

- In **Thailand**, the **FFW** started in 1984 with a focus on women's rights, especially on VAW and forced prostitution. The organization was very much involved in the passage of the Domestic Violence Act of 2007 as well as the Anti-Trafficking Law.
- In **Vietnam**, the **CEPEW** participated in consultations on the Gender Equality Law, the Domestic Violence Law, the Law on Trafficking, the Law on the Protection of the Elderly, the Law on Prevention of Smoking, and the Labor Law. **CSAGA** carried out a well-planned and strategic advocacy for the enactment of the Domestic Violence Prevention Law.

(d) **The lack of an institutionalized process for conducting CEDAW-based gender assessments of legislation**

In presidential or mixed presidential-parliamentary systems, **Committees on Women and Gender Equality or Committees of Social Affairs** deal with women and gender issues in legislative proposals. But with the exception of Vietnam where the Committee is mandated by law to do a gender analysis of all legislations (labor, agriculture, trade, education, etc.), the Committees on Women in other countries are only specifically assigned to comment on gender-related bills, such as those pertaining to VAW. In the Philippines however, some gender-related bills are even assigned to other committees, e.g., a reproductive health bill could be referred to the Committee on Population and Family Relations, whereas divorce, anti-prostitution, amending anti-trafficking laws could be assigned either to the Committee on Justice or to the Committee on Revision of Laws.

In a parliamentary system where the executive initiates a majority of bills, the **Ministry of Justice and Law** reviews all legislation prior to their submission to Parliament. However, there is no information gathered for this study that proves that Ministries of Justice and Law use CEDAW in the assessment of legislation. The Ministry of Justice of Cambodia though has one of the most active GMAGs whose objective is "setting up of appropriate mechanisms and allocating adequate resources to mainstream gender into policy formulation, organizational planning, drafting of new legislations, regulations and capacity development." In Thailand however, the Committee on Amendment and Development of Gender Responsive Legislation of the LRCT is responsible for reviewing and recommending legislation from a CEDAW and women's human rights perspective to the Commission.

Responding to the Issues and Problems

What solutions can address the capacity development issues/problems identified? This paper argues that lawmaking mechanisms need to **develop a holistic, integrated capacity development strategy, and identify gender champions with deep personal and political commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment in order to form alliances and share information.**