

COUNTRY	TYPE OF GOVERNMENT	EXECUTIVE	LEGISLATURE/PARTY SYSTEM
Vietnam	Parliamentary	President is the head of State and the Prime Minister is the head of Government	Unicameral: National Assembly (498 Members) One Party System: Communist Party.

III. EXISTING GLOBAL PRACTICES

A global scanning of existing practices in the gender review of legislation shows that whether the system is presidential or parliamentary, the following structures play a major role in the effective gender review of legislation: 1) for parliamentary and presidential-parliamentary systems, the initiating/drafting/reviewing body in the executive branch; 2) the legislative committee with jurisdiction on gender issues; 3) the existence and involvement of Women's Parliamentary Caucuses (WPC); 4) research and training support organizations; and 5) CSOs and women's groups.

Below are examples of best practices in how each of these structures worked to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in their respective countries.

A. Executive Branch

In parliamentary and presidential systems, the executive branch plays a major part in the initiation, drafting and review of legislation prior to its submission to Parliament. The sectoral ministries either have their legislative drafting units or a specific ministry, usually the Ministry of Law and Justice is tasked with the responsibility of writing and/or reviewing the legislation based on inputs from the respective ministries.

1. The Ministry of Justice in Finland

The Ministry of Justice in Finland plays a big role in ensuring that all legislation is reviewed from a gender perspective. The Ministry of Justice, through the Revision Bureau of the Law Drafting Department, conducts the "legislative inspection" to monitor compliance with the "Impact Assessment Guidelines for Legislative Drafting" adopted in Nov. 1, 2007. Legislative drafters in every ministry are required to undertake impact assessments of the "intended effects and benefits of the bill as well as its costs and possible negative effects."⁴ The impact assessment covers four areas: economic impact; public administration; environment; and social impact. Gender equality is one of the dimensions of the social impact assessment and recognizing the differential impact of bills on women and men is required from the very start of the legislative drafting process. The basic question asked is:

"How will the legislative proposal impact on equal treatment of women and men at work, their finances, caring for children, balance of work and family, training and professional development, employment prospects, political participation and influence, health, security and risk of violence, leisure, hobbies, recreation and other sectors that are relevant to the equal treatment of both sexes?"⁵

4. Finland Ministry of Justice, 'Impact Assessment in Legislative Drafting Guidelines', 2008.