reform of the security sector.
S/RES/2493 (2019)	A resolution urging the full and reinforced implementation of the entire WPS agenda. Also encourages the UN Peacebuilding Commission to continue supporting the participation of women in UN-led stabilization processes in the post-conflict reconstruction phase to prevent conflict.

Two particularly important resolutions adopted after Security Council resolution 1325 are Security Council resolution 1820 (2008) and Security Council resolution 1888 (2009). The former designated sexual violence as a weapon of war in conflict and as a key peace and security issue for the first time and addressed the international community's response to sexual violence in conflict. It also called for the thorough elimination of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by peacekeeping personnel. The latter resolution called for the appointment of a Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC), the opening of an SRSG office, the deployment of a team of experts, and enhanced efforts by respective UN peacekeeping operations (UN PKO) missions.

Furthermore, Security Council resolution 2467 (2019) establishes the need to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence through a survivor-centered approach to sexual violence<sup>6</sup>.

Japan will continue to implement its contributions to the international community, including the prevention of sexual violence in conflict and the survivor-centered approach, in accordance with these resolutions.

**(4) Developments in the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

In 2013, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women adopted General recommendation No. 30<sup>7</sup> on women in conflict prevention, conflict, and post-conflict situations. In the recommendation, it was confirmed that the protection and respect of women's human rights in all situations, including armed conflict and domestic political crises and emergencies, is an obligation of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, regardless of citizenship status.

**(5) Launching of WPS Focal Points Network among Member States**

Based on the resolutions and relevant recommendations, Member States established the WPS Focal Points Network in 2016<sup>8</sup>, the largest network of UN Member States, to share information on the implementation of WPS, and good practices and lessons learned to

promote the WPS agenda. Japan has been a member of the WPS Focal Point Network since its establishment.

#### **(6) Developments in the UN General Assembly**

Japan, together with Sierra Leone, has worked as a co-sponsor and coordinator for the adoption of the resolution "International Cooperation for Access to Justice, Remedies, and Assistance for Survivors of Sexual Violence" at the 76th session of the UN General Assembly<sup>9</sup>. The resolution was adopted by consensus at the 76th UN General Assembly on September 2, 2022.

This resolution is groundbreaking in that it is the first resolution to specifically address "sexual violence" (note: there have been resolutions to end violence against women, and sexual violence has been included as part of that violence). While the main focus is on victims/survivors of sexual violence, the text also includes gender-based violence.

The resolution calls upon member states to strengthen their judicial systems and the capacity of relevant personnel to facilitate access to justice for victims and survivors of sexual violence, in accordance with national laws and international law such as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Thus, victims/survivors will be able to receive compensation and various forms of support. The resolution is comprehensive in that it promotes international cooperation on access to justice, compensation, and support for victims and survivors of sexual violence in times of conflict, natural disasters, other humanitarian crises, as well as in times of peace. Through endeavors to adopt this resolution, Japan is contributing to the realization of a survivor-centered approach to sexual violence in the international community.

#### **(7) Japan's Action Plan**

With the cooperation of civil society, Japan has been promoting the implementation of the WPS agenda by formulating the First Action Plan in 2015 and the Second Action Plan in 2019. In addition, based on our experience of overcoming numerous large-scale natural disasters, including the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, we recognize the importance of incorporating a gender perspective into all stages of disaster risk reduction, disaster response, climate change, and reconstruction. Therefore, Japan has included a section on disasters in the action plan.

#### **(8) Formulation of the Third Action Plan**

In drafting the Third Action Plan, we reviewed the First and the Second Action Plan based on the opinions of the Evaluation Committee, which consisted of external experts. After preparing a rough draft based on the lessons learned from the First and the Second Action Plan, we exchanged views with several international NGOs individually to draft the first proposal. Subsequently, two meetings were held to exchange views with civil society, and after adopting as many opinions as possible, a governmental draft was prepared. It was submitted for public comments and went through various procedures within the government. After that,

the Third Action Plan was developed.

The difference between the Third Action Plan and the Second Action Plan is that the latter was structured around the pillars of Security Council resolution 1325: Participation, Prevention, Protection, and Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance. However, many individual efforts included elements of multiple pillars, rather than just a single pillar. Therefore, the Third Action Plan was restructured based on specific initiatives rather than pillar by pillar. Secondly, the First and Second Action Plans contained detailed specific measures and indicators. However, based on opinions such as "too-specific policies conversely limit the range of initiatives" and "indicators are too detailed and difficult to use," the Third Action Plan was designed to be more flexible, and the wording and the indicators are altered to allow a wider range of activities. Finally, regarding the implementation of the WPS agenda, where further promotion of gender mainstreaming is required, the strengthening of the response capacity of the government's implementing office was more explicitly specified as one of the initiatives, making a more visible linkage between the WPS agenda and domestic initiatives.

## **2 Basic Concept of the Third WPS Action Plan**

### **(1) Basic Concept**

Based on our experience through the implementation of the First and Second Action Plans, Japan will continue to promote the implementation of the WPS agenda in cooperation with the international community. More specifically, we will (a) implement initiatives that contribute to the protection of human rights of women and girls, prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence, and women's empowerment in conflict-affected countries and fragile states due to conflicts or disasters; (b) increase women's participation in conflict prevention, resolution, peace negotiations, peacekeeping, peace support activities, peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction, disaster mitigation, disaster recovery, and increase women's participation in decision-making bodies; and (c) make efforts to develop gender-equal policy and promote women's empowerment in reconstruction and development of conflict- and disaster-affected countries. In these efforts, we will not specify priority countries or priority items, but will broadly target conflict-affected countries and fragile states.

### **(2) Gender analysis, importance of involvement of men and boys**

In the above efforts, analysis from a gender perspective (hereinafter referred to as "gender analysis") will be conducted from the planning stage to clarify the reality of gender-based discrimination and disparities, while providing support for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In addition, in discussions about gender in the international community, there is an emphasis on importance of support and initiatives that take into account the needs of women and girls, as they have diverse experiences of discrimination, prejudice, and violence due to their different attributes and their intersectionality, such as ethnicity, religion, age, education levels, social and economic status, residential area (urban or rural), sexual orientation and gender identity, and status as refugees, IDPs, or overseas migrant workers. Therefore, we will take these elements into consideration

while implementing the WPS agenda. We also consider that the involvement of men and boys as partners in advancing gender equality is important and will promote efforts that contribute to changing the awareness and behavior of men and boys.

### **(3) Implementation of the WPS agenda in Japan**

Furthermore, efforts to contribute to the WPS agenda in domestic policies should be made more visible and promoted, as the implementation of the WPS agenda is a task not only to be accomplished in foreign policy but also in related policies within Japan. More specifically, as efforts to strengthen the implementation and response capacity of relevant ministries and agencies, we will (a) provide training on WPS, protection of women's and girls' rights, and sexual exploitation and abuse, and harassment (SEAH) for staff engaged in international cooperation and strengthen human resource development through these training programs. We will also (b) improve awareness in relevant ministries and organizations for the protection of the human rights of all women in Japan, including refugees and foreign women, and enhance responsive capacities of individuals and organizations. To implement the above-mentioned efforts, we will ensure that all policies and measures take a perspective that promotes gender equality. We will also promote equal and full participation of women in decision-making for foreign and security policy and continue to promote and strengthen efforts to eliminate violence against women and guarantee women's human rights. At the same time, we will promote the appointment and participation of women in the decision-making bodies of ministries and agencies and promote the development and implementation of gender-responsive policies and measures.

In the Third Action Plan, we have decided to maintain target items that were not applicable at the time of implementation of the First and Second Action Plans as much as possible, because we believe it is meaningful to maintain them as targets to be addressed by the government from the perspective of WPS.

## **3 Key points of improvement and structure of the Third Action Plan**

### **(1) Restructuring into two categories of "international efforts and contributions" and "domestic efforts"**

In the Third Action Plan, the actions are divided into two categories: Japan's international efforts and contributions and domestic efforts; rather than pillar by pillar of Security Council Resolution 1325 (participation, prevention, protection, and humanitarian and reconstruction assistance). Concrete measures and indicators are modified accordingly.

### **(2) Addition of new elements**

The Third National Action Plan added a new element of promoting a "survivor-centered approach" to addressing conflict-related sexual violence, based on relevant resolutions since SCR 1820, as well as strengthening the institutional capacity of relevant ministries on WPS, gender, and women's human rights.

### **(3) Listing of specific measures for the implementation of the action plan**

The way of listing of specific measures published by the government for accountability will be modified as follows:

- (a) Since the method of identifying and describing specific measures as “action” under respective goals was cumbersome and tended to result in a lot of duplication, the "action" section is deleted and instead a supplementary text under respective goals describe actions (description what kind of actions are to be included).
- (b) As with the First and Second Action Plans, the government, JICA, and other responsible agencies will promote the formation and implementation of projects whose main purpose is to implement the WPS Agenda (Principal) and those whose main purpose is not to implement the WPS Agenda, but to intentionally ensure the WPS perspective (Significance).

### **(4) Structure of the Action Plan**

The structure of the Third Action Plan is as follows:

#### **(a) Promoting women's participation and a gender perspective in peacebuilding**

In peace negotiations, peace agreements, peacekeeping and peace support activities, conflict prevention, and humanitarian, reconstruction, and development assistance in conflict-affected and fragile states, we will promote efforts toward gender equality and women's empowerment, including efforts to eliminate discrimination and exclusion based on gender and intersectionality, and to promote women's participation in the decision-making process.

#### **(b) Response to and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict**

We will strengthen awareness-raising and education to prevent sexual violence and gender-based violence in conflict, strengthen the rule of law to protect victims and survivors and punish perpetrators, and enhance international cooperation to protect victims and survivors and help them become self-reliant and socially reintegrated. We will promote all efforts based on a survivor-centered approach.

#### **(c) Promotion of women's participation and gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction, disaster response, and climate change**

In disaster-affected and vulnerable countries, we will promote women's participation in decision-making processes related to disaster risk reduction, disaster response, and climate change, eliminate discrimination and exclusion based on gender and intersectionality in all cycles of disaster risk reduction, emergency relief, recovery and reconstruction, and implement international cooperation to promote the social and economic empowerment of women.

In addition, efforts will be made to strengthen the capacity of responsible ministries and agencies on disaster risk reduction, disaster response and reconstruction assistance.

Specifically, staff training on WPS and women's and girls' rights and protection will be strengthened. The proportion of women in central, regional, and municipal disaster management councils will be increased. Women's participation in other decision-making bodies will be promoted. Additionally, gender-sensitive disaster policies and measures will be developed and implemented.

(d) Efforts to promote WPS in Japan

① Promoting the WPS agenda in Policy Making

We will promote women's participation in decision-making processes related to foreign and security policy and promote gender mainstreaming in development assistance policy and security-related policies.

② Human resource development and enhance national capacity

In order to realize WPS, the implementation of awareness-raising and education/training programs on WPS, women's human rights, and gender equality will be strengthened as part of human resource development in relevant ministries and agencies. A gender officer will be established in each department. In addition, we will promote efforts to strengthen inter-ministerial cooperation.

③ Guarantee the human rights of foreign women in Japan and prevent violence against them  
Through efforts by support-providing organizations (relevant ministries and agencies, civil society organizations, etc.), the human rights of foreign women, including displaced persons who have fled from conflicts, should be guaranteed and violence against them should be prevented. In addition, we will promote awareness-raising and education to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls regardless of nationality, and strengthen efforts to protect the victims and survivors, to help them become self-reliant and socially reintegrated, and to punish and rehabilitate perpetrators, based on a survivor-centered approach.

**4 Monitoring and evaluation methods of the Third Action Plan**

Appropriate monitoring and evaluation will be conducted by external experts.



## I Promoting Women's Participation and Gender Perspective in Peacebuilding

### <Basic Policy>

Promoting gender equality and enabling women to play an equal role in society alongside of men can be the foundation of a peaceful society. For example, studies have shown that when women participate in peace negotiations, the peace lasts 15 years longer than in peace agreements where women are absent<sup>10</sup>. However, the 2015 Global Study on the Implementation of the WPS agenda found that women's participation has made little progress, and civil wars remain ongoing in countries in the Middle East and Africa<sup>11</sup>. The current situation remains serious, with the Taliban overrunning Kabul in Afghanistan in 2021 and Russia invading Ukraine in February 2022.

In conflict-affected and fragile states—based on gender analysis in all efforts of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, and peacekeeping—Japan will contribute to the promotion of meaningful participation of women and the social, economic, and political empowerment of women and girls and the gender equality that leads to such participation. In doing so, while the governments of the beneficiary countries will be the main partners, we will also cooperate with local civil society, including local NGOs and women-focused support groups.

### 1 Actions

- (1) Promote gender mainstreaming and the equal, full, and meaningful participation of women in all efforts of conflict prevention and resolution, peace negotiations, peace mediation, peacekeeping operations, and peacebuilding, based on gender analysis. In particular, cooperate with local women's organizations and women leaders.
- (2) In conflict-affected countries, refugee camps, and host communities, provide support for empowerment of women and girls, including literacy education and vocational training; prevention, protection, and response to gender-based violence; support for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR); social and economic empowerment of women in conflict; and gender-sensitive support for community activities.
- (3) Promote women's participation in UN peacekeeping operations (UN PKO) and other peace support activities, conduct gender-related training, leader education for women, and efforts to prevent sexual exploitation, abuse, and sexual violence in conflict.
- (4) As a member of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), actively participate in international discussions on women's participation in peacebuilding and contribute to the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), in which supporting women's participation is one of its priorities.
- (5) Promote gender mainstreaming and gender-based support in emergency and humanitarian assistance and activities of Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams.

- (6) Promote women's participation, gender mainstreaming, and incorporation of a gender perspective in countering violent extremism and terrorism.
- (7) Promote women's participation and incorporate a gender perspective in developing and conducting small arms and light weapons countermeasures and other disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.
- (8) Cooperate with other countries and regions on WPS in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
- (9) Conduct research and academic exchange on the implementation of the WPS agenda in conflict-affected and fragile states.
- (10) Facilitate information dissemination and awareness-raising related to the implementation of the WPS agenda.
- (11) Prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) by aid workers and supporters and efforts to provide assistance and protect victims.
- (12) Further strengthen information dissemination and awareness-raising on the implementation of the WPS agenda for men.

## **2 Indicators**

- (1) The number of people who received support or training and number of training/assistance
- (2) Good practices with gender analysis or gender mainstreaming in conflict prevention and resolution, peace negotiations, peace mediation, peacekeeping operations, and peacebuilding efforts

## **3 Responsible ministries and agencies**

PKO Secretariat (Cabinet Office), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, National Police Agency, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Japan Coast Guard, JICA

## II Preventing and Addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

### <Basic Policy>

Sexual violence in conflict is a war crime that must never be tolerated and is a gross violation of human rights that can amount to a crime against humanity<sup>12</sup>. However, sexual violence is repeatedly used as a weapon and instrument of war, yet perpetrators are rarely punished in either country<sup>13</sup>. This culture of impunity is one of the major causes of the prevalence of sexual violence in conflict, and ensuring that perpetrators are punished and the rule of law is entrenched is essential to preventing sexual violence in conflict. On the other hand, it is not enough to establish a legal system to prevent sexual violence in conflict, but it is also necessary to create a social consensus for the steady implementation of such a legal system<sup>14</sup>. It should be noted that it is difficult to completely prevent violence against women even with penalties in place, as long as gender inequality remains a social norm, since discrimination against women is at the root of such violence<sup>15</sup>.

Therefore, it is important to make comprehensive efforts, such as conducting awareness-raising, together with the development of the law, in order to establish gender equality and human rights awareness in society. Thus, we aim to prevent and end sexual violence in conflict, as well as provide support to victims and survivors who are currently in difficult situations. All minority groups are also taken into consideration, as victims of conflict-related sexual violence and gender-based violence also include men and sexual minorities.

### 1 Actions

- (1) Prevent and address to conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence during assistance in conflict and humanitarian crisis and during support of fragile states.
- (2) Establishment of the rule of law: provide assistance that contributes to ending the culture of impunity for perpetrators. Capacity building for administrative, military, police, and judicial officials and legal technical assistance.
- (3) Provide support for victims and survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and gender-based violence.

### 2 Indicators

- (1) Good practices with the number and impact of judicial personnel whose capacities have been strengthened by Japanese assistance.
- (2) The number of beneficiaries as well as good practices through Japanese assistance and relief.

### **3 Responsible ministries and agencies**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defense, National Police Agency,  
JICA

### III Disaster risk reduction, Disaster Response, and Response to Climate Change

#### <Basic Policy>

Asia-Pacific countries, including Japan, are prone to natural disasters<sup>16</sup>. In addition, globally, climate change has been contributing to cause large-scale of natural disasters such as droughts and floods more likely, and in some countries and regions, as in East African countries, it is also a cause of conflicts over resources. Vulnerable people, including women and girls, are most at risk of negative impacts of disasters, and are also more likely to experience sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment (SEAH)<sup>17</sup>. Therefore, it is necessary to prevent and eradicate sexual and gender-based violence during disasters.

In light of this, we will provide international and domestic support in disaster risk reduction and disaster response based upon a gender perspective, raise awareness and build systems for preventing and addressing gender-based violence, and promote the participation of women in related efforts, including measures against climate change.

#### 1 Actions

(1) International efforts

(a) Support for women's participation and empowerment both at the decision-making level and on-the-ground for disaster risk reduction and response to vulnerable and affected countries.

(b) Gender-responsive efforts in disaster-related emergency humanitarian assistance.

(c) Preventing and addressing gender-based violence and providing support for victims and survivors in disasters.

(2) Efforts to strengthen the capacity of relevant domestic ministries and agencies and to promote women's participation

(a) Promote the participation and empowerment of women in disaster risk reduction and response, including during policy-making.

(b) Gender-responsive efforts in disaster emergency humanitarian assistance.

(c) Training for aid workers and affected populations, including on disasters and gender, and sexual exploitation and abuse, and harassment (SEAH).

## **2 Indicators**

- (1) The number of training that lead to strengthening the capacity of relevant persons/organizations for gender-responsive disaster reduction, disaster management, and response to climate change, and number of participants.
- (2) Good practices of disaster risk reduction projects that promote women's participation with a gender perspective.
- (3) The number of women who benefited from the project and the number of good practices<sup>18</sup>.
- (4) Good practices of humanitarian assistance, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and disaster risk reduction with a gender perspective.
- (5) Number of people who receive training on disaster and gender through the project.

## **3 Responsible ministries and agencies**

Cabinet Office (Disaster risk reduction Bureau, Gender Equality Bureau), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Police Agency, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Japan Coast Guard, JICA (including International Emergency Relief Team)

## IV Implementation of WPS in Japan

### <Basic Policy>

Domestic gender-related measures are implemented by responsible ministries and agencies based on the Basic Plan for Gender Equality, and these include efforts related to the WPS agenda. In particular, the creation of a society that does not tolerate violence against women and girls and establishing a common understanding and awareness on challenges and needs from a gender perspective are important foundations for Japan to promote and contribute to the WPS agenda as a member of the international community. For this reason, the above-mentioned government domestic measures that contribute to the WPS agenda should be made more visible, and we will endeavor to promote synergistic effects between the initiatives in Japan and those outside Japan. In addition, the government will include a gender perspective in its security policies and work to create an environment that promotes the participation of women in the decision-making of security policy.

#### 1 Actions

(1) Create a society that does not tolerate violence against women

(a) Human resource development in responsible ministries and agencies

Enhance and strengthen training on WPS, gender, women's human rights, as well as on eradicating sexual exploitation and abuse and harassment (SEAH) in relevant ministries, agencies, and related organizations.

(b) Strengthening organizational management capacity, policies, and institutions

Implementation of initiatives and efforts to make concrete progress. For example, development of guidelines by each organization, assignment of gender officers to each department, establishment of specialized departments, strict penalties for disciplinary violations, and budgetary measures for efforts.

(c) Efforts to protect the human rights of all women and girls in Japan, including refugees and displaced persons, those applying for refugee status, technical interns, and specified skilled workers.

(2) Enhance domestic awareness raising and education

(a) Fostering a society that does not tolerate violence by conducting educational activities in cooperation with civil society and others on WPS, gender equality, protection of women's human rights, and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (including prevention of domestic violence, stalking, and trafficking in persons).

(b) Disseminate public information and awareness raising activities to address and prevent online gender-based violence, harassment, and hate speech.

(c) In relation to the above-mentioned awareness raising activities, conduct educational measures for boys, girls, and youth, and research activities in schools, universities, and other institutions in Japan.

(d) Facilitate interaction, exchange of views, and cooperation with civil society, including NGOs, researchers, media, and businesses on the implementation of the WPS agenda.

(3) Create an enable environment that promotes women's participation in peace and security policies

(a) Information dissemination and awareness raising activities to create a society that promotes women's participation in peace and security policies.

(b) Promote efforts to increase the number of women in decision making positions for policies.

## **2 Indicators**

(1) The number of people who received training and progress in enrichment (good examples).

(2) Collaboration and exchange of opinions with civil society.

(3) Implementation and good practices that contribute to the promotion of women's participation in peace and security policies.

## **3 Responsible ministries and agencies**

Cabinet Office (Disaster risk reduction Bureau, Gender Equality Bureau), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, National Police Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Japan Coast Guard, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, Ministry of Defense



## V Framework for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Review

### <Basic Policy>

To ensure the implementation of the Action Plan, the government will prepare an annual report on its implementation, and based on the report, external experts will produce evaluation report, which will be used for the improvement of policies and during the next revision of the Action Plan. Before revising the action plan, the government will exchange opinions with civil society and NGOs for reference.

#### 1 Actions

(1) Establishment of the Evaluation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee") with a government contact point in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Gender Mainstreaming Division, Foreign Policy Bureau).

(2) The Committee consists of experts with sufficient knowledge and experience in the field of WPS. In appointing members representing civil society and NGOs, recommendations from civil society and NGOs that are working in accordance with the objectives of Security Council resolution 1325 and related resolutions should also be considered.

(3) The Committee may request, through the contact point, each ministry and agency to provide relevant information on the status of implementation of the Action Plan. Upon receipt of the request, the ministries and agencies may report to the Committee through the contact point.

(4) The Committee may express its views on the draft annual report on the status of implementation, based on the explanations provided by the government working group.

(5) Experts may provide the Committee with information necessary for monitoring and evaluation.

(6) The evaluation committee will provide an interim report in the third year (April 2026 or later) and a final report in the sixth year (April 2029 or later) and publish the reports on the website (in Japanese and English).

(7) The government will exchange views with civil society and NGOs when the interim evaluation report is submitted.

(8) The Committee, in cooperation with the contact point, will provide opportunities to explain the evaluation report to civil society and NGOs working in accordance with the objectives of Security Council resolution 1325 and related resolutions, and to exchange views with them.

(9) The Committee may analyze the adequacy of the Action Plan's goals, specific measures, and indicators, as well as the main obstacles to its implementation, and recommend a direction for revision of the Action Plan at an appropriate time.

(10) The government will report on the implementation of the Action Plan in periodic reports such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Universal and Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council.

(11) The opinions of civil society and NGOs will be considered during revision of the Action Plan.

(12) The Action Plan will be revised after six years within the fiscal year 2028 (by the end of March 2029).

## **2 Responsible ministries and agencies**

All relevant ministries and agencies

(Note: monitoring and evaluation part is not specifically evaluated.)