

The ROC Population Policy Guidelines

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I. Introduction

Population is one of the basic elements of a country. Its various aspects, such as composition, quality, distribution, development and movement, all have great impact on a country's development and social welfare. Taiwan's total fertility rate per thousand childbearing age women has declined for a prolonged period, making Taiwan a country with the lowest fertility rate in the entire world. Taiwan is facing a tough condition of fewer children. In terms of aging, when the proportion of the total population represented by seniors of age more than 65 years old exceeded 7% in 1993. This shows that Taiwan officially moved into an "aging society." With fewer children and the continued extension of the average life expectancy, the speed of the aging society will become increasingly apparent in the future. As a result of the low birth rate and the aging society, the working-age population is decreasing year by year, making the utilization of the labor force become a crucial issue. With regard to immigration, increased immigration due to transnational marriages and the steady increase in employment-related international population flows have affected Taiwan's population in a variety of ways. The pace of changes in fewer children, fewer working-age population, the aging society, and immigration are all more urgent than in western countries, and will pose more serious challenges to future development. Therefore, countermeasures should be developed and put into place as soon as possible.

II. Fundamental Concepts

1. Promote marriage and childbirth at suitable ages, nurture respect for the value of life and connect family functions to maintain rational population structure.
2. Strengthen nationals' reproductive healthcare and balanced nutrition, nationals' physical fitness and physical as well as mental health, and cultural construction and education to promote the quality of population.
3. Enhance people's employability and create decent work environments and conditions to effectively increase labor participation and protect workers' employment security and rights.
4. Establish a comprehensive social security system to provide children, juveniles, women, elders, physically or mentally disabled individuals, indigenous peoples and other disadvantaged groups with comprehensive social welfare.

5. Fully implement consciousness of gender equality to construct population policies based on gender perspectives.
6. Protect the basic human rights of all communities to build a multi-cultural society.
7. Promote environmental protection and sustainable development so as to achieve the balance between life, ecology and production, and execute the national spatial planning to promote rational distribution of population.
8. Refine immigration policies, protect the basic rights of immigrants and create a friendly environment for them and strengthen the link of overseas nationals and immigrants, thereby develop a new society of diversity and openness.

III. Policy Implications

1. Rational population structure

- (1) Promote marriage and childbirth at suitable ages, and improve the environment for spouse selection to increase opportunities for marriage.
- (2) Improve marital education and assist in creating happy marriages to facilitate the functions of community and family to reduce the divorce rate and family crisis.
- (3) Increase the fertility rate to slow the pace of an aging society and adjust the population structure to help the sustainable development of the society.
- (4) Promote caring and protection responsibilities for infants, children and juveniles to construct a healthy environment for their birth and upbringing.

2. Promote the quality of population

- (1) Improve reproductive health services, prevent genetic and infectious diseases and strengthen the service for physically and mentally disabled individuals so as to promote the health and family happiness of Taiwan's people.
- (2) Advocate a healthy lifestyle, encourage participation in sports, improve nutrition and physical fitness; strengthen mental health care system to promote nationals' physical and mental well-being.
- (3) Construct a health-oriented health and medical treatment systems, rational use of medical and health resources, implement health equality, improve the quality of health care services and the National Health Insurance, and extend nationals' healthy life expectancy.
- (4) Strengthen culture construction and character education to promote nationals' cultural level.

- (5) Respond to the challenges of fewer children and globalization by promoting educational reforms in order to elevate the quality of Taiwan's human resources.

3. Protection of workers' rights and increase of labor force participation

- (1) Respect and affirm diverse types of work, improve platforms for labor-management negotiations, and enable different types of workers to fully realize their potential for development.
- (2) Guarantee labors' rights to equal opportunity and create a humane work environment to ensure workplace and employment security and promote labors' rights, interests and dignity.
- (3) Develop a friendly relationship between work place and family to achieve a balanced development between family and work.
- (4) Strengthen diversity links between education and employment, narrowing down the gap between learning and practical needs, and guiding young people to be employed, increasing youth labor force participation rates.
- (5) Develop and utilize the middle-aged and senior workforce, and encourage entrepreneurial collaboration between young people and seniors, promoting inter-generational cooperation and the handing down of experience to make full use of human resources.
- (6) Create senior-friendly workplaces and formulate phased retirement scenarios, allowing seniors to work for longer.

4. A comprehensive social security system

- (1) Provide inexpensive, high quality, diverse, and accessible environments for child and elderly care.
- (2) Establish a comprehensive child adoption system and support system for births out of wedlock.
- (3) Construct a complete children's education and care services system.
- (4) Strengthen competence and service of preventive health care for the elderly, promote the ability of the elderly to adjust to life and protect their dignity and physical and mental health.
- (5) Ensure the soundness and financial stability of the pension system and build a diversified economic security support system to protect the economic security of the elderly and maintain the momentum of national sustainable development.
- (6) Create a diverse and continuous social supporting system, establish a comprehensive long-term care services system and increase the

effectiveness of family care so as to maintain the quality of life of both care givers and care receivers.

- (7) Promote social participation of the elderly, encourage the elderly to devote themselves to volunteer services and facilitate the elderly's lifelong learning for the purpose of helping cross-generation merge and ageing actively.
- (8) Establish a friendly living environment for the elderly, increase their digital opportunities and concern for specific needs of the elderly and old age women so as to promote the well-being of the elderly in a comprehensive manner.
- (9) Actively promote elderly industry, fully utilizing advanced technology and developing varied, high-quality, and age-suited products and services to satisfy the needs of an aging society.
- (10) Promote the welfare for physically or mentally disabled individuals and create barrier-free environment for education, employment and residential care to allow them to lead a life with dignity and opportunities for development.
- (11) Enhance the employability of indigenous peoples and other disadvantaged groups to create employment opportunities and improve living conditions.

5. Implementation of gender equality

- (1) Create an environment of gender equality to prevent an imbalance in infants' gender ratio.
- (2) Strengthen the family support system to reduce women's burden of care and increase women's employment competencies.
- (3) Create an environment wherein women's physical safety is fully respected and protected.
- (4) Respect diverse educational content and environments, and promote gender equality awareness so as to establish a society known for its respect for different genders.
- (5) Promote gender mainstreaming to enhance women's status and rights for the purpose of creating a sustainable society built on gender equality in which the sexes share in governance and prosperity.

6. Facilitation of equality among ethnic groups

- (1) Respect the language and culture of each ethnic group, and create reasonable education and work environments.
- (2) Ensure equal development opportunities for each ethnic group to facilitate the reconciliation of all ethnic group.

7. Facilitation of the rational distribution of population

- (1) Link population distribution to national spatial planning to achieve the balanced development of all regions.
- (2) Establish regional cooperation mechanisms to improve residents' opportunities and quality of life in all regions.
- (3) Protect natural environment, maintain the balance of the ecology, emphasize the sustainable use of natural resources and establish a living environment which is healthy, safe, and comfortable.

8. Refinement of immigration policies and protection of immigrant rights

- (1) Respond to the shifting population structure by actively formulating plans to attract professionals from diverse backgrounds in concert with domestic development in economics, education, technology and culture.
- (2) Assist immigrants in participating in society, promote cultural diversity, and develop new and high quality human resources.
- (3) Create an environment that is friendly to immigrants and their families, in which they are treated equally and their rights are protected.
- (4) Improve the support systems available to Taiwanese abroad and overseas compatriots, strengthen their domestic links, encourage them to return for academic or career development, making full use of human resources and expanding Taiwan's networking of overseas talent.

IV. Supplementary Provisions

1. These guidelines shall be implemented by the relevant agencies under the coordination of the Board of Population Policy, Executive Yuan.
2. Strengthen research analysis of population phenomenon and policies, promote international exchanges and cooperation of population science and provide demographics as references for the relevant agencies in drafting policies.
3. Any issue herein which is required to be provided for by the law shall be duly authorized or governed by the law.