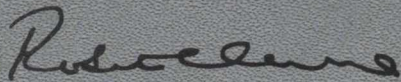


Guided by the performance monitoring framework (PMF) of the CEDAW SEAP, it is integral that gender perspective is highlighted in the designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of legislative processes while also noting the diversity within the region. The study uses the Presidential-Parliamentary System Framework to help determine whether it is the executive or the legislature that has the most influence in shaping the strategic framework in the legislative processes. The study further addresses the role of legislative committees in various government systems around the world and their differing functions, types and impacts. For instance, the number of committees in the 7 CEDAW-SEAP countries varies from as many as 58 (the Philippine House of Representatives) to 6 (the Lao National Assembly). In the Philippines there is a dedicated House Committee on Women and Gender Equality and a Senate Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations, while in countries like Cambodia and Timor-Leste, and, the committees are usually *ad hoc* and are disbanded after the consideration of a bill; they cannot block the passage of a bill and sometimes can only offer technical amendments.

Making laws that integrate a gender perspective is not only a matter of capacity development; it requires persistence and an ability and commitment to bring change. It is hoped that the Gender Assessment of National Law-Making Mechanisms and Processes in selected Southeast Asian Countries: A CEDAW Perspective will serve Members of Parliament (MPs), legislators, parliamentary staff, women's advocates and relevant stakeholders as a vital reference tool. Beyond that immediate purpose, the study will provide the foundation for comprehensive implementation and will be used as a practical tool aimed at strengthening advocacy for mainstreaming gender in legislation.



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