



The Government of Japan

Mid-term Report on the progress made
in the implementation of the recommendations
issued at the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review

as of April 2020

UPR Recommendation (The followings are recommendations which Japan accepted to follow up)	Japan's follow-up
161.2. Consider recognizing the competence of the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination to receive and consider individual complaints (Kazakhstan);	The Government of Japan (GoJ) continues to seriously consider whether or not to accept the individual communications procedure, while taking into account the opinions received from various sources.
161.3. Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Slovenia);	<p>1. Concerning the conclusion of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT), the GoJ continues its deliberations, taking into account the opinions received from various sources.</p> <p>2. The GoJ did not agree to follow up on this recommendation related to the conclusion of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR-OP2). Japan's position is as stated in the interactive dialogue recorded in the report from the UPR Working Section Meeting (Paragraph 147).</p>
161.9. Ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Guatemala);	<p>1. Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.3 on the ICCPR-OP2 and OP-CAT.</p> <p>2. The GoJ continues to seriously consider whether or not to conclude the other Optional Protocols, while taking into account opinions from various sources.</p>
161.10. Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);	The GoJ continues to seriously consider whether or not to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol, while taking into account opinions from various sources.
161.11. Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Bosnia and Herzegovina);	The GoJ continues to seriously consider whether or not to accept the Optional Protocol, while taking into account opinions from various sources.

<p>161.14. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Panama; Togo; Turkey);</p>	
<p>161.12. Consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.3 on the OP-CAT. 2. Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.11 on the Optional Protocol to the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
<p>161.13. Consider the Ratification of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.3 on the OP-CAT. 2. In regard to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW), the GoJ understands the convention’s principle of protecting the rights of migrant workers and their families. At the same time, considering that the ICRMW includes guaranteeing more rights to migrant workers than those guaranteed in Japanese domestic systems to citizens and foreigners other than migrant workers, the GoJ recognizes the need for thorough and careful consideration of whether or not to conclude the Convention from the perspectives of the principle of equality and Japan’s various domestic systems, among others.
<p>161.15. Continue to take measures to fight all discrimination and stereotyping against women, in law and in practice, and, in this regard, ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Brazil);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.11 on the OPCEDAW. 2. In addition, Article 3 of the Basic Act for Gender Equal Society, which was enacted in 1999, stipulates that “the formation of a gender equal society shall be carried out, aiming at respect for the dignity of men and women as individuals, not treating men and women in a way that discriminates against them based on gender, ensuring opportunities for men and women to exercise their abilities as individuals, and respect for other human rights of men and women”. In line with this basic principle, the GoJ has been working to ensure gender equality.

	<p>3. Further, with the aim of eliminating prejudice and discrimination against women and to eliminate stereotyped perceptions of gender roles, human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have set “Protect Women’s Rights” as one of the priority targets of awareness-raising activities, and are conducting various human rights awareness-raising activities throughout the country.</p>
<p>161.16. Ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Panama);</p>	<p>The GoJ became a State Party to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in July 2017.</p>
<p>161.17. Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Cabo Verde; Ukraine; Uruguay);</p> <p>161.18. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as soon as possible (Ghana);</p> <p>161.19. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark; Spain; Turkey; Yemen);</p>	<p>Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.3 on the OP-CAT.</p>
<p>161.20. Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers (Uruguay);</p> <p>161.21. Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt; Kyrgyzstan; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)); Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the</p>	<p>Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.13 on the ICRMW.</p>

<p>Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);</p> <p>161.22. Ratify promptly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Guatemala);</p> <p>161.23. Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Turkey);</p> <p>161.24. Continue the deliberation among relevant institutions and stakeholders with a view to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and to expand discussions with representative from the state-parties of the Convention in the region (Indonesia);</p>	
<p>161.25. Continue taking serious consideration on the ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Member of their Families and ILO Convention 189 (Philippines);</p>	<p>1. Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.13 on the ICRMW.</p> <p>2. Concerning the ILO Convention 189, the number of domestic workers in Japan is small and on a declining trend, and, in principle, immigration for domestic work is not permitted. The situation is different from that of other countries, and there are some domestic workers who are not subject to labor standards laws (i.e., domestic workers under the Labor Standards Act). Therefore, the GoJ will carefully consider the issue in light of the actual situation in Japan.</p>
<p>161.27. Ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression (Liechtenstein);</p>	<p>The GoJ will make appropriate judgments on its future response taking into account actions in the international community, including the signatories to the Rome Statute, and the ICC,</p>
<p>161.28. Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Costa Rica);</p>	<p>The need to guarantee the status and rights of stateless persons and to avoid creating new stateless persons is recognized as an important issue in Japan, and appropriate measures are taken within the existing legal framework, while giving consideration to the situation of</p>

	<p>stateless persons. At present, proactive deliberations have not been given to the conclusion of the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. However, since this issue needs the deliberation on a wide range of policy areas by the government as a whole, the GoJ will carefully consider the issue in light of the social situation in Japan.</p>
<p>161.29. Consider ratifying the ILO Convention 111 on Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) (Cabo Verde);</p>	<p>1. This Convention prohibits discrimination in all stages of employment and occupation on the basis of seven grounds. The Japanese Constitution stipulates equality under the law and, in Japan, measures against discrimination are taken in the area of employment and occupation in accordance with the Labor Standards Act, among others.</p> <p>2. However, to ratify this Convention, careful consideration is necessary to ensure consistency with domestic legislation, since there might be laws and regulations subjected to repeal as required by the Convention.</p>
<p>161.32. Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for UN Treaty Body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);</p>	<p>The GoJ will continue to select candidates based on the performance of multiple candidates and results of their interviews. In particular, when fielding a candidate as a member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the GoJ will closely consult with organizations for persons with disabilities.</p>
<p>161.33. Continue cooperating with the Human Rights Council to implement the initiatives undertaken for the well-being and the full enjoyment of human rights of its population (Chad);</p>	<p>1. The role of international human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council (HRC), is significant in effectively responding to serious human rights violations around the world and in advancing the protection and promotion of the rights of all persons.</p> <p>2. The GoJ has served as a member of the HRC for five terms and will continue to actively contribute to the activities of the HRC, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Furthermore, the GoJ will play an active role in discussions to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the work and functioning of the international human rights mechanisms, including the HRC, toward the HRC Review starting from 2021.</p>

	<p>3. The GoJ has also sent a number of experts to various human rights treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee for many years, and has also developed cooperative relations with the OHCHR, which supports the activities of the HRC.</p> <p>4. Furthermore, the GoJ will continue to appropriately follow up on the recommendations from each treaty body and its commitment pertaining to the implementation of each instrument in order to strengthen its cooperation with each treaty body. The GoJ will also continue cooperation with the Special Procedures to realize meaningful and constructive dialogues with the Procedures.</p>
<p>161.34. Continue to focus on the sustainable development goals in its international engagements especially those related to education, health, sanitation and poverty alleviation (Pakistan);</p>	<p>The GoJ has been continuing international cooperation to achieve SDGs, including its announcement at the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019 to provide education to 9 million children and young people, save the lives of approximately 1 million people suffering from the three major infectious diseases, and provide immunization to approximately 1.3 million children.</p>
<p>161.35. Continue to provide support for African development, through the TICAD Process (Sierra Leone);</p>	<p>Building on the outcome of TICAD7 held in August 2019, the GoJ continues to provide assistance for African development through the TICAD process.</p>
<p>161.36. Continue its leadership role in supporting the achievement of SDGs as exemplified among others by the pledge to contribute USD 1.1 Billion for SDG 3 (Bhutan);</p>	<p>The USD1.1 billion pledge has been achieved, and the GoJ continues to play a leading role in supporting the achievement of SDG 3 at subsequent occasions including the G20 Summit and the TICAD.</p>
<p>161.37. Continue efforts towards the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in full accordance with the Paris Principles (Georgia); Continue efforts to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia; Qatar; Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));</p> <p>161.38. Accelerate its efforts to establish a National Human Rights Commission, ensuring its independence and full compliance with the</p>	<p>The GoJ continues to appropriately consider a framework of the human rights remedy system based on the progress of discussions made thus far.</p>

Paris principles (Australia); Accelerate efforts towards the establishment of a Paris Principles-compliant national human rights institution (Philippines);

161.39. Take the necessary steps to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles, with competence to consider and act on complaints of human rights violations by public authorities, and with adequate financial and human resources (Republic of Moldova);

161.40. Promote the drafting of a new legislation in order to establish a National Institution of Human Rights in accordance with the Paris Principles (Costa Rica);

161.41. Enhance efforts to establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Rwanda);

161.42. Take necessary steps to establish a credible national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Uganda);

161.43. Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ukraine); Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution (Azerbaijan); Consider establishing a national human rights institution based on accepted principles (Ethiopia); Consider taking steps to establish an independent National Human Rights Institution (India); Consider the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Afghanistan; Panama);

<p>161.44. Establish an independent National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Chile; Colombia; Croatia; Finland; Sierra Leone); Establish rapidly an impartial national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (France); Establish an independent National Human Rights Institution, in compliance with the Principles relating to the status of National Institutions of promotion and protection of human rights (Guatemala); Establish an independent, impartial and credible national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Kenya); Establish an independent national human rights institution with a broad mandate and matching resources in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);</p> <p>161.45. Establish, within a clear time frame, an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles and ensure that its mandate covers women’s rights and gender equality (Liechtenstein);</p> <p>161.46. Strengthen the work of the Bureau as well as to continue the effort to establish a National Human Rights Commission in Japan (Indonesia);</p> <p>161.47. Complete the process of establishing the National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Kazakhstan);</p> <p>161.50. Continue to strengthen national institutions responsible for human rights (Morocco);</p>	
<p>161.48. Establish an independent national human rights institution and another institution to advocate the rights of the child (Iraq);</p>	<p>The GoJ continues to appropriately consider a framework of the human rights remedy system, including national human rights institutions and others that advocate the rights of children,</p>

	<p>based on the discussions made thus far. The GoJ will continue its efforts to ensure human rights and the rights of children.</p>
<p>161.49. Establish a National Human Rights Institution in compliance with the Paris Principles and to eliminate any forms of discrimination against foreigners (Sudan);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The GoJ continues to appropriately consider a framework of the human rights remedy system based on the discussions made thus far. 2. Throughout the year, the GoJ, in cooperation with local governments and private organizations, carries out various human rights awareness-raising activities nation-wide, such as posting posters, holding lectures and workshops, and placing/posting online banner advertisements, to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against foreign nationals. 3. To provide human rights counseling for foreign nationals, the “Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline” in ten languages as well as the “Human rights counseling services in foreign languages on the Internet” in two languages have been established. In addition, “human rights counseling centers for foreigners” have been established and in operation at 50 Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus nationwide. 4. In case where incidents suspected to be human rights violations are detected through human rights counseling services, the GoJ immediately initiates an investigation and takes appropriate measures depending on the case. 5. Such measures include “assistance” to provide legal advice; “conciliation” to mediate talks between the parties concerned; “instructions” or “recommendations” that require human rights violators to improve the situation; and “requests” that are made to persons who are capable of responding in an effective manner.
<p>161.51. Continue efforts to raise awareness and educate about human rights at all levels (Morocco);</p>	<p>The GoJ has been taking measures to promote human rights education in all fields of education, including school education, social education, and corporate education. Furthermore, based on the “Act on the Promotion of Human Rights Education and Human Rights Awareness-Raising”</p>

	<p>(enacted in 2000) and the “Basic Plan on Human Rights Education and Human Rights Awareness-Raising” (approved by the Cabinet in 2002 and partially amended in 2011) developed pursuant to the Act, the GoJ provides seminars to persons engaged in formulating human rights education and awareness-raising measures and those in specific occupations closely related to human rights. Additionally, meetings are convened for personnel in charge of human rights education, including at each prefectural board of education, with the aim of enhancing human rights education in school. The GoJ will continue to promote human rights awareness and education.</p>
<p>161.52. Proceed in the development of effective tools to measure the impact of existing schemes for human rights education, both in the short and long term (Israel);</p>	<p>The GoJ has been taking measures to promote human rights education in all fields of education, including school education, social education, and corporate education. Furthermore, the GoJ has been providing seminars to persons engaged in formulating human rights education and awareness-raising measures and those in specific occupations closely related to human rights based on the “Act on the Promotion of Human Rights Education and Human Rights Awareness-Raising” (enacted in 2000) and the “Basic Plan on Human Rights Education and Human Rights Awareness-Raising” (approved by the Cabinet in 2002 and partially amended in 2011) developed pursuant to the Act. An appropriate follow-up is being carried out on these measures.</p>
<p>161.53. Expand human rights education for law enforcement officers (Viet Nam);</p> <p>161.54. Redouble efforts to sensitize and to train law enforcement officials on human rights criteria related to their fields of work (Qatar);</p>	<p>- Judges</p> <p>All prospective judges and public prosecutors must undertake legal training at the Legal Training and Research Institute of Japan before obtaining judicial qualification, and the GoJ is aware that the training includes curricula related to human rights treaties. The Legal Training and Institute of Japan holds training programs for judges, handling the treaties after their appointments.</p> <p>- Public prosecutors</p> <p>In Japan, in addition to the above-mentioned training, there are lectures on international human rights instruments and on the protection and support for crime victims, gender consideration, and other issues in training sessions that public prosecutors are obliged to attend at the time of</p>

appointment and at subsequent times specified according to years of work experience.

- Prison officers

With a view to enhancing respect for the human rights of inmates, the staff members of correctional institutions, including prison officers, are given education through various programs at the Training Institute for Correctional Personnel and the branch offices thereof, including lectures on the human rights of the inmates in light of the Constitution of Japan and various human rights treaties and programs adopting a behavioral science approach. At each correctional institution, prison officers receive practical training using role-playing materials assuming various scenarios with the inmates in order to improve their awareness of human rights.

- Probation officers and rehabilitation coordinators

Officials at probation offices participate in several training programmes at the time of their promotion or according to their years of experience. The programmes for probation officers include lectures on human rights of crime victims, probationers and parolees, and those for rehabilitation coordinators include lectures on human rights of victims of, and supervisees under medical treatment and supervision of designated acts.

- Immigration officers

To further promote awareness on human rights, the GoJ carries out training courses for relevant immigration officials based on their years of experience, including lectures on human rights, and courses specialized in matters such as measures to combat trafficking in persons and human rights for mid-ranking officials who deal directly with such cases, in cooperation with external instructors including from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

	<p>- Police personnel</p> <p>Police schools provide human rights education for newly employed or promoted police personnel. Police stations and other relevant locations also give their police personnel human rights education on various occasions, including on-the-job training. The police plan to continue these actions.</p> <p>- Public servants in general</p> <p>The GoJ holds human rights training seminars for national public officers of central ministries and agencies every year, with the aim of enhancing their understanding and appreciation of human rights issues.</p> <p>The GoJ also holds human rights leadership training seminars for officials engaged in duties for human rights awareness-raising activities in prefectures and municipalities three times a year, with the aim of providing knowledge necessary for them to act as leaders.</p>
<p>161.55. Provide effective training to public services personnel in the application of non-discrimination laws and standards in order to combat prejudice and discriminatory behaviour (Bangladesh);</p>	<p>Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.53 and 161.54.</p>
<p>161.56. Adopt a number of legislative and practical measures designed to combat manifestation of racial discrimination (Russian Federation);</p>	<p>- Overview</p> <p>Article 14, Paragraph 1 of the Japanese Constitution stipulates that “[a]ll of the people are equal under the law and there shall be no discrimination in political, economic or social relations because of race, creed, sex, social status or family origin,” providing for equality under the law, including the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of race. Based on this principle, various Japanese laws and regulations stipulate prohibition of discriminative treatment, especially in areas that are closely related to people’s lives and have public nature, such as employment, education, medical care, and transportation.</p>

	<p>- Hate Speech Elimination Act</p> <p>In June 2016, the “Act on the Promotion of Efforts to Eliminate Unfair Discriminatory Speech and Behavior against Persons Originating from Outside Japan (Hate Speech Elimination Act)” was enacted. In addition to declaring that unfair discriminatory speech and behavior against persons originating from outside Japan are not tolerated, the Act also seeks to foster awareness among the general public on these matters, while promoting their understanding and cooperation, through further human rights education and awareness-raising activities, and to bolster efforts for eliminating unfair discriminatory speech and behavior.</p> <p>Following the enforcement of the Hate Speech Elimination Act, the GoJ has been implementing awareness-raising activities to demonstrate that so-called hate speech is not tolerated, developing consultation systems for victims, implementing initiatives to increase the accessibility to human rights counseling services in foreign languages, and implementing other initiatives toward the elimination of hate speech. The GoJ continues to appropriately promote initiatives aimed at eliminating hate speech through such measures as the improvement of consultation systems and awareness-raising activities.</p> <p>- Criminal and civil liability</p> <p>Under the current legislation, if an act of racial discrimination occurs, the perpetrator may be liable for compensation for damages on the grounds that the act is tortious under the Civil Code. Furthermore, for example, the perpetrator could be held criminally responsible for any acts that are deemed to be crimes of defamation or crimes of insults.</p>
<p>161.57. Adopt a legislative measure prohibiting and repressing all forms of discrimination against non-citizens, and a law eliminating the stereotypes that constitute the cause of violence against women (Madagascar);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refer to our comments (“Overview”) on Recommendation 161.56. 2. Behind violence against women lies gender stereotypes. Based on the Basic Act for Gender-Equal Society, the GoJ has formulated a Basic Plan for Gender Equality as part of efforts to correct stereotyped perceptions of gender roles and the issue of unconscious bias, and also to

	<p>promote education and awareness-raising activities to eliminate violence against women.</p>
<p>161.68. Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat every kind of discrimination, including by adopting a comprehensive law and by means of awareness campaigns (Italy);</p>	<p>- Adoption of a comprehensive law Refer to our comments (“Overview”) on Recommendation 161.56.</p> <p>- Awareness-raising activities The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have been carrying out various human rights promotion activities to improve public awareness and understanding of human rights by holding symposiums, film screenings, and public relations campaigns through mass media such as television and newspapers, and preparation and distribution of pamphlets and posters during the “Human Rights Week” and other opportunities, in cooperation with various related organizations.</p>
<p>161.69. Continue and deepen the implementation of measures to avoid and prevent the discrimination of minorities and indigenous populations, including through consultations with the different indigenous peoples (Paraguay);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The “Act Promoting Measures to Achieve a Society in which the Pride of Ainu People is Respected,” enacted in 2019, stipulates the basic principles concerning the prohibition of discrimination against the Ainu People. 2. The GoJ is striving to deepen public understanding of the Ainu through educational and public relations activities. 3. The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice are also conducting various human rights awareness-raising activities, such as posting online banner advertisements and distributing human rights awareness-raising brochures and leaflets, to ensure respect for human rights of foreign nationals and the Ainu people, who are indigenous to Japan.
<p>161.70. Take steps to address discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including revising the Gender Identity Disorder Law (New Zealand);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In order to eliminate bias and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, the GoJ has prepared awareness-raising booklets and leaflets, human rights awareness-raising videos and video clips, and is distributing them through the Internet. In addition, the GoJ is implementing various awareness-raising activities such as symposiums and training sessions.

161.71. Continue the positive developments related to the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation and recognise same-sex unions at the national level (Switzerland);

2. Also, in case where incidents suspected to be human rights violations are detected through human rights counseling services, the GoJ immediately initiates an investigation and takes appropriate measures depending on the case.

3. Such measures include “assistance” to provide legal advice; “conciliation” to mediate talks between the parties concerned; “instructions” or “recommendations” that require human rights violators to improve the situation; and “requests” that are made to persons who are capable of responding in an effective manner.

4. Concerning employment, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) makes available online brochures for business owners which note that during the recruitment process they should not exclude specific people such as sexual minorities including LGBT individuals, as an awareness-raising activity for fair recruitment selection. The MHLW also explains such ideas at workshops on fair recruitment selection for business owners, which are held at places such as Public Employment Security Offices. Furthermore, the relevant guidelines were revised in August 2016 and enforced in January 2017 to clarify that the “sexual harassment” stated in Article 11 of the Act on Securing, Etc. of Equal Opportunity and Treatment between Men and Women in Employment, includes sexual harassment against people of any sexual orientation or gender identity. In addition, the MHLW also describes in brochures for business owners that it is important to deepen understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity.

5. In the areas of education, for the purpose of preventing students who are sexual minorities from having concerns and insecurities or falling into self-denial, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology endeavors to establish a support system at schools for those students, enhance the understanding of teachers, and improve educational counseling systems. Furthermore, regarding social education, in training courses for social education supervisors who play a central role as social education instructors, a program on human rights

	<p>issues including sexual orientation and gender identity is implemented, with the aim of steadily promoting human rights education.</p> <p>6. In the area of medical care and welfare, in February and March 2018, services such as medical care, long-term care, and welfare for persons with disabilities are informed to people through nationwide meetings or other trainings, both of which are for local public entities in order to ensure that people who need these services, including LGBT people, can surely use the necessary services.</p>
<p>161.73. Further the efforts of some local governments and private firms to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including by extending at the national level formal recognition of same-sex partnerships (Canada);</p>	<p>- Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity</p> <p>In order to eliminate bias and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, the GoJ has prepared awareness-raising booklets and leaflets, human rights awareness-raising videos and video clips, and is distributing them through the Internet. In addition, the GoJ is implementing various awareness-raising activities such as symposiums and training sessions.</p> <p>Also, in case where incidents suspected to be human rights violations are detected through human rights counseling services, an investigation is immediately initiated and appropriate measures are taken depending on the case.</p> <p>Such measures include “assistance” to provide legal advice; “conciliation” to mediate talks between the parties concerned; “instructions” or “recommendations” that require human rights violators to improve the situation; and “requests” that are made to persons who are capable of responding in an effective manner.</p> <p>Further, to promote accurate understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity in workplace, a survey on business enterprises’ initiatives to ensure diverse sexual orientation and</p>

	gender identity was conducted, and a report and case studies summarizing the survey results were prepared and published.
161.74. Continue developing the implementation of actions against any kind of discrimination for gender, ethnicity, skin colour, sexual orientation and gender identity, among others (Colombia);	<p>- Overview</p> <p>Article 14, Paragraph 1 of the Japanese Constitution stipulates that “[a]ll of the people are equal under the law and there shall be no discrimination in political, economic or social relations because of race, creed, sex, social status or family origin,” providing for equality under the law. The GoJ is promoting human rights education based on the “Basic Plan on Human Rights Education and Human Rights Awareness-Raising” (approved by the Cabinet in 2002 and partially amended in 2011).</p> <p>- Gender</p> <p>Article 3 of the Basic Act for Gender Equal Society, which was enacted in 1999, stipulates that “the formation of a gender equal society shall be carried out, aiming at respect for the dignity of men and women as individuals, not treating men and women in a way that discriminates against them based on gender, securing opportunities for men and women as individuals to exercise their abilities and respect for other human rights of men and women”. In line with this basic principle, the GoJ has been working to ensure gender equality.</p> <p>- Race</p> <p>The “Act Promoting Measures to Achieve a Society in which the Pride of Ainu People is Respected,” enacted in 2019, stipulates the basic principles concerning the prohibition of discrimination against the Ainu People. The GoJ is striving to deepen public understanding of the Ainu through educational and public relations activities.</p> <p>- Sexual orientation and gender identity</p> <p>Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.70 and 161.71.</p>

<p>161.76. Continue with the on-going efforts to fight discrimination against non-citizens on the basis of race or nationality, including by ensuring that appropriate legislations sanctioning such acts are applied effectively and all alleged cases investigated (Ghana);</p>	<p>1. In order to eliminate bias and discrimination based on race and nationality, the GoJ is working to provide relief to victims of human rights violations and prevention of recurrence of such violations through non-judicial procedures, such as conducting various human rights awareness-raising activities, human rights counseling, and investigation and resolution of human rights violations.</p> <p>2. Under the current legislation, if an act of racial discrimination occurs, the perpetrator may be liable for compensation for damages on the grounds that the act is tortious under the Civil Code. Furthermore, for example, the perpetrator could be held criminally responsible for any acts that are deemed to be crimes of defamation or crimes of insults.</p>
<p>161.77. Strengthen efforts designed to prohibit racist and xenophobic discourses (Saudi Arabia);</p>	<p>Refer to our comments (“Overview” and “Hate Speech Elimination Act”) on Recommendation 161.56.</p>
<p>161.78. Continue to take effective measures to combat all forms of discrimination, including racial superiority, and hatred and eliminating gender stereotypes (Uzbekistan);</p>	<p>- Prevention of all forms of discrimination, including those based on race Refer to our comments (“Overview”) on Recommendation 161.56.</p> <p>- Women Refer to our comments (“Women”) on Recommendation 161.15.</p> <p>- Hate Speech Elimination Act Refer to our comments (“Hate Speech Elimination Act”) on Recommendation 161.56.</p> <p>- Criminal and civil liability Refer to our comments (“Criminal and civil liability”) on Recommendation 161.56.</p>
<p>161.79. Continue implementing measures to eradicate all forms of discrimination, including against people with other origins (Cuba);</p>	<p>Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.56.</p>

<p>161.80. Take appropriate measures and implement legislation effectively to eliminate racial discrimination (Guatemala);</p>	<p>Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.56.</p>
<p>161.81. Take appropriate measures to eliminate exclusion of non-citizens from accessing some public places and facilities on the basis of race or nationality, by effectively applying legislation and investigating and sanctioning such acts (Islamic Republic of Iran);</p>	<p>Refer to our comments (“Overview”) on Recommendation 161.56.</p>
<p>161.82. Conduct more active policy against racial discrimination, including addressing the issue of incorporating the adequate definition of racial discrimination in national legislation (Kyrgyzstan);</p>	<p>Refer to our comments (“Overview”) on Recommendation 161.56.</p>
<p>161.84. Take further steps to effectively address hate speech and protect the rights of minorities, including introducing legislation to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity (Australia);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Article 14, Paragraph 1 of the Japanese Constitution stipulates that “[a]ll of the people are equal under the law and there shall be no discrimination in political, economic or social relations because of race, creed, sex, social status or family origin,” providing for equality under the law, including the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of race. Based on this principle, in Japan, discriminatory treatment in highly public fields such as employment, education, medical care and traffic, which are closely related with civil life is broadly prohibited by relevant laws and regulations in each field. 2. In June 2016, the Hate Speech Elimination Act was enacted. In addition to declaring that unfair discriminatory speech and behavior against persons originating from outside Japan are not tolerated, the Act also seeks to foster awareness among the general public on these matters, while promoting their understanding and cooperation, through further human rights education and awareness-raising activities, and to bolster efforts for eliminating unfair discriminatory speech and behavior. 3. Following the enforcement of the Hate Speech Elimination Act, the GoJ has been implementing awareness-raising activities to demonstrate that so-called hate speech is not

	<p>tolerated, developing consultation systems for victims, implementing initiatives to increase the accessibility to human rights counseling services in foreign languages, and implementing other initiatives toward the elimination of hate speech. The GoJ continues to appropriately promote initiatives aimed at eliminating hate speech through such measures as the improvement of consultation systems and awareness-raising activities.</p> <p>4. Based on the “Act on the Promotion of Human Rights Education and Human Rights Awareness-Raising” and “Basic Plan on Human Rights Education and Human Rights Awareness-Raising,” human rights education is provided in schools throughout school educational activities including each subject.</p>
<p>161.85. Continue to address the problem of discrimination and hate speech, particularly through adequate allocation of resources on this issue through education and awareness programmes in schools (Malaysia);</p>	<p>- Hate Speech Elimination Act Refer to our comments (“Hate Speech Elimination Act”) on Recommendation 161.56.</p> <p>- Criminal and civil liability Refer to our comments (“Criminal and civil liability”) on Recommendation 161.56.</p> <p>- Education and awareness programs in schools Based on the “Act on the Promotion of Human Rights Education and Human Rights Awareness-Raising” and “Basic Plan on Human Rights Education and Human Rights Awareness-Raising,” human rights education is provided in schools throughout school educational activities including each subject.</p>
<p>161.90. Take the necessary measures to ensure that Japanese companies take into consideration the respect of human rights in their activities abroad (Algeria);</p>	<p>The GoJ supports the “United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights” and is working on formulating a National Action Plan to steadily implement the Guiding Principles.</p>

<p>161.91. Consider a possibility of establishing a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, pursuant to the Guiding Principles adopted by Human Rights Council (Chile);</p> <p>161.92. Formulate a national work plan for the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights to ensure that multinational companies headquartered in Japan do not violate human rights (Egypt);</p> <p>161.93. Establish a national regulatory framework, in accordance with United Nations guidelines, for the assessment of human rights and the environmental impact of the business activities of multinational corporations headquartered in Japan (Haiti);</p> <p>161.94. Adopt a national action plan pursuant to the United Nations guidance on multinational corporations to guard against human rights violations (Kenya);</p>	
<p>161.116. Continue its efforts in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children domestically in an appropriate manner (Pakistan);</p>	<p>The GoJ is making serious and continuous efforts to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) as well as Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. For example, the GoJ as a whole properly identifies and protects victims of trafficking and provides them with assistance such as helping them return to their own or another country by strengthening coordination with relevant domestic and international specialized organizations as well as foreign governments. The GoJ is also undertaking awareness-raising activities for government officials and general public by utilizing materials that are updated annually.</p>
<p>161.117. Continue to combat human trafficking (Senegal);</p>	<p>In 2004, the GoJ established an Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee at the Cabinet to promptly and steadily promote close cooperation among relevant government agencies and with the international community in preventing and eradicating trafficking in persons and protecting</p>

	<p>victims of trafficking. In 2014, the GoJ approved “Japan’s 2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons,” and decided to hold the “Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons,” which is made up of relevant ministers. Based on the Action Plan, relevant ministries and agencies, led by this Council, are working together to implement various measures, such as crackdown of trafficking as well as provision of protection and support to victims. The GoJ as a whole continue working to eradicate trafficking in persons.</p>
<p>161.118. Continue to enhance its legislative and protection frameworks to combat and prevent all forms of trafficking in persons (Singapore);</p>	<p>1. In 2004, the GoJ established the Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee at the Cabinet to promptly and steadily promote close cooperation among relevant government agencies and with the international community in preventing and eradicating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of trafficking. In 2005, the GoJ amended the Penal Code to establish and put into place the necessary penal provision in order to conclude the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which defines the acts that constitute trafficking in persons in its Article 3. As a result, all acts that constitute trafficking in persons as defined in the Protocol are considered crimes in Japan. The Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act was also amended in 2005 to strengthen protection of victims of trafficking among foreign nationals by establishing provisions that allow victims to be granted special permission to stay in Japan.</p> <p>2. In 2014, the GoJ approved “Japan’s 2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons”, and decided to hold the “Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons” which is made up of relevant ministers. Based on the Action Plan, relevant ministries and agencies, led by this Council, are working together to implement various measures, such as crackdown of trafficking as well as provision of protection and support to victims.</p> <p>- Measures undertaken by the police authorities</p>

Based on the aforementioned Action Plan, the police, through cooperation with relevant organizations, promote various measures such as reliable identification of victims, provision of appropriate protection and support to victims, and crackdowns on trafficking in persons.

The National Police Agency (NPA) holds the Contact Point Meeting on Trafficking in Persons annually to exchange opinions and information including with embassies in Tokyo, relevant authorities, prefectural police, international organizations, NGOs.

In order to locate and protect victims of human trafficking, the police have leaflets in nine languages encouraging victims to report the crime to the police. These leaflets are distributed to relevant ministries and agencies, prefectural police, embassies in Tokyo, NGOs, and international airports and are also posted on the NPA website. Leaflets are displayed at locations easily accessible to victims, with 300,000 copies printed and distributed in FY2019.

The NPA consigns a private organization to operate the “Anonymous-Report Hot Line” that receives anonymous tips from the public on trafficking in persons and other suspicious cases. Rewards are paid on information leading to apprehensions based on the extent of its contribution to the arrests.

Once the police identify a victim of trafficking in persons, appropriate protective measures are taken in mutual cooperation with relevant organizations such as Women’s Consulting Offices. The police also protect and support victims by taking full account of individual circumstances; they inform the victims of protective measures and legal procedures, including those on the status of residence, and also explain the upcoming investigations to the extent possible.

The police undertake investigations to apprehend not only suspected employers but intermediaries/agents by multilaterally applying various laws and regulations so as to identify organizations behind the trafficking.

When the police receive a request for consultation from a victim of trafficking in persons, efforts are made to hold the consultation at a place that does not create psychological pressure for the consultee. If requested, the police also attempt to arrange female personnel for female consultees. Further, in the case of foreign nationals, personnel fluent in their native languages will be arranged to the extent possible.

- Measures undertaken by the public prosecutors offices

The public prosecutors offices, in coordination with relevant organizations, take strict measures by rigorously applying existing laws and regulations to cases related to trafficking in persons.

The public prosecutors offices also hold lectures on trafficking in persons through various training programs provided to public prosecutors based on years of their experience. Public prosecutors are also reminded to proactively address trafficking in persons at various conferences for public prosecutors nationwide. In particular, specific cases and experiences of public prosecutors offices nationwide on the subject are shared at conferences for public prosecutors in charge of organized crimes.

- Measures undertaken by the Immigration Services Agency (ISA)

Based on the above-mentioned Action Plan, the ISA has been engaging in the prevention of trafficking in persons by further strengthening its cooperative framework with related organizations while proactively undertaking efforts to eradicate trafficking in persons and measures to properly protect victims by gathering information on potential cases.

	<p>The ISA gives due consideration to the circumstances of the victims of trafficking in persons and permits them to extend their period of stay or change their status of residence from the viewpoint of protecting victims. If the victims are in violation of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, such as illegally overstaying, the GoJ will try to stabilize their legal status by, for example, granting them special permission to stay in Japan.</p> <p>The GoJ will continue to work together to eradicate trafficking in persons.</p>
<p>161.119. Strengthen its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including by formulating a comprehensive anti-trafficking legal framework, especially in order to protect women and children from exploitation (Thailand);</p>	<p>In 2004, the GoJ established an Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee at the Cabinet to promptly and steadily promote close cooperation among relevant government agencies and with the international community in preventing and eradicating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of trafficking. In 2014, the GoJ approved “Japan’s 2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons,” and decided to hold the “Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons,” which is made up of relevant ministers. Based on the Action Plan, relevant ministries and agencies, led by this Council, are working together to implement various measures, such as crackdown of trafficking as well as provision of protection and support to victims.</p> <p>- Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities</p> <p>Refer to our comments (“Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities”) on Recommendation 161.118.</p> <p>- Measures undertaken by Foreign Affairs Authorities</p> <p>The GoJ has been actively providing assistance to developing countries. For example, in 2018, the GoJ, through JICA, newly launched training programs aimed at promoting mutual understanding and more effective regional cooperation on measures to combat human trafficking (in particular, prevention, protection of victims and support for their self-independence) with stakeholders in Asian countries, including Japan. As part of its cooperation</p>

	<p>with international organizations, the GoJ provides repatriation assistance through IOM for foreign trafficking victims sheltered in Japan. The GoJ also provides social reintegration assistance for these victims after their repatriation to prevent victimization.</p> <p>- Measures undertaken by the public prosecutors offices Refer to our comments (“Measures undertaken by the public prosecutors offices”) on Recommendation 161.118.</p> <p>- Measures undertaken by the ISA Refer to our comments (“Measures undertaken by the Immigration Services Agency”) on Recommendation 161.118.</p>
<p>161.120. Further intensify investigation, prosecution and adequate sanctions in all cases of human trafficking (Turkey);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In June 2014, the NPA, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office, the MHLW, and the Japan Coast Guard established the Task Force for the Enforcement of Laws and Regulations Relating to Trafficking in Persons for information sharing and coordination in handling cases of trafficking in persons. The Task Force prepared the “Handbook on Measures against Trafficking in Persons” in September of the same year, which summarizes information such as the laws and regulations applicable to trafficking in persons and specific examples of application. The Handbook is utilized by the police, the ISA, the public prosecutors offices, the Labor Standards Inspection Office, and the Japan Coast Guard in conducting investigations and other activities. 2. With respect to trafficking in persons, the relevant government offices collaborate and cooperate to carry out thorough crackdowns, endeavoring to impose strict penalties on perpetrators, and proactively dealing with peripheral cases which may potentially involve trafficking in persons.

	<p>- Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities Refer to our comments (“Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities”) on Recommendation 161.118.</p> <p>- Measures undertaken by the public prosecutors offices Refer to our comments (“Measures undertaken by the public prosecutors offices”) on Recommendation 161.118.</p>
<p>161.121. Strengthen measures to combat trafficking in persons, in particular those related to the sexual exploitation of women and children (Algeria);</p>	<p>Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.117.</p> <p>- Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities Once the police identify a victim of trafficking in persons, appropriate protective measures are taken in mutual cooperation with relevant organizations such as Women’s Consulting Offices. The police also protect and support victims by taking full account of their circumstances; they inform the victims of protective measures and legal procedures, including those on the status of residence and also explain the upcoming investigations to the extent possible.</p> <p>When the police receive a request for consultation from a victim of trafficking in persons, effort are made to hold the consultation at a place that does not create psychological pressure for the consultee. If requested, the police also attempt to arrange female personnel for female consultees. Further, in the case of foreign nationals, personnel fluent in their native languages will be arranged to the extent possible.</p>
<p>161.122. Continue exerting further efforts to improve access of victims of trafficking and sexual violence to complaints mechanisms and protection services (Azerbaijan);</p>	<p>1. Regarding measures undertaken by relevant authorities on trafficking in persons, the GoJ, through relevant ministries and agencies, is appropriately taking measures to protect victims based on the “Methods to Deal with Trafficking in Persons (Measures for Protection of Victims)” agreed in 2011.</p>

	<p>2. When a person consulting to relevant authorities is found to be or likely to be a victim of trafficking in persons, measures are taken to protect the said person by promptly reporting to or contacting the police, Regional Immigration Services Bureaus, the Japan Coast Guard, Women’s Consulting Offices, or child guidance center as necessary. These measures are taken by taking victim’s wishes into consideration.</p> <p>- Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities Refer to our comments (“Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities”) on Recommendation 161.118.</p> <p>- Measures undertaken by the public prosecutors offices Refer to our comments (“Measures undertaken by the public prosecutors offices”) on Recommendation 161.118.</p> <p>- Measures undertaken by the ISA The ISA is undertaking measures to reach victims including the following: posting on the Agency website information related to trafficking in persons, consultation desks, and its approach to and steps taken for the protection of victims in eight languages (Japanese, English, Chinese (traditional, simple), Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai, and Tagalog); and making leaflets prepared by the NPA available at the immigration inspection counters of Regional Immigration Services Bureaus and at airports.</p>
<p>161.123. Redouble its efforts against human trafficking and adopt a specific action plan for the protection and compensation of victims (Honduras);</p>	<p>1. Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.117.</p> <p>2. Regarding measures undertaken by relevant authorities on trafficking in persons, the GoJ, through relevant ministries and agencies, is appropriately taking measures to protect victims based on the “Methods to Deal with Trafficking in Persons (Measures for Protection of Victims)” agreed in 2011.</p>

	<p>- Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities Refer to our comments (“Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities”) on Recommendation 161.118.</p> <p>- Measures undertaken by the public prosecutors office Refer to our comments (“Measures undertaken by the public prosecutors offices”) on Recommendation 161.118.</p> <p>- Measures undertaken by the ISA Refer to our comments (“Measures undertaken by the Immigration Services Agency”) on Recommendation 161.118.</p>
<p>161.124. Enact an anti-human trafficking law to protect human rights of migrants from violations by recruitment agencies, brokers and employers (Kenya);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2004, the GoJ established the Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee at the Cabinet to promptly and steadily promote close cooperation among relevant government agencies and with the international community in preventing and eradicating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of trafficking. In 2005, the GoJ amended the Penal Code to establish and develop necessary penal provision in order to conclude the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which defines the acts that constitute trafficking in persons in its Article 3. 2. As a result, all acts that constitute trafficking in persons as defined in the Protocol are considered crimes in Japan. The Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act was also amended in 2005 to strengthen protection of victims of trafficking among foreign nationals by establishing provisions that allow victims to be granted special permission to stay in Japan. Furthermore, in Japan, Article 63, paragraph (1) of the Employment Security Act stipulates penalties for a person who has carried out or engaged in employment placement, labor

	recruitment or labor supply by means of assault, intimidation, unlawful confinement or other unjust restraint on mental or physical freedom.
<p>161.125. Take adequate measures to effectively address violence against foreign, minority and indigenous women by prosecuting and sanctioning all forms of violence, and ensuring that victims have access to immediate means of redress and protection (Islamic Republic of Iran);</p>	<p>- Measures taken by the Police Authorities Refer to our comments (“Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities”) on Recommendation 161.118.</p> <p>- Criminal punishment Violence against women is subject to criminal punishments as the crimes of homicide, injury, assault, forcible sexual intercourse, or indecency through compulsion, and appropriate disposition are carried out based on each case.</p> <p>- Measures undertaken by the ISA When the ISA identifies a foreign national as a victim of domestic violence, the ISA will work with related organizations to ensure the physical protection of the victim. Regarding the applications for extension of period of stay from victims who are forced to live apart or have difficulty submitting the necessary paperwork, due to domestic violence, and the applications for change of status of residence due to domestic violence, the ISA considers each case carefully and provides humane responses considering each person’s individual circumstances.</p> <p>Furthermore, regarding domestic violence victims who are residing in Japan illegally in terms of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act for reasons such as overstaying due to domestic violence, the ISA also takes humanitarian measures with a sufficient consideration given according to individual cases.</p>
<p>161.126. Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings by law (Montenegro);</p>	<p>1. Although the definition of “corporal punishment” is not necessarily clear, at the very least, corporal punishment of students by faculty members is prohibited under Article 11 of the School Education Act.</p>

	<p>2. The Legislative Council, an advisory committee to the Minister of Justice, is also discussing how the disciplinary rights of a person who has parental authority over a child should be stipulated under the Civil Code.</p> <p>3. Furthermore, the amended Act on the Prevention, etc. of Child Abuse that was enacted in April 2020 prohibits a person who exercises parental authority over the person’s child from using corporal punishment when disciplining the child. The amended Act also prohibits the use of corporal punishment on children by such persons as the director of a child guidance center, the head of a child welfare institution, and foster parents.</p>
<p>161.127. Expressly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings (Zambia);</p>	<p>1. Although the definition of “corporal punishment” is not necessarily clear, at the very least, corporal punishment of students by faculty members at the very least is prohibited under Article 11 of the School Education Act.</p> <p>2. With respect to school activities, the “Guidelines on Guidance in Sports Club Activities” and “Comprehensive Guidelines on Sports Club Activities”, which cover sports club activities, and the “Comprehensive Guidelines on Cultural Club Activities”, which covers cultural club activities, call on principals and instructors of the clubs to completely eradicate corporal punishment and harassment.</p> <p>3. As noted in our comment to 161.126, the Legislative Council, an advisory committee to the Minister of Justice, is also discussing how the disciplinary rights of a person who has parental authority over the person’s child should be stipulated under the Civil Code.</p> <p>4. Furthermore, the amended Act on the Prevention, etc. of Child Abuse that enacted in April 2020 prohibits a person who exercises parental authority over the person’s child from using corporal punishment when disciplining the child. The amended Act also prohibits the use of</p>

	corporal punishment on children by persons such as the director of a child guidance center, the head of a child welfare institution, and foster parents.
161.128. Take into full consideration the recommendations made by the UN human rights mechanisms on hate speech (Republic of Korea);	<p>- Hate Speech Elimination Act Refer to our comments (“Hate Speech Elimination Act”) on Recommendation 161.56.</p> <p>- Criminal and civil liability Refer to our comments (“Criminal and civil liability”) on Recommendation 161.56.</p>
161.139. Intensify its efforts towards poverty reduction and sustainable development (Timor-Leste);	Under the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, headed by the Prime Minister and made up of all ministers, the GoJ will enhance the whole-of-Japan efforts to achieve the SDGs.
161.140. Strengthen regulations that set limits on extending working hours with a view to capping work related deaths and suicides (Botswana);	In order to rectify the practice of long working hours and promote work style reform, the Diet enacted the “Act on the Arrangement of Related Acts to Promote Work Style Reform” in 2018, which includes restrictions on the maximum overtime hours with penalties. The Act with penalties with overtime cap was enforced in April 2019 for large enterprises and in April 2020 for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), respectively.
161.141. Adopt specific measures to rectify labour standards violations as a follow-up to inspections conducted on the Technical Intern Training Programme (Portugal);	Employers suspected of violating labor standards-related laws and regulations by the Organization for Technical Intern Training (OTIT) (new system) and the Regional Immigration Services Bureaus (former system) are reported to the Prefectural Labor Bureaus. In principle, the Labor Standards Inspection Offices under the jurisdiction of the notified Labor Bureau provide supervision and guidance to all of them. If, during the course of such supervision and guidance, it is deemed that labor standards-related laws and regulations have been violated, guidance is given to correct them. In the event that serious or malicious violations are not corrected, strict actions are taken, including judicial measures.
161.142. Continue efforts to protect workers’ rights to safe and healthy working conditions (Iraq);	<p>1. The Industrial Safety and Health Act requires the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare to formulate an Industrial Injury Prevention Plan.</p> <p>2. The Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare formulated the 13th Occupational Safety and Health Program for a five-year period starting in April 2018. The Program aims to reduce</p>

	fatalities due to occupational accidents by at least 15%, to reduce the casualties (requiring sick days of at least four days) by at least 5% or more, and to increase the percentage of business establishments that take mental health measures to at least 80%. Efforts are under way to achieve these objectives.
161.144. Develop community-based and people-centred mental health services and supports that do not lead to institutionalization, over-medicalization and to practices that fail to respect the rights, will and preferences of all persons (Portugal);	Based on the philosophy of “From Hospital-Centered Care to Community-Centered Care,” efforts are underway since 2017 to build a “comprehensive community care system including for mental disabilities” so that persons with mental disabilities can live peacefully in a way they like and as a member of the community. The system aims to ensure comprehensive medical care, welfare services for persons with disabilities, housing, social participation (employment), community support, and education. Specific initiatives include financial and other assistance to local public entities that support community life of hospitalized persons with mental disabilities as well as peer support programs.
<p>161.146. Continue in its efforts to ensure full access to education enrolment to all and to remove any obstacles that minority communities may face, particularly in reference to equal access to education for women and girls (State of Palestine);</p> <p>161.147. Promote equal access for women and girls to all levels of education (Timor-Leste);</p> <p>161.148. Continue promoting equal access for women and girls to all level of education (Bosnia and Herzegovina);</p> <p>161.149. Strengthen their efforts aimed at empowering women, in particular through continuing to improve access for women and girls to quality education (Cyprus);</p>	With regard to education, Article 26 of the Constitution stipulates that “[a]ll people shall have the right to receive an equal education correspondent to their ability as provided by law.” Based on this article, article 4 of the Basic Act on Education stipulates that “the people must be given equal opportunities to receive an education suited to their abilities, and must not be subjected to discrimination in education on account of race, creed, sex, social status, economic position, or family origin.”
161.150. Ensure that minority children enjoy the right to education without discrimination, in line with the recommendations by the	In accordance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, foreign nationals who wish to enroll their children in public compulsory education schools are able to do so free of charge, whereby

<p>Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Austria);</p>	<p>the opportunity to receive the same education as Japanese nationals, including free textbooks and enrollment assistance, is guaranteed.</p>
<p>161.152. Further strengthen the promotion of gender equality and protect women from all forms of discrimination and violence (Myanmar);</p>	<p>1. The GoJ has set the period from 12 November through 25 November (the UN designated “International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women”) as the annual “Campaign for Eliminating Violence against Women” period. Through the cooperation of the government, local governments, women’s groups and other related organizations during the Campaign, awareness raising activities and initiatives to combat violence against women are further strengthened.</p> <p>2. To ensure that foreign nationals who are being subjected to harm have immediate means of redress and protection, the GoJ has prepared information materials for foreign victims and distributed the materials to relevant organizations, and also provides useful information for foreign victims in eight languages via a GoJ website. There are also ongoing initiatives, such as placement of counselors who can speak foreign languages at Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Centers. Information on the status of counseling, including that by language in which consultation is provided, is made public.</p> <p>- Various consultations</p> <p>In addition to such efforts as placement of counselors who can speak foreign languages at Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Centers, information on the status of counseling, including that by language in which consultation is provided, is made public.</p> <p>“Women’s Rights Hotline” and “Children’s Rights Hotline” have been set up at the Legal Affairs Bureaus throughout Japan, and Human Rights volunteers and Legal Affairs Bureau staff provide human rights counseling services to women and children, including on issues related to domestic violence.</p>

	<p>The Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu) offers victims of spousal violence, stalking, and child abuse necessary legal consultation concerning the prevention of harm, in accordance with the Comprehensive Legal Support Act.</p> <p>- Criminal punishment</p> <p>Violence against women such as domestic violence is subject to criminal punishments as the crimes of homicide, injury, assault, forcible sexual intercourse, or indecency through compulsion, and appropriate disposition are carried out based on each case.</p> <p>- Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities</p> <p>In case of stalking and spousal domestic violence, the police place top priority on ensuring the safety of victims, and take systematic responses such as prevention of harm through the arrest of the assailants and measures to protect victims by vigorously applying the Law on Proscribing Stalking Behavior and Assisting Victims (“Anti-Stalking Law”), the Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims, and other relevant laws and regulations.</p>
<p>161.153. Continue to protect vulnerable groups, in particular women, children as well as foreigners (Senegal);</p>	<p>- Public Relations, etc.</p> <p>The GoJ has set the period from 12 November through 25 November (the UN designated “International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women”) as the annual “Campaign for Eliminating Violence against Women.” Through the cooperation of the government, local governments, women’s groups and other related organizations during the Campaign, awareness raising activities and initiatives to combat violence against women are further strengthened.</p> <p>To ensure that foreign nationals who are being subjected to harm have immediate means of redress and protection, the GoJ has prepared information materials for foreign victims and distributed the materials to relevant organizations, and also provides useful information for foreign victims in eight languages via a GoJ website.</p>

	<p>- Various consultations Refer to our comments (“Various consultations”) on Recommendation 161.152.</p> <p>- Criminal punishment Violence against women, children and foreigners (including domestic violence and child abuse) is subject to criminal punishments as the crimes of homicide, injury, assault, forcible sexual intercourse, or indecency through compulsion, and appropriate disposition are carried out based on each case.</p> <p>- Protection orders Under the existing law, it is clearly stated that a judicial decision is to be promptly rendered with regard to cases pertaining to a petition for a protection order.</p> <p>- Measures undertaken by the ISA From the perspective of improving transparency in the operation of revocation system of the status of residence, the ISA posts major case examples where the status of residence is not revoked, including cases where there is a “justifiable reason” for not engaging in activities as a person with a spouse status of residence, through eight languages on the website: Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Thai. The ISA explicitly explains that temporary evacuation or protection from domestic violence is included among those cases, making sure that administration carries out those cares carefully in order not to let foreign nationals who are victims of domestic violence not suffer unnecessary detriment.</p>
<p>161.154. Ensure the effective implementation of the 4th Basic Plan for Gender Equality with particular focus on the “Reformation of “men/oriented working styles” for women’s empowerment” (Bahrain);</p>	<p>1. In December 2015, the GoJ formulated the Fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, and are implementing various initiatives, including the reform of male-oriented working styles and women’s empowerment.</p>

	<p>2. Currently, the GoJ is in the process of formulating the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, and will continue such efforts.</p>
<p>161.155. Continue its efforts in the advancement of the protection of the rights of women, gender equality and the promotion of gender-equal society by implementing the Fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality (Bulgaria);</p>	<p>1. In December 2015, the GoJ formulated the Fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, which aims to create a society where the human rights of men and women are respected and individuals can live with dignity. It is also a society that is vibrant and rich in diversity with both men and women can fully demonstrate their individuality and abilities based on their own choice.</p> <p>2. Currently, the GoJ is in the process of formulating the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, and will continue to make efforts toward the gender equal society.</p>
<p>161.156. Continue the implementation of the Basic Plan for gender equality (Cuba);</p>	<p>1. In December 2015, the GoJ formulated the Fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, and are making efforts to realize a gender-equal society.</p> <p>2. Currently, the GoJ is in the process of formulating the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality.</p>
<p>161.157. Continue its efforts for the promotion and protection of gender equality (Iceland);</p>	<p>1. Article 3 of the Basic Act for Gender Equal Society, which was enacted in 1999, stipulates that “the formation of a gender equal society shall be carried out, aiming at respect for the dignity of men and women as individuals, not treating men and women in a way that discriminates against them based on gender, ensuring opportunities for men and women to exercise their abilities as individuals, and respect for other human rights of men and women.” In line with this basic principle, the GoJ has been working to ensure gender equality.</p> <p>2. In 2015, the “Act on Promotion of Female Participation and Career Advancement in the Workplace” (hereinafter referred to as the “Act on Promotion of Female Participation”) was enacted, requiring employers to formulate and publicize action plans incorporating quantitative goals to promote female participation and career advancement and to also disclose the status of its implementation. Furthermore, in May 2019, the Law to Partially Amend the Act on Promotion of Women’s Participation and Advancement in the Workplace (hereinafter referred</p>

	<p>to as the “Law to Partially Amend the Act on Promotion of Women’s Participation”) was enacted. Through these amendments, the GoJ intends to further promote female participation and career advancement by expanding the scope of the obligation of general employers to formulate the abovementioned action plan and strengthening information disclosure.</p> <p>3. In the political area, the “Act on Promotion of Gender Equality in the Political Field” was enacted in 2018, and based on this Act, the GoJ is conducting research and information gathering, as well as dissemination of information to stakeholders and encouraging them to take appropriate actions.</p>
<p>161.158. Step up its efforts to improve gender empowerment and women rights nationally and continue to contribute at regional and global levels (Indonesia);</p>	<p>1. Article 3 of the Basic Act for Gender Equal Society, which was enacted in 1999, stipulates that “the formation of a gender equal society shall be carried out, aiming at respect for the dignity of men and women as individuals, not treating men and women in a way that discriminates against them based on gender, ensuring opportunities for men and women to exercise their abilities as individuals, and respect for other human rights of men and women” In line with this basic principle, the GoJ has been working to ensure gender equality.</p> <p>2. The GoJ has also been holding the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) since 2014 as part of its efforts to create “a society where women shine.” At the Fifth WAW!/W20 in March 2019, approximately 3,000 participants from around the world, including female foreign ministers from seven countries, attended the meeting. Participants with diverse backgrounds, including men and young people, discussed both domestic and international issues, taking into account women’s perspectives. The GoJ will continue to promote discussions on women’s empowerment and gender equality.</p>
<p>161.159. Strengthen the legislative framework to promote gender equality, in particular in the field of employment (Belgium);</p>	<p>The GoJ will continue to promote women’s active participation and career advancement following the enactment of the “Law to Partially Amend the Act on Promotion of Women’s Participation” in May 2019, which expands the scope of the obligation of general employers to formulate the action plan and strengthen information disclosure.</p>

<p>161.161. Step up its efforts to encourage enterprises to take positive measures to narrow the gender pay gap, including regarding women’s access to managerial positions (Ireland);</p>	
<p>161.160. Focus on the successful implementation of the Act on Promotion of Women’s Participation and Advancement in the Workplace as well as to share its best practices of their experiences in the achievement of women employees in the country (Brunei Darussalam);</p> <p>161.162. Continue implementing the Act on Promotion of Women’s Participation and Advancement in the Workplace, including through the monitoring of the stated goals in the action plans published by relevant government bodies and private companies (Israel);</p>	<p>In accordance with the “Act on Promotion of Women’s Participation,” the national and local governments as well as private-sector employers with 301 or more employees are required to formulate and publish action plans on women’s participation and career advancement and to also disclose the status of its implementation. This information is published on the government’s websites, “‘visualization’ site for the Act on Promotion of Women’s Participation” and “The Database on Promotion of Women’s Participation and Advancement in the Workplace.”</p>
<p>161.163. Intensify efforts directed to eliminating discrimination against women, including promotion of equal access for women and girls to all levels of education (Kyrgyzstan);</p>	<p>Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.146.</p>
<p>161.164. Take effective measures to address gender inequality, combat domestic violence and sexual exploitation, and effectively protect women and children’s rights (China);</p>	<p>- Public Relations</p> <p>The GoJ has set the period from 12 November through 25 November 25 (the UN designated “International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women”) as the annual “Campaign for Eliminating Violence against Women.” Through the cooperation of the government, local governments, women’s groups and other related organizations during the Campaign, awareness raising activities and initiatives to combat violence against women are further strengthened.</p> <p>- Various consultations</p> <p>“Women’s Rights Hotline” and “Children’s Rights Hotline” have been set up at the Legal Affairs Bureaus throughout Japan, and. Human Rights volunteers and Legal Affairs Bureau staff provide human rights counseling services to women and children, including on issues</p>

related to domestic violence. “Children’s Rights SOS Mini-Letters” are also being distributed to elementary and junior high school students throughout Japan to actively respond to written consultations submitted in from children. Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu) offers victims of violence, stalking, and child abuse with necessary legal consultation concerning the prevention of harm in accordance with the Comprehensive Legal Support Act.

- Criminal punishment

Violence against women and children (including domestic violence and sexual abuse of children) is subject to criminal punishments as the crimes of homicide, injury, assault, forcible sexual intercourse, or indecency through compulsion, and appropriate disposition are carried out based on each case.

- Protection orders

Under the existing law, it is clearly stated that, with regard to cases pertaining to a petition for protection order, a judicial decision is to be promptly rendered. The law also clearly stipulates that, a protection order may be issued without the hearing that the opposite party can attend when there are circumstances where waiting until after a fixed date for that hearing would interfere with the fulfillment of the purpose of the petition for a protection order.

- Measures undertaken by the ISA

Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.153 (“Measures undertaken by the ISA”).

- Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities

Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.152 (“Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities”).

- Others

	<p>With regard to the “so-called issue of forced appearance of young women in pornographic materials and the ‘JK (“joshi kōsei” (high-school girl)) Business’ issue,” which mainly leads to the sexual exploitation of young women, related government ministries and agencies have been cooperating in accordance with the policies compiled by the ministerial meeting on countermeasures in May 2017, working together to (1) further grasp the actual situation, (2) strengthen crackdowns, (3) strengthen education and awareness, (4) enhance the consultation system, and (5) reinforce measures to support protection and independence. With regard to measures against sexual exploitation of children, based on the “Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation” formulated at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime in April 2017, relevant ministries and agencies have been comprehensively promoting various measures such as those to prevent harm, to prevent the distribution of and access to child pornography on the internet, to crack down, and to protect victimized children.</p>
<p>161.165. Adopt a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women in line with article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Slovenia);</p>	<p>Refer to our comments (“Gender”) on Recommendation 161.74.</p>
<p>161.166. Make efforts to guarantee gender wage equality, including those aimed at women’s access to management positions (Paraguay);</p> <p>161.168. Intensify its efforts to eliminate gender wage gap (Sudan);</p> <p>161.170. Continue efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and establish full gender equality, especially in the labour market and at the salary level (Tunisia);</p> <p>161.171. Intensify efforts to reduce wage inequality on the basis of gender (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);</p>	<p>Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.159.</p>

<p>161.172. Enact legislation to ensure equal pay for equal work to both men and women in order to maintain gender parity and prevent discrimination based on gender (India);</p>	
<p>161.167. Increase the support for the presence of women in the workplace with active policies for the promotion of employment and reconciliation measures that allow for this (Spain);</p>	<p>Following the enactment of the “Law to Partially Amend the Act on Promotion of Women’s Participation” in May 2019, the GoJ will continue to promote women’s active participation and career advancement by expanding the scope of the obligation of general employers to formulate the action plan and strengthen information disclosure.</p>
<p>161.169. Ensure decent work without discrimination by enhancing effective implementation of the Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the Act on Promotion of Women’s Participation in the Workplace, and by ensuring reasonable wages and safe working conditions for foreign workers, particularly those under the Technical Internship and Training Program (Thailand);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In December 2015, the GoJ formulated the Fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, and are making efforts to realize a gender-equal society. 2. Currently, the GoJ is in the process of formulating the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality. 3. With regards to the Act on Promotion of Women’s Participation, the “Law to Partially Amend the Act on Promotion of Women’s Participation” was enacted in May 2019. Through the amendments, the GoJ will further promote women’s participation and career advancement by expanding the scope of the obligation of general employers to formulate the action plans and strengthen information disclosure. 4. Also, as globalization has brought attention to the treatment of foreign workers, the MHLW has been working to ensure that employers of foreign workers comply with labor-related laws and regulations and that all companies are aware of the “Guidelines for Employers to Improve the Management of Employment of Foreign Workers” (Public Notice of the MHLW No.276 of 2007). 5. Furthermore, the GoJ has been providing multi-lingual services to foreign workers at Prefectural Labor Bureaus, Public Employment Security Offices, and Labor Standards Inspection Offices.

	<p>6. The Technical Intern Training Program is being implemented under a new framework based on the Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees (“Technical Intern Training Act”) that was enforced in 2017 while also incorporating gender perspectives. The program includes the following elements: introduction of a license system of supervising organizations; accreditation system of technical intern training plans; improvement of provisions on the prohibition of infringement on the human rights of technical intern trainees and penalties against supervising organizations and employers for violation; onsite inspections by the OTIT; establishment of offices for consultation and reporting in technical intern trainees’ native languages; making the system more appropriate through bilateral agreements; and supporting transfers in situations where the system cannot be optimally utilized.</p>
<p>161.173. Continue efforts to implement recommendations 151 and 152 from the previous UPR on the gender pay gap and women’s participation in decision-making processes (Benin);</p>	<p>1. Currently, the GoJ is in the process of the formulating the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and will continue to implement measures in all fields, including political, administrative, and economic fields.</p> <p>2. The GoJ will continue to promote women’s active participation and career advancement following the enactment of the “Law to Partially Amend the Act on Promotion of Women’s Participation” in May 2019, which expands the scope of the obligation of general employers to formulate the action plan and strengthen information disclosure.</p>
<p>161.174. Continue its efforts to combat all forms of violence against women and to create conditions of assistance in order to facilitate the protection of victims of violence (Angola);</p>	<p>- Public Relations Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.164 (“Public Relations”).</p> <p>- Various consultations Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.164 (“Various consultations”).</p> <p>- Criminal punishment Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.152 (“Criminal punishment”).</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protection orders Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.164 (“Protective orders”). - Measures taken by the ISA Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.153 (“Measures undertaken by the ISA”). - Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.152 (“Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities”).
<p>161.175. Continue the work for eradication of violence against women and children, including sexual violence (Kyrgyzstan);</p> <p>161.176. Intensify the comprehensive approaches in eliminating sexual exploitation among women and girls (Lao People’s Democratic Republic);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public Relations Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.164 (“Public Relations”). - Various consultations Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.164 (“Various consultations”). - Criminal punishment Violence against women and children (including sexual crimes) is subject to criminal punishments as the crimes of homicide, injury, assault, forcible sexual intercourse, or indecency through compulsion, and appropriate disposition are carried out based on each case. - Protective orders Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.164 (“Protective orders”). - Measures undertaken by the ISA Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.153 (“Measures undertaken by the ISA”).

	<p>- Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.152 (“Measures undertaken by the Police Authorities”).</p> <p>- Others Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.164 (“Others”).</p>
<p>161.178. Reinforce measures to prevent and combat gender-based violence, particularly in the fight against human trafficking, and with special emphasis on the prevention of the sexual exploitation of children and girls (Paraguay);</p>	<p>1. With regard to measures against sexual exploitation of children, based on the “Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation” formulated at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime in April 2017, relevant ministries and agencies have been comprehensively promoting various measures such as those to prevent harm, to prevent the distribution of and access to child pornography on the internet, to crack down, and to protect victimized children.</p> <p>2. Refer to our comments on Recommendation 161.118 (“Measures undertaken by the police authorities”) for details.</p>
<p>161.179. Investigate all reports of domestic violence, including the same-sex couples (Timor-Leste);</p>	<p>Consultations are provided at Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Centers established in prefectures throughout Japan, and investigations on the number of consultations are being conducted regardless of the attributes of the person seeking consultation.</p>
<p>161.181. Continue with the positive work already being implemented to combat domestic violence, in particular against foreign, minority and indigenous workers and through ensuring that victims have support, care and redress for the abuse (Maldives);</p>	<p>1. To ensure that foreigners who are being subjected to harm have immediate means of redress and protection, the GoJ has prepared information materials for foreign victims and distributed the materials to relevant organizations, and also provides useful information for foreign victims in eight languages via a GoJ website.</p> <p>2. There are also ongoing initiatives, such as placement of counselors who can speak foreign languages at Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Centers. Information on the status of counseling, including information on the language in which consultation is provided, is made public.</p>

	<p>3. Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu) offers victims of spousal violence, stalking, and child abuse with necessary legal consultation concerning the prevention of harm in accordance with the Comprehensive Legal Support Act.</p> <p>- Criminal punishment</p> <p>Domestic violence, including that against foreign nationals, is subject to criminal punishments as the crimes of homicide, injury, assault, forcible sexual intercourse, or indecency through compulsion, and appropriate disposition are carried out based on each case.</p>
<p>161.182. Take measures to reduce inequalities between men and women, in particular by raising the legal age of marriage to 18 years for all (France);</p> <p>161.183. Raise the minimum age of marriage to eighteen for women (Iceland);</p>	<p>In March 2018, the GoJ submitted a bill to the Diet to lower the age of majority in the Civil Code to 18, and to equalize the marriageable age as 18 for both men and women. The bill was enacted in June of the same year. (entered into force on 1st April 2022)</p>
<p>161.184. Continue to implement measures to advance gender equality in political, administrative and economic spheres (Sri Lanka);</p> <p>161.185. Continue in its efforts to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality for women and men, with a greater focus on women, especially minority women, in decision-making policy positions in the public and private sectors (State of Palestine);</p>	<p>Currently, the GoJ is in the process of formulating the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and will continue to implement measures in all fields, including political, administrative, and economic fields.</p>
<p>161.186. Step up efforts to combat violence against children, including prohibition of corporal punishment (Russian Federation);</p>	<p>1. Efforts to prevent corporal punishment include following: conducting fact-finding investigations on corporal punishment; issuance of notices on the distinction between discipline and corporal punishment and on efforts to prevent corporal punishment; and formulation of “Guidelines on Guidance in Sports Club Activities,” “Comprehensive Guidelines on Sports Club Activities,” and “Comprehensive Guidelines on Cultural Club Activities.”</p>

	<p>2. As noted in our comments to 161.126, the Legislative Council, an advisory committee to the Minister of Justice, is also discussing how disciplinary rights of a person who has parental authority over a child should be stipulated under the Civil Code.</p> <p>3. Although the definition of “corporal punishment” is not necessarily clear, the amended Act on the Prevention, etc. of Child Abuse that was enacted in April 2020 prohibits a person who exercises parental authority over the person’s child from using corporal punishment when disciplining the child. The amended Act also prohibits the use of corporal punishment on children by such persons as the director of a child guidance center, the head of a child welfare institution, and foster parents.</p>
<p>161.187. Continue with undertaking actions to promote the well-being of children by comprehensive suppression of violence against children (Serbia);</p>	<p>1. The Legislative Council, an advisory committee to the Minister of Justice, is discussing how the disciplinary rights of a person who has parental authority over a child should be stipulated under the Civil Code.</p> <p>2. Although the definition of “corporal punishment” is not clear, the amended Act on the Prevention, etc. of Child Abuse that was enacted in April 2020 prohibits a person who exercises parental authority over the person’s child from using corporal punishment when disciplining the child. The amended Act also prohibits the use of corporal punishment on children by such persons as the director of a child guidance center, the head of a child welfare institution, and foster parents.</p>
<p>161.188. Modify all discriminatory provisions on the social and legal status of children born out of wedlock (Argentina);</p>	<p>On 5 December 2013, a law was passed to partially amend the Civil Code, providing that the inheritance portions of children born out of wedlock are equalized with those of children born in wedlock (enforced on the 11 December 2013).</p>
<p>161.189. Continue with its plans to strengthen child protection and welfare activities including introduction of legislation for this purpose (Bhutan);</p>	<p>1. The Legislative Council, an advisory committee to the Minister of Justice, is discussing how the disciplinary rights of a person who has parental authority over a child under the Civil Code should be stipulated under the Civil Code.</p>

	<p>2. Moreover, the amended Act on the Prevention, etc. of Child Abuse enacted in April 2020 prohibits a person who exercises parental authority over the person’s child from using corporal punishment when disciplining the child. The amended Act also stipulates such measures as clarifying relevant organizations with which to cooperate for the protection of children who have suffered child abuse. Furthermore, the GoJ will continue to strengthen measures to prevent child abuse in accordance with the “Comprehensive Plan for Strengthening a System with Measures to Prevent Child Abuse” decided in December 2018 and the “Drastic Strengthening of Measures to Prevent Child Abuse” decided in March 2019.</p>
<p>161.190. Establish enforceable domestic child access mechanisms that would allow both parents to maintain on a regular basis personal relations and direct contact with their children in accordance with the Convention on the Right of the Child (Canada);</p>	<p>With regard to ways of bringing up children after the divorce of parents, including visitation or contact, the GoJ conducts research on legal systems of other countries. In addition, the Ministry of Justice and other government institutions have tasked officials to participate in a study group established in 2019 and have been engaged in discussions toward the protection of children’s rights after divorce.</p>
<p>161.191. Strengthen efforts to implement the Hague Convention of 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Italy);</p>	<p>In April 2020, the Act for Implementation of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction was enacted in order to make the enforcement of the order for the return of child more efficient and expeditious.</p>
<p>161.192. Continue implementation of the Government’s “Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation”, and supporting and rehabilitation of victims (Sri Lanka);</p> <p>161.193. Further increase its efforts to combat sexual exploitation of children, child pornography and prostitution, and provide assistance to victims of sexual exploitation (Sweden);</p> <p>161.195. Continue to focus on the priority to combat sexual exploitation of children (Belarus);</p>	<p>1. With regard to measures against sexual exploitation of children, based on the “Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation” formulated at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime in April 2017, relevant ministries and agencies have been comprehensively promoting various measures such as those to prevent harm, to prevent the distribution of and access to child pornography on the internet, to crack down, and to protect victimized children.</p> <p>2. As part of their initiative, the police provide continuous counseling and support to children victimized by crime, mainly through juvenile guidance officers posted at juvenile support centers established at police headquarters.</p>

<p>161.194. Continue efforts to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation by implementing the Basic Plan adopted in April 2017 through measures to combat sexual exploitation of children (Tunisia);</p>	<p>With regard to measures against sexual exploitation of children, based on the “Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation” formulated at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime in April 2017, relevant ministries and agencies have been comprehensively promoting various measures such as those to prevent harm, to prevent the distribution of and access to child pornography on the internet, to crack down, and to protect victimized children.</p>
<p>161.196. Continue efforts to investigate and prosecute crimes related to the sexual exploitation of children (Peru);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigative authorities properly handle cases based on laws and evidence if there are issues that need to be reviewed as a criminal case. 2. The police are also intensifying crackdown on heinous sexual exploitation against children including child pornography. As a result, record-breaking 3,059 arrests relating to child pornography were made in 2019, with 784 for child prostitution.
<p>161.197. Ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in line with national efforts (Lao People’s Democratic Republic);</p>	<p>The GoJ amended the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities in accordance with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Based on the basic principles of the amended Act, the GoJ is comprehensively and systematically implementing measures to support self-reliance and social participation of persons with disability in order to realize the principles of the Convention. The entire GoJ is undertaking various efforts based on the Fourth Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities.</p>
<p>161.198. Implement fully its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including following the Committee’s guidelines on Article 14 to protect the security and personal integrity of persons with disability who are deprived of their liberty (New Zealand);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Under the Act on Mental Health and Welfare for the Mentally Disabled, involuntary hospitalization or hospitalization for medical care and protection is for the purpose of medical care and protection of the mentally disabled person. In implementing these measures, the human rights of patients are taken into consideration, and strict regulations are in place regarding the patient and procedures. 2. Involuntary hospitalization or hospitalization for medical care and protection are: (1) carried out in accordance with the law when the criteria provided for in the Act are met; and (2) not carried out solely on the basis of the presence of mental disorders. Therefore, they are

	<p>considered not to violate the provisions of Article 14 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which stipulates that persons with disabilities shall not be deprived of their liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily, that any deprivation of liberty shall be in accordance with the law, and that the existence of a disability shall in no case justify a deprivation of liberty.</p>
<p>161.199. Carry out necessary reforms to address stigma against persons with disabilities in order to strengthen implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Uganda);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In order to deepen public interest in and understanding of disabilities and persons with disabilities, and to also encourage persons with disabilities to engage more in social activities, Article 9 of the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities designates one week from December 3 to 9 every year as “Week of Persons with Disabilities” Public and private sectors have been actively implementing a variety of events across the country as a part of the awareness campaigns and publicity before, during, and after the week. 2. The “Basic Plan on Human Rights Education and Human Rights Awareness-Raising,” which was formulated in accordance with Article 7 of the “Act on the Promotion of Human Rights Education and Human Rights Awareness-Raising” (hereinafter referred to as the “Act on the Promotion of Human Rights Education and Awareness”), specifies human rights of persons with disabilities as one of the human rights issues, and that such activities to raise awareness and expand the idea of respect for human rights shall be enhanced and strengthened in an effort to realize a society in which persons with disabilities can become self-reliant and fully participate in the activities in the community by eliminating prejudices and discrimination against them and by establishing the principle of normalization. 3. The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice are implementing necessary measures, including distributing leaflets and various awareness-raising campaigns, based on this plan and under the slogan of “Eliminate prejudice and discrimination on the grounds of disabilities”.
<p>161.200. Continue with its efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and eliminate discrimination (Brunei Darussalam);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appropriate measures are being taken by administrative organs and companies in accordance with the “Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities,” which came into effect in April 2016. Also, as the Supplementary Provisions of the Act stipulate that a

	<p>review is to be conducted after three years have elapsed since the effective date of this Act, discussions are being held at the “Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities” of the Cabinet Office, which consists of persons with disabilities and those with relevant knowledge and experience.</p> <p>2. The “Basic Plan on Human Rights Education and Human Rights Awareness-Raising,” which was formulated in accordance with Article 7 of the “Act on the Promotion of Human Rights Education and Awareness”, specifies human rights of persons with disabilities as one of the human rights issues, and that such activities to raise awareness and expand the idea of respect for human rights shall be enhanced and strengthened in an effort to realize a society in which persons with disabilities can become self-reliant and fully participate in the activities in the community by eliminating prejudices and discrimination against them and by establishing the principle of normalization.</p> <p>3. The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice are implementing necessary measures, including distributing leaflets and various awareness-raising campaigns, based on this plan and under the slogan of “Eliminate prejudice and discrimination on the grounds of disabilities”.</p>
<p>161.201. Continue advancing the situation of persons with disabilities by providing access to education, health, jobs and public spaces as well as protecting from all forms of violence and discrimination (Myanmar);</p>	<p>1. In Japan, the “Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities” stipulates that no person “may commit an act of discrimination or any other act which violates interests or rights against a person with a disability on the basis of the disability.” Also, based on the “Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities,” administrative agencies and businesses are working to eliminate discrimination on the basis of the disability, including the prohibition of unfair discriminatory treatment and the provision of reasonable accommodation.</p> <p>2. In the field of education, for example, diverse place of learning, such as normal classes, special support service resource rooms, special needs education classes, and special needs education schools are established in order to ensure access to education for persons with</p>

disabilities and to provide guidance that best meets the educational needs of each person. With regard to primary and secondary education, efforts are being made to promote understanding of persons with disabilities and to enhance interaction and joint learning in which children with and without disabilities engage in activities together. For higher education, a “Study Group on Support for Students with Disabilities in Education” is held, and the concepts of “unfair discriminatory treatment” and “reasonable accommodation”, as stipulated in the “Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities” are compiled and distributed to universities and other institutions.

3. Further, the Fourth Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities, approved by the Cabinet in March 2018, calls for active engagement in public relations and awareness-raising activities with a view to improving accessibility and promoting mental barrier-free in all aspects of society in order to realize an inclusive society.

4. The “Act to Facilitate the Employment of Persons with Disabilities” stipulates the prohibition of discrimination against persons with disabilities in the field of employment, the obligation to provide reasonable accommodation, and the establishment of a dispute resolution system.

161.202. Continue to expand existing programmes and introduce new ones where necessary to support and to promote the meaningful participation of all persons with disabilities in society (Singapore);

1. The purpose of the “Act on the Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities” is to contribute to advancing welfare of persons with disabilities and to realizing communities in which citizens can live with peace of mind by comprehensively providing necessary support so that they can live their daily or social life with dignity.

2. As such, based on this law, various forms of support are being implemented to promote social participation of persons with disabilities, such as providing mobility support, welfare equipment including wheelchairs and prosthetic legs, sign language interpreters, and places for activities.

<p>161.203. Continue to promote the efforts to make the mentally and psychologically disabled persons benefit from the healthcare services (Libya);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The “Act on the Comprehensive Support for the Daily and Social Life of Persons with Disabilities” regards continuous medical care for psychiatric disorders (psychiatric outpatient care) that is necessary to ameliorate the mental and physical state of persons with disabilities and others and the pursuit of an independent daily or social life as medical services and support for persons with disabilities. The Act also stipulates that the whole or part of such medical expenses for services and support may be covered by public expenses, thereby improving medical and rehabilitation care for persons with mental disabilities. 2. To ensure the provision of high-quality and appropriate medical care for persons with mental disabilities based on the characteristics of the disability and other mental and physical conditions, guidelines have been formulated to set the direction to be pursued by all persons involved in health and medical care, and welfare for persons with mental disabilities.
<p>161.204. Continue with encouraging private business sector to continue undertaking relevant measures to employ persons with disabilities in accordance with the domestic law provisions (Serbia);</p>	<p>The “Act to Employment the Employment of Persons with Disabilities” stipulates the duty to employ persons with disabilities based on which, Public Employment Security Offices, work/life support centers for persons with disabilities, and local vocational centers for persons with disabilities serve as focal points to provide consistent support to both persons with disabilities and employers. These services range from employment readiness to settling into the position (once employed) and are intended to promote hiring of persons with disabilities by the private sector.</p>
<p>161.205. Strengthen measures so that ethnic minorities -Ainu, Ryukyu and Burakumins- can fully enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights (Peru);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Constitution of Japan not only guarantees that all Japanese citizens, including the Ainu people, the Japanese people from Okinawa and the Burakumins as has been pointed out in the Recommendation, are equal under the law, but also guarantees equality of all rights as the Japanese nationals. Therefore, there is no discrimination at all vis-à-vis civil, economic, social and cultural rights under the legal system. 2. The GoJ recognizes only the Ainu people as indigenous people in Japan. The “Act Promoting Measures to Achieve a Society in which the Pride of Ainu People is Respected” was enacted

on 19 April 2019 and came into effect on 24 May in the same year. Based on this Act, in addition to traditional welfare policies and cultural promotion, the GoJ is comprehensively advancing measures, including regional, industrial, and tourism promotion.

3. It is not possible to note that there is widespread understanding in Japan that people from Okinawa are “indigenous people.” For example, in December 2015, the City Council of Tomigusuku, Okinawa Prefecture, adopted an opinion statement stating that “most people of Okinawa do not consider themselves to be indigenous people,” and that the recommendations of various UN human rights treaty bodies which regard the people of Okinawa as “indigenous people” are regrettable and should be retracted. In June 2016, the City Council of Ishigaki, Okinawa Prefecture, also adopted an opinion against the UN recommendations, stating that “the comment that the people of Okinawa are indigenous people is incorrect,” requesting that such recommendations be retracted. Similarly, in 2019, the City Council of Ginowan as well as that of Motobu, both located in Okinawa Prefecture, each also adopted an opinion calling for the retraction of such recommendations by various UN human rights treaty bodies.

4. In any event, Japanese nationals both residing in Okinawa and from Okinawa are equally Japanese nationals, and are equally vested with all the rights reserved for Japanese nationals.

5. Furthermore, the GoJ believes that those who are discriminated against as Burakumins are not a different race or a different ethnic group, and that they are Japanese race and Japanese nationals without questions. However, based on the “Act on the Promotion of the Elimination of Buraku Discrimination,” which was enacted in 2016, the GoJ has been enhancing the counseling system and conducting education and awareness-raising in order to eliminate Buraku and related discrimination.

161.206. Continue efforts for the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers (Nepal);

Japan’s initiatives on migrant workers are as follows:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The GoJ actively informs employers of the “Guidelines for Employers to Improve the Management of Employment of Foreign Workers,” which stipulates necessary measures to be taken by employers to improve the management of employment of foreign workers. - In cases where foreign nationals who intend to engage in activities for which they receive remuneration in Japan file applications for status of residence pertaining to employment, appropriate reviews are conducted, including requiring them to receive remuneration that is equal to or higher than what Japanese nationals would receive for the same work. - Regarding the Technical Intern Training Program, in addition to explaining the prohibited acts against technical intern trainees stipulated in the Technical Intern Training Act at the time of the training after entering Japan, the OTIT provides support, such as consultations in trainees’ native languages and assistance in changing the place of intern training. Furthermore, the GoJ protects the technical interns by publishing the “Operational Guidelines for the Technical Intern Training Program,” which stipulates the necessary measures that should be taken by the supervising organizations and employers. - With regard to the Specified Skilled Worker system, standards on the working conditions of foreign specified skilled workers have been established, requiring advance guidance which explains working conditions and other matters as part of assistance to foreign specified skilled workers. In addition, the GoJ actively disseminates information through publication of the “Operational outline for accepting Specified Skilled Workers,” which summarizes the interpretations of laws and regulations and the points of operational consideration to those utilizing the Program.
<p>161.207. Strengthen the legal protection for migrant workers to eliminate cases of abuses and exploitation (Uganda);</p>	<p>Japan’s initiatives on migrant workers are as follows:</p>

- The Labor Standards Act stipulates that an employer must not use a worker's nationality as a basis for differential treatment with respect to working conditions.
- The GoJ actively informs employers of the "Guidelines for Employers to Improve the Management of Employment of Foreign Workers," which stipulates necessary measures to be taken by employers to improve the management of employment of foreign workers and prohibits differential treatment with respect to working conditions on a basis of a worker's nationality.
- In cases where foreign nationals who intend to engage in activities for which they receive remuneration in Japan file applications for status of residence pertaining to employment, appropriate reviews are conducted, including requiring them to receive remuneration that is equal to or higher than what Japanese nationals would receive for the same work.
- Regarding the Technical Intern Training Program, in addition to explaining the prohibited acts against technical intern trainees stipulated in the Technical Intern Training Act at the time of the training after entering Japan, the OTIT provides support, such as consultations in trainees' native languages and assistance in changing the place of intern training. Furthermore, the GoJ protects the technical interns by publishing the "Operational Guidelines for the Technical Intern Training Program," which stipulates the necessary measures that should be taken by the supervising organizations and employers.
- In the Specified Skilled Worker Program, the "Ministerial Order to Provide for Criteria for the Employment Contract for Specified Skilled Workers and Support Plan for Specified Skilled Workers" stipulates the standards on the working conditions of specified skilled workers with foreign nationalities. In addition, the "Ministerial Order to Provide for Criteria Pursuant to Article 7, Paragraph (1), Item (ii) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act"

	<p>prohibits not only the specified skilled foreign nationals themselves but also their spouses, lineal relatives or relatives living together, or any other person who has a close relationship with the applicant in terms of social life from concluding contracts stipulating security deposits or penalties. As part of efforts to support Specified Skilled Workers with foreign nationalities, details are required to be explained during advance guidance. Furthermore, the GoJ actively disseminates information through publication of the “Operational outline for accepting Specified Skilled Workers,” which summarizes the interpretations of laws and regulations and the points of operational consideration to those utilizing the Program.</p>
<p>161.208. Continue to strengthen oversight of its Technical Intern Training Program to ensure migrant workers participating in the programme receive full protection and support commensurate with the Government of Japan’s international obligations (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. According to the Technical Intern Training Act, the competent ministers accredit supervising organizations based on the criteria for accreditation, and the OTIT examines the details of the technical intern training plan and the appropriateness of the system for accepting trainees and approves individual intern training programs. 2. OTIT also regularly conducts on-site inspections of supervising organizations and implementing organizations of the technical intern training, and if any issues under the Technical Intern Training Act are found, strict measures, including administrative disciplinary actions, are taken. 3. In addition to this, OTIT is enhancing the protection of technical intern trainees and optimizing the technical intern training system by utilizing support systems for technical intern trainees, such as consultations in their native languages and support for changing the place of intern training.
<p>161.209. Ensure that suspected abusive employers of migrant workers can be duly prosecuted (Bangladesh);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigative authorities properly handle cases based on laws and evidence if there are any issues that need to be reviewed as a criminal case. 2. The police authority multilaterally apply various laws and regulations so as to apprehend employers and intermediaries/brokers of trafficking in persons with a view to identifying

	<p>organizations behind the trafficking. With regard to trafficking in persons by labor exploitation, the police, the Labor Standards Inspection Office, and the ISA are cooperating to thoroughly crack down on trafficking in persons through the application of labor-related laws and regulations.</p>
<p>161.210. Continue its efforts to improve the situation of migrant workers and members of their families (Côte d'Ivoire);</p>	<p>The GoJ actively informs employers of the “Guidelines for Employers to Improve the Management of Employment of Foreign Workers,” which stipulates necessary measures to be taken by employers to improve the management of employment of foreign workers.</p>
<p>161.211. Scale up the human rights protection awareness raising of vulnerable groups, including migrant workers (Ethiopia);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refer to our comments (“Awareness-raising Activities”) on Recommendation 161.68. 2. The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have been carrying out various human rights promotion activities to improve public awareness and understanding of human rights by holding symposiums, film screenings, and public relations campaigns through mass media such as television and newspapers, and preparation and distribution of pamphlets and posters during the “Human Rights Week” and other opportunities, in cooperation with various related organizations.
<p>161.212. Continue measures to promote working conditions of foreign workers, especially women foreign workers; and to improve their integration into the Japanese society (Viet Nam);</p>	<p>The Act on Securing, Etc. of Equal Opportunity and Treatment between Men and Women in Employment stipulates the prohibition of dismissal and other disadvantageous treatment of women workers for reasons such as pregnancy and childbirth. In addition, “Guidelines for Employers to Improve the Management of Employment of Foreign Workers,” which stipulates the necessary measures to be taken by employers to improve the management of employment of foreign workers, prohibits dismissal and other disadvantageous treatment of women workers for reasons such as pregnancy and childbirth. Employers are actively kept informed of the Guidelines.</p>
<p>161.213. Ensure that refugee status determination process is conducted in a fair, effective and transparent manner in line with international law (Kenya);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The refugee recognition system in Japan recognizes those who are supposed to be refugees based on the definitions in the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees after examining each application individually in accordance with the procedures provided in the domestic law. Even if a foreign national is not recognized as a refugee under “the Convention”, the individual

is permitted to stay in Japan if humanitarian consideration is deemed necessary in light of the situation in the person's home country or other factors.

2. In recent years, a sharp increase of applications seemingly attempting to abuse or misuse the refugee recognition system to seek employment or aim to reside in Japan has lengthened the examination period for overall cases, creating an obstacle to the provision of prompt protection for refugees. Meanwhile, clarification of the decision on recognition of refugee status was also an issue.

3. As a result, since September 2015, the Immigration Services Agency has been sequentially reviewing the operation of the refugee recognition system in three areas: (1) clarifying the persons eligible for protection, the decisions on recognition and the procedures; (2) strengthening the system and infrastructure pertaining to refugee recognition administration; and (3) appropriate handling of applications attempting to abuse or misuse the refugee recognition system.

Regarding (1), the points of the decisions in specific cases of recognition and refusal of refugee status are made public.

Regarding (2), efforts are being made to develop and improve the abilities of refugee inquirers through staff training in cooperation with the UNHCR. In May 2017, the position of officers to engage in the collection and analysis of country of origin information (COI officer) was newly established. Furthermore, with the cooperation of the UNHCR, information gathering and sharing on the countries of origin is being reinforced.

Regarding (3), in order to ensure the prompt and reliable protection of refugees, the ISA started to rapidly process applications abusing or misusing the refugee recognition system

	<p>while ensuring that the applicants have an opportunity to make a sufficient claim but limiting granting residential status or a work permit to re-applicants who repeatedly abuse or misuse the refugee recognition system. A panel of outside experts was set up in order to examine the classification of the applications between those that are abusing or misusing the system from others, with a view to ensuring appropriate processing of applications.</p> <p>4. As a result of these efforts, the number of persons recognized as refugees increased in 2018 compared to that of the previous year while the number of abused or misused applications declined significantly.</p>
<p>161.214. Continue providing support for the voluntary evacuees from the high radiation areas of Fukushima, with housing, financial and other life/assisting means and with periodic health monitoring of those affected, in particular those who were children at the time of the accident (Austria);</p>	<p>1. Necessary support is being provided based on the “Act on Promotion of Support Measures for the Lives of Disaster Victims to Protect and Support Children and Other Residents Suffering Damage due to Tokyo Electric Power Company’s Nuclear Accident.”</p> <p>2. First, in order to enable the health management of people of Fukushima Prefecture over the medium to long term, the GoJ has been providing financial and technical support to the prefecture, including a subsidy of 78.2 billion yen for the “Fukushima Residents Health Management Fund,” set up by Fukushima Prefecture. Fukushima Prefecture, in turn, utilizes this Fund to conduct the Fukushima Health Management Survey for all residents of the Prefecture, and carries out health examinations to ascertain the external effective doses of radiation and health conditions. In particular, thyroid ultrasound examinations are performed on all patients who were approximately 18 years of age or younger at the time of the earthquake. The GoJ will continue to appropriately manage the health of residents.</p> <p>3. In addition, as part of the measures to prevent bullying, the “Basic Policy for Preventing Bullying” was revised in March 2017, clearly stating that the GoJ will work on the prevention and early detection of bullying towards the children affected by the disaster. In April of the same year, the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology issued a</p>

	<p>message to children and students, parents, guardians, local residents, Board of Education personnel, teachers and staff of schools throughout Japan on the prevention of bullying towards school children affected by the disaster, and requested that schools strengthen their measures. The GoJ continues to provide guidance and advice so that appropriate measures can be taken at each school.</p> <p>4. The GoJ believes that it is important to continually address the mental care of children and students, and is working to improve the placement of school counselors.</p>
<p>161.215. Apply the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to all those impacted by the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in order to ensure full and equal participation for both women and men in decision making processes regarding their resettlement (Portugal);</p>	<p>The GoJ completed a provisional translation of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and posted it on the MOFA website, the link to which is also available on the website of the Reconstruction Agency. The GoJ also shares the links with relevant departments in charge of providing support to the evacuees of the Great East Japan Earthquake in each prefecture so that the Guiding Principles can be used as a reference point. The GoJ also requests each prefecture to share the information with local municipalities for the purpose of awareness raising.</p>
<p>161.216. Respect the rights of persons living in the area of Fukushima, in particular of pregnant women and children, to the highest level of physical and mental health, notably by restoring the allowable dose of radiation to the 1 mSv/year limit, and by a continuing support to the evacuees and residents (Germany);</p>	<p>To enable the health management of people of Fukushima Prefecture over the medium to long term, the GoJ has been providing financial and technical assistance to Fukushima Prefecture, including a subsidy of 78.2 billion yen for the “Fukushima Residents Health Management Fund” set up by Fukushima Prefecture. Fukushima Prefecture, in turn, utilizes this Fund to conduct the Fukushima Health Management Survey for all residents of the Prefecture, and carries out health examinations to ascertain the external effective doses of radiation of those who resided in the Prefecture at the time, comprehensive health checkups for those who resided in the evacuated areas at the time or “The Mental Health and Lifestyle Survey”. In particular, for pregnant and nursing mothers, the Pregnancy and Birth Surveys are conducted, and thyroid ultrasound examinations are conducted on those who were approximately 18 years of age or younger at the time of the accident.</p>

<p>161.217. Guarantee access to health services for those affected by the Fukushima nuclear accident, as well as for the generations of survivors of the use of nuclear weapons (Mexico).</p>	<p>In Japan, the universal health insurance system guarantees access to medical services for everyone. In addition, the GoJ has been providing additional assistance to survivors of the atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in accordance with the Atomic Bomb Survivors' Assistance Act.</p>
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