

Comments from Japan on the Concluding Observations

on the ninth periodic report of Japan(CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/9)

The Government of Japan wishes to communicate to the Committee its comments on the Concluding Observations on the ninth periodic report of Japan (CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/9) as follows.

Regarding the paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Concluding Observations, Japan is of the view that the explanations regarding the Imperial House Law that Japan provided to the Committee were not duly taken into account. Japan therefore wishes to convey its position on the matter as follows. The reference to the Imperial House Law is unacceptable for Japan and should be deleted.

The term “discrimination against women” (Article 1) as used in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) refers to any infringement of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women based on distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex.

The human rights and fundamental freedoms referred to here mean the “basic human rights”. Japan is of the view that the right to succeed the Imperial Throne is not included among these basic human rights, and therefore, even if the right to succeed the Imperial Throne is limited to a male offspring in the male line belonging to the Imperial Linage, it does not constitute an infringement of women's basic human rights.

Systems such as the Imperial House of Japan and the royal families of other countries have remained in place to this day against the backdrop of each individual nation's respective history and tradition with the support of its people. The system of succession to the throne in Japan, which is stipulated in the Imperial House Law, is a matter related to the foundation of the State.

For these reasons, it is not appropriate for the Committee to raise issues in relation to the Imperial House Law.