

TAIWAN 5TH CEDAW INDEPENDENT REVIEW, 13 -17 JULY, 2026 INTERNATIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

List of issues and questions in relation to the fifth periodic review of Taiwan's implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Legal status and implementation of the Convention

1. According to the Government's 2025 report, Taiwan formally codified the Convention into domestic law through the Convention Enforcement Act in 2011, which the Committee welcomes as an important milestone. The external review mechanism of Taiwan's CEDAW implementation is now in its fifth round. Please provide the government's assessment of the effectiveness and challenges, as well as any plans to further improve the effectiveness of this mechanism. In addition, the 2022 International Review Committee (IRC) recommended the establishment of a standing Committee on Women's Human Rights by the Legislative Yuan or a similar mechanism to effectively preview legislative proposals for compliance with the Convention, as well as the creation of an appropriate complaint procedure to address violations of international human rights standards under the Convention. Please provide updated information on progress made in implementing these recommendations since 2022.

Comprehensive legislation on gender equality

2. The Third IRC Review in 2018 urged the Government to adopt comprehensive legislation on gender equality, including a definition of discrimination in line with article 1 of the Convention and addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. In 2022, the Committee was informed that the Government intended to prepare comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including on gender equality, and recommended that this process ensure alignment with the Convention's standards, the meaningful inclusion of gender equality expertise, and the expeditious amendment of all discriminatory laws and regulations. According to the 2025 report, Taiwan is advancing this comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and collecting extensive opinions from all sectors, with the process still ongoing. Please provide detailed information on:

(a) The current status of the drafting process, how widespread and meaningful consultation with gender equality experts is being ensured, and the anticipated timeline for the completion of this legislation, as well as any plans to further expedite its adoption;

(b) Measures to ensure full compliance with the Convention, including addressing intersecting forms of discrimination and harm mitigation and reparation measures.

National human rights institution

3. With reference to its 2022 recommendations, please provide updated information on measures taken to ensure the independence and effective functioning of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), including progress in establishing procedures to independently receive and handle complaints and provide redress to victims, as well as steps taken towards accreditation under the Paris Principles, including engagement with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and the Asia Pacific Forum. Please clarify how the NHRC's independence is guaranteed in law and in practice, particularly given its placement under the Control Yuan and provide information on:

- (a) its mandate, structure and functioning, including the appointment procedures, qualifications, tenure and composition of its commissioners and staff;
- (b) measures to ensure gender parity and mechanisms for robust engagement with CSOs especially, women's rights organizations and human rights defenders;
- (c) whether the NHRC has a statutorily guaranteed budget independent of the Control Yuan and clarify how its powers differ from those of the Control Yuan;
- (d) the operational independence of the NHRC from the Control Yuan in the discharge of its monitoring functions under the Convention, the mandate to initiate independent inquiries, and whether its recommendations carry binding or advisory force.

Remedies for violations of women's human rights

4. The Committee welcomes recent efforts to simplify complaint procedures and strengthen remedies under the Sexual Harassment Prevention Act, the Gender Equality in Employment Act and the Gender Equity Education Act. However, the information provided focuses on sector specific frameworks and does not clearly explain whether there exists a comprehensive mechanism to address violations of women's human rights more broadly under the Convention. It remains unclear how complaints that fall outside these specific legal regimes, including those involving intersecting forms of discrimination, are received, assessed and resolved. Please provide detailed information on:

- (a) All existing complaint and redress mechanisms, including their structure, mandates and powers; how cases are handled in practice; and the types of remedies provided, including data on outcomes disaggregated as appropriate.
- (b) How these mechanisms relate to one another, including their relationship with procedures under the Gender Equality in Employment Act and with the NHRC;
- (c) Whether the Government intends to establish a comprehensive, coordinated and accessible cross sectoral system for complaints and remedies for violations of women's rights under the Convention, beyond the existing sector specific frameworks, ensuring effective access to justice for all women, including those in marginalized situations.

Application of the Convention in domestic courts

5. The Committee notes that, in 2022, it expressed concern that the Convention was rarely invoked and applied by domestic courts, despite the provisions of the Enforcement Act, and welcomes the information indicating that this situation has improved. The Committee commends the measures taken by the Judicial Yuan and the Ministry of Justice to incorporate the Convention as a mandatory subject in pre-service and in-service training for judges, prosecutors, attorneys and other judicial officials, including the development of a reference manual for judges on citing the Convention. However, the Committee remains concerned that these measures appear to rely primarily on training and policy initiatives, without clear evidence of their institutionalization through administrative protocols or in binding legal or regulatory frameworks to guarantee their sustained impact on judicial practice. Please provide information on:

- (a) Measures taken to ensure the sustainability and institutionalization of initiatives aimed at strengthening the application of the Convention, including whether they are enshrined in legislation, regulations or binding policy frameworks or protocols, and what mechanisms are in place to monitor and evaluate their impact, including data on the number and types of judicial decisions invoking the Convention;

(b) Steps being taken to establish a comprehensive, transparent and effective internal grievance mechanism within the judiciary to address allegations of gender discrimination, including measures to ensure accountability, access to remedies, and public reporting on complaints and their outcomes.

Sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics

6. The Committee notes that, in 2022, it requested information on the existence of a comprehensive legal framework to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) persons from discrimination beyond the areas of education and employment. Please provide updated information on the legal and policy framework in place to prohibit and address discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics in all areas covered by the Convention. Please indicate whether planned comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation explicitly includes protection on these grounds. The Committee is concerned that no comprehensive legislation has been adopted to ensure legal gender recognition. Please:

(a) Clarify the current legal framework governing change of legal gender markers, including the continued reliance on administrative requirements such as surgical interventions and psychiatric diagnoses, and indicate what is the existing framework for gender recognition, in line with international human rights standards;

(b) Provide information on measures taken to ensure that legal gender recognition procedures respect the rights to bodily autonomy, dignity and privacy, and do not impose disproportionate or discriminatory requirements on transgender, non-binary and intersex persons, including steps taken to eliminate mandatory medical or psychiatric requirements and address the specific situation of intersex persons; and

(c) Indicate whether the Government is taking steps to review the binary household registration system, including in light of the legalization of same-sex marriage, and to ensure recognition of diverse gender identities.

National machinery for the advancement of women

7. With reference to the fifth national report, please provide updated information on the institutional status and mandate of the Department of Gender Equality of the Executive Yuan. Please:

(a) Clarify whether the Department has been elevated to cabinet-level status, and if not, what statutory authority it holds to direct, monitor and enforce gender mainstreaming obligations and legislation across all five Yuans, including the Judicial, Legislative and Examination Yuans, and across local governments, as well as accountability measures in place for entities that fail to comply with gender mainstreaming obligations;

(b) Indicate whether an overarching, multi-year national gender equality strategy with time-bound targets, measurable baseline indicators and enforceable sectoral accountability mechanisms has been adopted since the Fourth Review in 2022, and if so, provide details of its scope, implementation timeline, resourcing and progress to date;

(c) Provide disaggregated data on gender equality budget allocations across all government ministries and agencies for the period 2021–2024, including steps taken to significantly increase allocations, and describe the gender-responsive budgeting tools developed and implemented across ministries together with evidence of their measurable impact on sectoral appropriations and gender equality outcomes, indicating the existence of a Gender Budget Monitoring system.

8. As follow up to its 2022 observations regarding the lack of concrete outcomes and effective coordination, regulatory tools and accountability mechanisms, the Committee requests updated

information on measures taken to strengthen the authority, resources and coordinating role of the Department of Gender Equality of the Executive Yuan in implementing the Convention. Please also provide information on:

- (a) Progress in establishing effective coordination and accountability mechanisms, including indicators, targets, data collection systems, performance frameworks and incentives, for synergy of mainstreaming efforts;
- (b) The remaining legislative amendments needed to ensure full compliance with the Convention, indicating timelines, and how the Government plans to update its review mechanism to incorporate the Committee's general recommendations Nos. 38, 39 and 40, and ensure continued alignment of laws and policies with the Convention.

9. Please provide updated information on mechanisms in place to ensure the systematic, meaningful and institutionalized participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) particularly women CSOs, the NHRC and critical stakeholders in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of gender equality policies, including national reports under the Convention and clarify whether structured and formal channels exist for CSOs to participate in gender equality policy making at the ministerial and inter-Yuan levels, including budget consultations and legislative review processes, or whether such engagement remains ad-hoc and informal.

Temporary special measures

10. Please provide updated information on temporary special measures adopted or planned in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, to accelerate substantive equality between women and men in all areas where women remain underrepresented or disadvantaged. Please:

- (a) Indicate what temporary special measures, beyond the existing constitutional party list quota for the Legislative Yuan, are in place to increase women's representation in the Executive Yuan cabinet, the senior civil service, the judiciary and quasi-diplomatic representation through the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Offices abroad, including current gender-disaggregated data on representation across each of these bodies and any numerical targets and timelines in place;
- (b) Describe the temporary special measures adopted to address women's underrepresentation in the technology, semiconductor, digital economy, artificial intelligence and green energy sectors, and indicate what specific measures have been designed and implemented with an intersectional approach to address the compounded disadvantages of indigenous women, women with disabilities, migrant and older women in the areas of education, employment, health, political participation and socio-economic benefits;
- (c) Indicate whether Taiwan has considered extending gender quotas or other affirmative measures to the appointment of judges, heads of quasi-diplomatic missions and senior public officials in finance and national security portfolios.

11. Please describe capacity building and awareness raising measures targeting government officials, policymakers, employers and the private sector on the temporary, non-discriminatory and developmentally necessary character of temporary special measures under the Convention, including in relation to the financial services and corporate sector. Please also indicate:

- (a) Whether mandatory disclosure and corrective plan requirements for listed companies falling below the one-third female director threshold have been enforced, and provide data on compliance rates for 2022–2025;
- (b) What further measures, including binding targets and sanctions for non-compliance, are envisaged to accelerate gender parity in corporate leadership, particularly within Taiwan's technology and semiconductor sector, in line with general recommendations Nos. 25 and 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision making systems.

Gender stereotypes

12. The Committee notes the measures taken by the Government to address gender stereotypes, including public awareness campaigns, integration of gender equality into education and cultural initiatives, and efforts to reduce occupational gender segregation. However, the Committee remains concerned that these measures appear to focus primarily on awareness-raising and sectoral initiatives, without a comprehensive and sustained approach to addressing and rectifying deeply rooted patriarchal norms and discriminatory gender stereotypes in society. The Committee is further concerned that media reporting on gender-based violence continues to reinforce victim blaming narratives, and that administrative guidance mechanisms lack effective sanctions and transparency. Please provide information on:

- (a) Whether the Government has adopted, or plans to adopt, a comprehensive strategy to eliminate discriminatory gender stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes, both online and offline, including those relating to the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society including in the workplace.
- (b) Measures taken to ensure systematic training of public officials and media professionals on gender-responsive and inclusive language, the elimination of discriminatory gender stereotypes and the promotion of positive portrayals of women, including in the context of reporting on gender-based violence.
- (c) Temporary special measures to address stereotypes affecting women in marginalized situations, including migrant women, older women, women with disabilities and lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women.

Domestic violence

13. The Committee notes the amendments to the Domestic Violence Prevention Act in 2023, aimed at strengthening protection orders, victim safeguards and recidivism prevention, as well as the statistical information indicating a continued increase in reported domestic violence cases, with women consistently representing most victims. The Committee notes disparities in indictment rates between men and women and requests information on whether the Government recognizes domestic violence as a form of gender-based violence against women rooted in structural inequality, as required under the Convention. Please also provide information on:

- (a) Measures taken to ensure the effective enforcement and monitoring of protection orders, including coordination among police, prosecutors and relevant services, and safeguards against further harm.
- (b) The scope and effectiveness of perpetrator intervention programmes, including whether participation is mandatory, how compliance is ensured and how regional disparities in access are addressed.
- (c) How the Government ensures that the implementation of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act is effectively translated into practice, including through adequate and sustained resource allocation, integrated data collection and tracking systems and measurable outcomes, and what proportion of resources is specifically allocated to addressing domestic violence and supporting victims of gender-based violence.

Gender-based violence against women

14. The Committee notes the adoption of the National Action Plan for Gender-Based Violence Prevention (2025). Please provide updated and detailed information on:

- (a) How the Government legally defines and addresses gender-based violence against women in non-cohabiting and non-marital intimate relationships, including whether such cases are fully covered under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act or are treated under separate legal frameworks, and updated statistical data on the prevalence of such violence disaggregated by marital or relationship status, type of violence and outcomes of complaints;
- (b) Safeguards in place to ensure that victims are effectively protected in all proceedings, including that mediation or settlement is not pursued in a manner that undermines their safety and rights.
- (c) How the National Action Plan ensures a coordinated and comprehensive approach across sectors, and geographic locations including how it addresses root causes of violence in intimate relationships beyond marriage and ensures effective implementation, monitoring and accountability.

15. The Committee notes statistical information indicating disparities in the prevalence of gender-based violence among different groups of women, including that intimate partner violence rates are higher among indigenous women and foreign women compared to non-indigenous Taiwanese women, and that sexual assault rates are also disproportionately higher among foreign and indigenous women. Please explain the reasons for these disparities and indicate whether the Government recognizes the intersectional nature of gender-based violence affecting women belonging to different ethnic and nationality groups. Please also provide information on:

- (a) Targeted, culturally sensitive measures adopted to prevent and respond to such violence, including efforts to address structural barriers and ensure effective access to justice.
- (b) The prevalence and forms of gender-based violence against women with disabilities, including in intimate relationships and in the context of stalking and harassment, disaggregated by type of disability, age, relationship to the perpetrator, location and outcome of complaints, and how the Government ensures comprehensive and publicly available data collection capturing the intersection of gender and disability.
- (c) Measures adopted to prevent and respond to gender-based violence against women with disabilities, older and other structurally excluded women including access to specialized support services, shelters, assistive technologies and reporting mechanisms.

Sexual harassment

16. The Committee welcomes the amendments to the Gender Equality in Employment Act, the Sexual Harassment Prevention Act and the Gender Equity Education Act adopted in 2023 that entered into force in 2024. However, the Committee notes the significant increase in reported sexual harassment cases and requests information on:

- (a) The factors underlying this increase and whether it reflects improved reporting, increased prevalence or gaps in prevention.
- (b) Measures to ensure effective investigation, prosecution and remedies, including protection from retaliation, and steps taken to address reported gaps in practice, including repeated questioning of victims, lack of trauma informed procedures and insufficient gender sensitivity among law enforcement and judicial personnel.

Sexual assault

17. The Committee welcomes measures taken by the Government to prevent and respond to sexual assault, including increased funding and expanded professional training. The Committee notes that

women constitute approximately 82.3 per cent of sexual assault victims, with higher prevalence among foreign women, indigenous women and women with disabilities. Please explain how the Government interprets these disparities and whether it recognizes sexual assault as a form of gender-based violence rooted in structural inequality. Please also:

- (a) Provide information on measures taken to address underreporting and barriers to prosecution, including the availability of disaggregated data and measures to strengthen accountability, in line with general recommendation No. 33 on women's access to justice.
- (b) Provide information on how the Government ensures that victims, in particular children and other vulnerable groups, have effective access to justice and remedies, including through survivor-centred and trauma-informed procedures, timely protection measures and safeguards against re-traumatization.
- (c) Clarify whether training programmes and public awareness campaigns address sexual assault explicitly as a form of gender-based violence and a consequence of gender inequality, including efforts to combat victim-blaming attitudes and harmful gender stereotypes.

Stalking and harassment

18. The Committee notes the implementation of the Stalking and Harassment Prevention Act and the information provided on cases handled, written warnings issued and protection orders granted. However, the Committee remains concerned about gaps in implementation, including the low number of protection orders issued compared to reported cases, delays in their issuance and instances of non-compliance. Please provide information on:

- (a) Measures taken to ensure the timely issuance, effective enforcement and monitoring of protection orders, including whether victims may apply directly and whether emergency protection orders are envisaged.
- (b) Steps being taken to eliminate requirements for psychiatric assessments and the financial burden placed on victims, and measures to ensure consistent implementation of the Act across regions, including the availability of specialized support services.
- (c) How planned legislative amendments will address evolving forms of stalking, including online harassment and trolling, and whether the Government intends to strengthen protection orders by including affirmative measures such as compensation, perpetrator and tech service provider obligations.

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence

19. The Committee welcomes the legislative and policy measures adopted to address technology-facilitated gender-based violence, including amendments to the Criminal Code, the Sexual Assault Crime Prevention Act and the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act, as well as the establishment of mechanisms for the removal of sexual images. However, the Committee remains concerned about the high prevalence of technology-facilitated gender-based violence and the fragmented nature of the current legal and institutional response. Please:

- (a) Clarify whether the Government intends to adopt a comprehensive response and prevention plan, including the designation of a coordinating authority, integration of efforts across agencies, regular data collection and evaluation of outcomes.
- (b) Explain what measures are envisaged to address gaps in accountability frameworks, including the absence of sanctions for individuals who purchase or access non-consensual sexual images of others persons including adults and children, limitations in prosecuting certain offences without a complaint, and challenges posed by online anonymity and cross-border platforms.
- (c) Indicate how awareness-raising efforts will be complemented by structural and legal reforms to address the root causes of technology-facilitated gender-based violence, including gender inequality,

digital gender poverty and harmful social norms, and what targeted measures exist for children, adolescents and older women.

Trafficking in women and girls

20. The Government's 2025 report provides statistics on human trafficking cases from 2021 to 2024, indicating that the number of victims has decreased over the years, while many victims are women, with a considerable number of minors. Please provide disaggregated statistics on female victims of trafficking from 2021 to 2024 by their nationality, age and type of exploitation, including labour, sexual and dual exploitation. Please also:

- (a) Provide information on the true situation regarding investigations, prosecutions and victim identification procedures, including measures to ensure victims' effective access to justice and protective care.
- (b) Indicate measures taken to address the vulnerability of specific groups of women, including new immigrant women and domestic workers, to trafficking.

Exploitation of prostitution

21. The Committee notes that, under article 80 of the Social Order Maintenance Act, the majority of individuals fined for illegal sexual transactions from 2021 to 2024 were women, despite a sexual transaction involving both parties. Please explain why a disproportionate number of women were penalized and provide information on Government measures to protect sex service providers from potential infection, violence and exploitation. Please also provide background information on the small number of women referred for alternative livelihood assistance and indicate any steps taken to strengthen those referral and support mechanisms.

Human rights education on military sexual slavery

22. In 2023 the CEDAW Committee found that the Philippines government violated the rights of Filipina “comfort women”, by failing to redress continuous discrimination and suffering of sexual slavery victims and providing official recognition, reparations and social support for the injuries perpetrated by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II. Relatedly, on 6 March 2026, seventeen United Nations experts issued a statement on justice, truth and reparations for survivors of the so-called 'comfort women' system established and controlled by the Japanese Imperial Army during the Second World War, stressing the importance of preserving historical memory through educational materials, memorials and commemoration. Considering that there is no longer surviving ‘comfort women’ victims in Taiwan, please:

- a) Indicate how the government is dealing with the failed obligation to protect and redress the discrimination and suffering of the Taiwan “comfort women” who have now become a part of Taiwanese history; and
- b) Elaborate on the Government's response to the CEDAW Committee findings and the call of the UN Experts, including whether more active initiatives are being considered, such as memorials and commemoration by the government, inclusion of the history of “comfort women” in the curriculum of educational institutions and describe existing educational programmes and materials addressing this historical issue.

Equal and inclusive representation in political and public life

23. Taiwan's record on women's political representation is among the strongest in Asia, with over 40 per cent of Legislative Yuan seats held by women in 2024. Please indicate whether the existing constitutional threshold requiring that at least one fifth of party list seats be assigned to women is

considered sufficient and whether steps are being taken to move towards parity of 50 per cent, in line with CEDAW General Recommendation No. 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems. Please also:

- (a) Clarify what concrete measures have been taken to address the persistent underrepresentation of women in senior decision-making positions, including ministers, vice-ministers and senior executive posts, and provide updated disaggregated data.
- (b) Explain the reasons for the persistent low representation of women at the local executive level and indicate whether legislative or policy measures, including amendments to the Local Government Act, are envisaged.
- (c) Indicate what measures are in place to increase women's representation in male-dominated policy domains including finance, national security and technology, and outline strategic plans for achieving the 50:50 parity target across sectors and tiers of governance in line with General Recommendation No. 40.
- (d) Provide data and information on the participation of rural women, indigenous women, women with disabilities and other marginalized or structurally excluded groups in political and public life.

24. In light of reports of the 2024 elections being marked by documented gendered online attacks on female politicians as a deterrent to women's political participation, please provide information and data pertaining political violence against women reported from 2022 to date, measures taken to prevent and address harassment, hate speech and cyber violence targeting women in politics, and whether any legislation specifically targeting gendered political violence has been enacted or is planned.

International representation

25. Despite Taiwan's diplomatic context, women's representation in the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Offices worldwide remains male-dominated at the senior level. The Government indicates that there are sixteen male and four female ambassadors at large. Please clarify the reasons for this disparity and whether temporary special measures, as encouraged by article 4 of the Convention and General Recommendation No. 25, are envisaged. Please also:

- (a) Provide updated data on the representation of women in senior diplomatic positions, including heads of mission and ambassadorial roles.
- (b) Explain why, the fact that although between 47.7 per cent and 55 per cent of women passed the diplomatic examination, this does not translate into equivalent representation at senior levels, and indicate measures taken to address this gap.
- (c) Describe measures taken to promote women's leadership in international representation, including mentorship, career advancement programmes and the visibility of women role model

Nationality

26. The Committee notes the information provided on measures taken to define the criterion of 'no illicit or illegal behaviour' in the context of naturalization, as well as statistical data indicating low rejection rates. Please clarify how the definition and application of this criterion are ensured to be objective, proportionate and free from gender bias in practice. Please provide updated data on naturalization applications and rejections, disaggregated by gender, nationality and grounds for rejection, and indicate whether independent oversight mechanisms exist to review such decisions. Please also indicate the measures taken to address structural inequalities, gender stereotypes and risks of dependency or vulnerability among new immigrant women, and whether such measures effectively enhance women's autonomy and productivity.

27. Please clarify how provisions relating to residency and parental rights under the Immigration Act are implemented in practice, particularly in cases of divorce, and whether safeguards are in place to ensure that women's residency status and parental rights are not adversely affected. Please also indicate whether any measures have been taken to address concerns related to coercive marriages or pressures linked to residency status. With reference to amendments to the Nationality Act concerning stateless children, please provide updated information on the implementation of these provisions and clarify whether all children born in the territory are guaranteed access to nationality without discrimination, and what measures are in place to ensure that stateless or undocumented children, in particular girls, have effective access to rights and social protection.

28. The Committee is further concerned that, despite the legalization of same sex marriage, gaps remain in the legal framework governing parentage. In particular, the absence of a presumption of parentage for same-sex couples may result in children being legally recognized as having only one parent at birth. Please provide information on measures taken to address this situation, including whether the Government intends to amend the relevant legislation to ensure equal recognition of parentage in same-sex families, and how the rights and best interests of children in same sex families are fully protected, including in transnational contexts.

29. Please provide updated information on the legal and policy framework governing dependent visas, temporary entry and residency rights of new immigrant women, including safeguards to ensure that their legal status is not dependent on marital relationships in a manner that exposes them to vulnerability, including in situations of divorce, widowhood or family breakdown. Please indicate what targeted, cross-sectoral measures have been adopted to address structural barriers faced by new immigrant women, including precarious employment, language barriers and disproportionate care responsibilities, and to ensure their economic autonomy and full participation in society. Please also provide information on any follow-up to the study on residency and parental rights of divorced new immigrants.

Education

30. The Committee raised concerns in 2022 that gender and women's studies programmes and institutes in Taiwanese universities have a weak institutional position. Please indicate what measures have been taken to support such programmes and institutes. The 5th Taiwan CEDAW report states that significant progress has been made in girls' participation in STEM education, with increasing female enrollment in technology-related degree programmes. The government's gendered innovation initiative (2023–2025) also **reportedly** extends gender mainstreaming into scientific research and technological development however, impact in addressing gender disparities in the technology industry remains unclear. Please provide information on:

- a) Disaggregated data on educational enrollment, completion, and attainment by gender, disability, indigenous status, and geographic region for 2021-2024;
- b) Measures taken to ensure equal, inclusive and affordable access for women and girls to all levels and fields of education, including efforts to reach parity in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and
- c) Steps taken to address gender stereotypes in educational curricula and to mainstream gender equality into teaching content, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of teachers.

Employment

31. The Committee observes no significant progress in closing the gender wage gap and notes that measures taken appear to focus primarily on symbolic and awareness-raising activities. Please indicate

what plans the Government must take to concretize these measures and ensure increased wage transparency and requirements for objective job evaluation schemes, at least in large companies. Furthermore, inadequate legal and regulatory provisions exist for low-income workers in the economy, particularly women in caregiving, domestic service, and agricultural sectors, where they lack full labour protections and social security coverage, creating long-term poverty and pension insecurity among older women. Please also:

- (a) Provide updated information on the employment situation of women with disabilities, including steps taken to establish more comprehensive statistical data, formulate policies in accordance with international human rights standards and provide reasonable workplace accommodations and assistive measures.
- (b) Indicate what steps have been taken to adopt encompassing legislation for the protection of foreign domestic workers, engage and involve the large group of foreign domestic workers in policy consultations, and assess the overall situation of foreign domestic workers including an impact assessment of measures taken to date.
- (c) Provide information on how the Government is conducting studies, research and envisaging plans to make significant progress related to work and family balance, including measures to address the very short period of maternity leave, the lack of affordable childcare services in remote areas, and the need to ensure that childcare facilities are adapted to diverse work schedules.
- (d) Provide existing or anticipated plans to integrate concrete gender targets and outcomes into the National Business and Human Rights Agenda for private sector entities and under digitization procedures within the Digital Economy Policy and Plan.

Health

32. Taiwan maintains a Universal National Health Insurance system providing comprehensive coverage, including cervical cancer screening, breast cancer screening, prenatal care and reproductive healthcare. Please provide information on access to sexual and reproductive health services, including disparities affecting marginalized groups, and updated data on obstetric violence and child and teenage pregnancy. With regards to reproductive autonomy, the spousal consent requirement for abortion under the Genetic Health Act has not been abolished. Please indicate:

- (a) Whether any legislation has been enacted or is planned towards eliminating the spousal consent or parental consent requirement for abortion.
- (b) Whether the draft amendment to the Reproductive Health Act of 2022 is being carried out in coordination with the review procedures of the Executive Yuan, and how women, including women's organizations, are consulted in the development of health policies relating to reproductive rights.

33. While National Health Insurance covers migrants employed through official channels, undocumented workers and those between contracts have no coverage. Please provide information on:

- (a) Healthcare provisions available to women with disabilities, women in the low-income bracket and migrant women workers without formal health insurance coverage, and measures in place to address language and cultural barriers to healthcare access for all marginalized groups of women.
- (b) Measures being taken towards the expansion of mental health coverage for survivors of gender-based violence, including sexual assault victims and women experiencing domestic violence, given that trauma informed, gender sensitive mental health care remains insufficiently resourced.
- (c) Targeted programmes to address the specific reproductive and maternal health needs of indigenous women in remote and mountainous communities, who face geographic barriers to maternal health, specialist care and reproductive health services.

Economic and social benefits

34. The Government reports that several guidelines for establishing gender-inclusive facilities, including restrooms, were adopted during the period 2022–2025. However, alternative sources indicate uneven quality in implementation, a lack of uniform legal standards and instances of non-compliance. Please explain how the Government is following up and assessing the implementation of these standards, and why many groups, including LGBTQI respondents, report that they are unable to use non-discriminatory facilities at work and on campus.

Older women, particularly those who spent significant portions of their working lives outside the formal economy due to care responsibilities, face pension poverty. Labour insurance pension calculations disadvantage women who took extended career breaks, and the National Pension basic benefit is insufficient as a sole income source.

Migrant women workers are reportedly excluded from labour insurance and National Pension schemes, meaning that after years of contribution to Taiwan's care economy, they retire with no Taiwanese social security entitlements, reinforcing their economic precariousness. Women entrepreneurs, particularly those in indigenous and rural communities, face barriers to business finance including collateral requirements that disadvantage women with limited property ownership history and limited access to formal business networks. Please provide information on:

- (a) What social security entitlements, if any, that migrant women workers accumulate during their period of employment in Taiwan, and if there are any bilateral portability agreements in place with sending countries?
- (b) What social protection coverage is available to women in the informal economy, including agricultural workers and gig (freelance) economy workers indicating if there are plans to extend pension and healthcare coverage to these groups?
- (c) What actions the government has taken to recognise, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and promote work-family conciliation?
- (d) Available data regarding women's access to capital, credit guarantees, loans and other economic opportunities including affirmative procurement and investment opportunities to bridge economic gaps and reduce feminized poverty especially in the Digital era.
- (e) Steps taken by government to monitor the impacts of current trade agreements with regards to enhancing women's economic empowerment and gender equality?
- (f) Measures in place or in the pipeline to conduct gender and intersectional impact assessments of the government's taxation regime?

Rural women and indigenous women

35. Taiwan's Indigenous Peoples Basic Law (2005) establishes foundational rights for indigenous peoples, including land rights, cultural rights and the right to self-governance. Please provide information on:

- (a) Specific intersectional gender equality measures adopted for indigenous women within the Indigenous Peoples Basic Law framework and related policies, and how indigenous women's organizations are engaged in the design and monitoring of such measures.
- (b) Access to healthcare, educational and social welfare programmes for rural women, including elderly women and women with disabilities in indigenous communities.
- (c) Gender disaggregated data on poverty rates, educational attainment, gender-based violence prevalence, employment and healthcare access specifically for indigenous women, disaggregated by indigenous group and geographic region.

36. The Committee notes that women with disabilities continue to face low labour participation, low wages and difficulties in accessing higher education, and that Government efforts in intersectional statistics concerning gender and disability, legal protection and policy advocacy remain insufficient. Please provide information on:

(a) Policies specifically targeting accessible facilities such as restrooms, breastfeeding rooms and medical equipment that consider the needs of women with severe physical disabilities, and measures to ensure accessible medical information and resources, including easy to read materials.

(b) Updated information on measures taken to address economic inequalities affecting rural and indigenous women, including access to land and housing, investment trends in rural areas and steps to discontinue customary land tenure systems that discriminate against women.

37. While Taiwan's Indigenous Languages Development Act (2017) designates indigenous languages as national languages, access to key services in indigenous languages remains inconsistent and understaffed. Please indicate what steps are being taken to ensure that key social services, including gender-based violence support, healthcare and legal aid are accessible in indigenous languages and are culturally appropriate for indigenous women in remote communities. Please also indicate what measures are taken to address unpaid care work and ensure rural women's access to credit, markets, training and digital technologies, particularly in remote areas, and provide data on women's participation in agricultural, fisheries and rural organizations, including in decision-making roles.

Equality before the law

38. Regarding the Ancestor Worship Guilds that continue to exclude female offspring, please provide information on the Government's plans and steps to fully implement the Constitutional Court's ruling of 2023. Relatedly, according to the World Bank Women, Business and the Law 2024 data, Taiwan's legal frameworks score is 75/100, above global and regional averages, but the expert opinion index reveals gaps in practical realization, indicating that formal legal equality does not uniformly translate into lived equality for women across family and marriage matters. Please indicate what measures are in place to:

a) Ensure that women in indigenous communities have effective access to their inheritance and property rights under both statutory and customary frameworks, including access to legal aid where customary practice discriminates.

b) Guarantee that the formal legal equality provisions translate in practice to everyday life, at all levels including within Cities and Communities through adopting models like the Cities for CEDAW initiative.

Marriage and family relations

39. Please provide information on the following matters relating to divorce and family relations:

(a) In cases where domestic violence is involved, a new measure requires courts to utilize mediators with professional training on domestic violence. Please explain how this system works and whether it contributes to the prevention of further domestic violence.

(b) Regarding the division of residual marital property, the inclusion of pensions varies by occupation. Please indicate how the Government can ensure that pensions across all occupational sectors are included within the scope of claims for the division of residual marital property.

(c) The proposed amendment on the right to claim alimony includes provisions terminating that right upon remarriage. Please explain the rationale of this proposal and whether the Government intends to delete this provision, given that alimony concerns the marital life between the divorced spouses.