



Japan's Submission on Progresses in Implementation of Gender Action Plan

March 31, 2022

1. Introduction

Japan fully appreciates the opportunity to submit progresses in implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) toward 2025 and hereby submits following contents in accordance with Decision 20/CP.26 para.3, FCCC/CP/2021/12/Add.2.

Japan recognizes that climate change affects in imbalance manner among different genders and women are particularly under vulnerable situation. In this regards, it is important to promote gender-mainstreaming in climate change policies for their effective implementation. Japan is implementing gender-mainstreaming actions domestically and internationally, supporting climate change policies and programmes which promote gender equality under the UNFCCC.

Japan raised climate change ambition after COP25 when the GAP was adopted. It includes updating its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)¹ and Long-term Strategy under the Paris Agreement² (LTS) on October 2021. Gender-mainstreaming perspective was taken into account in the domestic process to update the targets. In addition, Japan was also committed at the G7 Cornwall Summit³ to providing climate finance, both public and private, totaling JPY 6.5 trillion over the next 5 years, from 2021 to 2025, and it will further enhance its assistance for adaptation. Japan will implement the commitments in line with existing guidelines for gender equality relating to climate change policies. In the UNFCCC process, Japan has kept its efforts to promote gender balance and women's participation and leadership.

Through this submission process, some priority areas for promoting gender equality

¹ Japan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC): Japan aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 46 percent in fiscal year 2030 from its fiscal year 2013 levels, setting an ambitious target which is aligned with the long term goal of achieving net-zero by 2050. Furthermore, Japan will continue strenuous efforts in its challenge to meet the lofty goal of cutting its emission by 50 percent.

[https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Japan%20First/JAPAN_FIRST%20DC%20\(UPDATED%20SUBMISSION\).pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Japan%20First/JAPAN_FIRST%20DC%20(UPDATED%20SUBMISSION).pdf)

² The Long-Term Strategy under the Paris Agreement
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Japan_LTS2021.pdf

³ Japan announced renewed commitment of JYP 6.5 trillion on public and private climate finance over the next 5 years, from 2021 to 2025

https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ch/page24e_000301.html



have been found. Taking into account these areas, Japan will seek further coordination domestically and internationally to accelerate gender-mainstreaming actions in climate change policies within relevant ministries, agencies and other stakeholders.

2. Progress in the activities in GAP

Following progresses have been made in the activity areas set out in the GAP. The numbers described just after each sentence correspond to the ones in the GAP.

A. Capacity-building, knowledge management and communication

Japan's climate change policies have been implemented in line with "the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality"⁴ decided on December 2020. It recognizes the importance of gender equality to realize a sustainable society and encourages the government to take gender-mainstreaming actions (A.1).

In addition to the Basic Plan, Japan submitted the updated NDC to the UNFCCC secretariat as described above, using the format of the Information to facilitate Clarity, Transparency and Understanding (ICTU) of nationally determined contributions, referred to Decision 4/CMA.1 and Annex I. In the time of formulation, Japan filled out the section of the ICTU format relating to gender-responsive climate change⁵ (A.1).

Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) is conducted consistent with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Thematic Guidelines on Gender and Development⁶. This guidelines instruct project organizers to take into account the gender perspectives both in mitigation and adaptation assistance. Japan will

⁴ Provisional Translation of the relevant part, The Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality:

(1) Basic Direction of Measures

To realize a sustainable society, the government will actively engage in actions to promote women's participation in policy making process and reflect gender equality on concrete measures, taking account of the international trend.

(2) Concrete Measures

① Promoting women's participation in industrial and energy policy making process, which have influence on environmental issues including climate change

② Grasping gender differentiated data and taking account of gender differentiated impact when making decisions and implementing measures relating to environmental issues

https://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/about_danjo/whitepaper/pdf/5th_bpg.pdf

⁵ Japan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

[https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Japan%20First/JAPAN_FIRST%20NDC%20\(UPDATED%20SUBMISSION\).pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Japan%20First/JAPAN_FIRST%20NDC%20(UPDATED%20SUBMISSION).pdf)

⁶ JICA Thematic Guidelines on Gender and Development

https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/issues/gender/ku57pq00002cucek-att/guideline_gender_en.pdf



implement existing climate change assistance commitments mentioned above with the gender-mainstreaming perspectives especially through the ODA scheme (A.1). In this area, JICA organized a knowledge co-creation program on gender, diversity and disaster risk reduction to 38 officials from 12 countries including Sri Lanka, Chile, Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Mexico and Philippines between 2016 and 2018. This program has contributed to enhancing participants' disaster response capability with the sense of gender equality and diversity and facilitating their understanding on best-practices thorough workshops, inspections to relevant sites and discussions (A.1). Besides this training program, Japan provided international training programs for female governmental officials in line with the commitment at G7 Ise-Shima summit, which it contributes to capacity building for approximately 5,000 officials between 2016 and 2018 (including the number of the project mentioned above). Specific themes of the programs include, for instance, disaster resilient city planning, flood risk reduction management, watershed management adapting to climate change, ECO-DDR and others (A.1).

Japan's ODA Case Project

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (Phase 2), India: Ongoing

Project Type: Loan, Loan Agreement (L/A) signed: March 2017

Loan amount: 14.512 billion yen



JICA is supporting Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (Phase 2) in India. This project is to support sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation activities, and community development in the State of Odisha, utilizing the lessons learned from the implementation of Phase 1. This project also contributes to mitigation, adaptation and more importantly gender equality in the state.

The sustainable management enables the forest to act as sinks and reservoirs of



greenhouse gases and prevent natural disasters such as floods, which can be intensified by climate change, by conserving the soil and protecting watershed of the forests. In addition, this project puts emphasis on promoting gender equality and the executing agency, Forest and Environment Department of the Government of Odisha, sets a gender-mainstreaming strategy and action plan, recognizing the role of women's participation for sustainable forest management. Consistent with the strategy and plan, gender-mainstreaming trainings have been implemented for Forestry and Environment Department staffs and community organizations, aiming for realizing concrete actions at local level. For these activities, a review and feedback process was also established to monitor progresses and reflect the result in the strategy and plan.

Further information on this project is available in this site:

<http://ofsds.in/ofsdp2.php>

<https://libopac.jica.go.jp/images/report/P1000030278.html>

In terms of implementation of the Paris Agreement, Japan is conducting Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) with 17 partner countries consistent with Article 6. With the scheme, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan provides financial support for project participants of mitigation projects. To mainstream gender equality in its projects, the Ministry introduced “Guideline on Gender Equality for the Joint Crediting Mechanism⁷” in 2020. This guideline provides principles and specific recommendations and encourages project participants to take concrete actions at all the stages of the project cycle (i.e., planning, implementation, and monitoring). Japan aims to achieve SDGs and realize gender equality with JCM projects while contributing to global mitigation efforts (A.1).

Every year since 2014, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) host the Innovation for Cool Earth Forum (ICEF) to raise awareness and promote discussion on how to tackle climate change through innovations. In October 2020, the seventh annual meeting of ICEF (ICEF2020⁸) was held under the main theme “Action

⁷ Guideline on Gender Equality for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

<https://www.env.go.jp/en/earth/Guideline%20on%20Gender%20Equality%20for%20the%20Joint%20Crediting%20Mechanism%20%28JCM%29.pdf>

⁸ ICEF 2020 Program

https://www.icef.go.jp/program/2020.html#day2_2



toward “Beyond Zero” emission society in light of COVID-19; with a focus on gender equality”. The discussions in ICEF 2020 showed that women’s participation would play a huge role in the promotion of innovation. The statement of ICEF 2020 also suggested that “Industry, government, academia, and investors must come together to facilitate research, development and investment, with lessons learnt from this annual meeting, noting that women’s participation will further accelerate our efforts” (A.3).

B. Gender balance, participation and women’s leadership

Gender balance, participation and women’s leadership have been improving in Japan’s delegation to the UNFCCC process. The Chart⁹ below shows the trend of the number of Japan’s female delegation officials participating in COP processes. The number has been increased by 11 persons since 2018 (B.1).

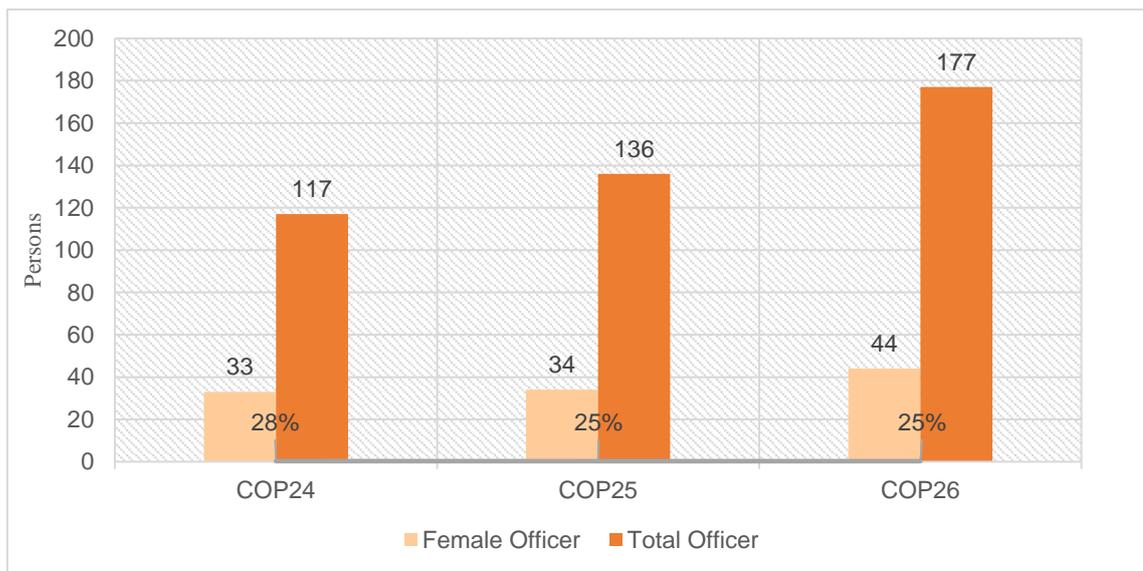


Chart: Percentage of Female Negotiator

C. Coherence

Japan supports the UNFCCC secretariat’s efforts and appreciates the publication of Synthesis report on progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes (C.1, C.2 and C.3).

⁹ Chart shows the number calculating female delegation officials registered in Online Registration System of the UNFCCC secretariat. The number excludes Japan’s participants in World Leaders Summit at COP26.



D. Gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation

Japan is promoting gender equality in decision making processes for its climate change targets and policies. For instance, multiple female experts participated in the decision making process of the updated NDC and the LTS in 2021. When formulating the NDC and the LTS, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry held the joint meetings of the Mid- and Long-Term Climate Change Countermeasures Subcommittee of the Global Environment Committee under the Central Environment Council and the Working Group for Consideration of Global Warming Countermeasures of the Global Environment Subcommittee of the Committee on Industrial Science and Technology Policy and Environment under the Industrial Structural Council. The percentage of female experts was 45% (9 to 20 members¹⁰) in the joint meeting. It is essential to reflect women's viewpoint in climate change policies because achieving 2030 ambition and net-zero by 2050 requires entire societal transition toward decarbonization. In this regard, Japan made sure women's participation in the decision making processes (D.5).

E. Monitoring and reporting

Japan supports the UNFCCC secretariat's efforts to monitor and report progresses in gender-mainstreaming activities. (E.1 and E.2).

3. Conclusion

There are several progresses in implementation of the GAP. Firstly, progresses were made in terms of embedding promotion of gender-mainstreaming in Japan's target, strategy and guidelines, which leads the entire government to take further actions. Secondly, in regards to individual efforts, Japan has contributed to gender-mainstreaming mainly in developing countries thorough ODA including by embedding the gender perspectives in local strategies and plans and promoting concrete actions. Japan will continue the contribution in line with the JICA Guidelines. Not only have the JICA Guidelines been contributing to promoting gender mainstreaming, but the JCM Guideline also encourages the project participants to take concrete actions for gender equality, while implementing the market mechanism consistent with the Paris Agreement. The key takeaway on gender mainstreaming

¹⁰ Member lists (documents written in Japanese)
<https://www.env.go.jp/council/06earth/y0620-1b/mat01.pdf>
<https://www.env.go.jp/council/06earth/y0620-1b/mat02.pdf>



from the ICEF event is also important for each sector to take further progresses in innovation which contributes to climate change policies.

Thirdly, women's leadership was made sure in the consultation processes on the updated NDC and the LTS. Internationally, the number of female delegation officers in the UNFCCC processes has also gradually increased. However, its proportion to the entire number has not been improved yet, so it is necessary to keep efforts for women's leadership in the UNFCCC processes.

Finally, taking into account these findings, Japan keeps its efforts for gender-mainstreaming in climate change policies and it will seek further coordination domestically and internationally to accelerate the efforts within relevant ministries, agencies and other stakeholders.