

Important Results of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in Promoting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Source: Department of Gender Equality of the Executive Yuan

To fully implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Legislative Yuan of the Republic of China (Taiwan) passed the Enforcement Act of CEDAW on May 20, 2011, with President Ma Ying-jeou signing it on June 8, 2011. The law subsequently entered into effect on January 1, 2012.

Since the adoption of the act, Taiwan has propagated it, reviewed all domestic laws, and completed the required national reports. Article 8 of the act requires government agencies at all levels to review regulations and make necessary amendments within three years. Thus, the Executive Yuan launched the Stride toward Gender Equality—the Implementation of CEDAW Project on June 21, 2012, to review the regulations and administrative measures of all government agencies. When reviewing regulations, besides checking whether documents contain wording that is directly or indirectly gender biased, the agencies should scrutinize related gender statistics in order to determine whether the implementation of a regulation has promoted gender equality or caused gender disparity.

Thanks to the active cooperation of government agencies at all levels, from October 2012 to December 2013, some 2,248 rules and regulations, 8,458 administrative orders, and 22,451 administrative rules (33,157 items in total) were reported to the Executive Yuan CEDAW

Implementation Committee as being possibly inconsistent with the Convention. The committee ruled that all inconsistent items must be rectified before the end of 2014, and that all agencies must submit reports on their progress to the Executive Yuan on a regular basis.

With respect to the national report, pursuant to Article 6 of the act, the ROC must issue such a report once every four years and invite scholars, experts, and representatives of civil organizations to review the report. The government must, based on the feedback so provided, further review each case and draw up resolutions. The first national report was issued in 2009, and the second in 2013. The latter report described the government's progress and results achieved between 2009 and 2012 in promoting gender equality with respect to the establishment of related mechanisms and regulations; participation in political and public affairs, and international organizations; and the right to personal security, education, employment, health, welfare, family, marriage, and legal assistance. To prepare the second national report in accordance with specifications outlined by the United Nations Human Rights Council, 32 agencies of the Executive Yuan, Legislative Yuan, Judicial Yuan, Examination Yuan, and Control Yuan jointly compiled the report under the coordination of the Executive Yuan. The report was completed with the assistance of domestic CEDAW experts and the opinions and suggestions of the general public gathered through 23 forums, public hearings, and expert consultations with the involvement of scholars, experts, and representatives of civil organizations held around the country. After almost a year of intensive discussions and communication, the

second national report was completed. It was subsequently approved by the Gender Equality Committee (GEC) of the Executive Yuan in December 2013, and posted on the GEC website (<http://www.gec.ey.gov.tw/>) in January 2014 for the public to download.

In order to foster international dialogue, the ROC has adopted the UN CEDAW Committee model to hold an event for the presentation and review of its CEDAW second national report on June 23-26, 2014. Foreign experts have been invited so they can discuss the report with ROC governmental representatives from the five Yuans, as well as NGOs and provide specific recommendations on further promoting women's rights. The government will take their responses into consideration when formulating related policies, so that Taiwan can better comply with the norms of international conventions on human rights.