



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org) – [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org)

REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Japan/55

3 September 2013

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honour to refer to the examination of the sixth periodic report of Japan at the Committee's forty-fourth session, held in July 2009. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/6). You may recall that in the concluding observations, the Committee requested Japan to provide, within two years, further information regarding the specific areas of concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 18 and 28 of the Concluding Observations.

The Committee received the follow-up report on 5 August 2011, under the CEDAW follow-up procedure (CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/6/Add.1). In a letter of October 2011, the Committee requested additional information. The Committee welcomes the additional information received on 1 November 2012, on time (CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/6/Add.2). At its fifty-fifth session, held in July 2013 in Geneva, the Committee examined this additional information and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the request for additional information “on the actions taken with respect to the adoption of the draft law amending the Civil Code, which sets the minimum age for marriage at 18 for both women and men; allows for the choice of surnames for married couples in line with article 16 (g) of the Convention; and equalizes shares in succession between a child born in wedlock and a child born out of wedlock”: The State party indicated that the Cabinet had not submitted the draft law amending the Civil Code and that the Government wants to continue to deepen public discussion of these issues. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

Regarding the request for additional information “on actions taken with respect to the preparation and adoption of legal provisions abolishing the six-month waiting period required for women but not men before remarriage”: The State party indicated that the draft law amending the Civil Code includes the shortening of the period of prohibition of remarriage. However, the recommendation of the Committee concerns the abolition and not the shortening of the period of prohibition of remarriage. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

H.E. Mr. Yoichi Otabe  
Permanent Representative  
of Japan to the United Nations  
Chemin des Fins 3  
1211 Geneva 19

E-mail: [mission@gv.mofa.go.jp](mailto:mission@gv.mofa.go.jp)



The Committee recommends that the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, additional information on actions taken to:

- 1) Adopt the draft law amending the Civil Code, which sets the minimum age for marriage at 18 for both women and men; allows for the choice of surnames for married couples in line with article 16 (g) of the Convention; and equalizes shares in succession between a child born in wedlock and a child born out of wedlock; and
- 2) Adopt legal provisions **abolishing** the six-month waiting period required for women but not men before remarriage.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Japan on the implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Bailey  
Rapporteur on follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women