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Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía de México**

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**Meeting of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations  
Statistical Commission on Statistical Indicators on  
Violence against Women  
9 - 11 December 2009  
Aguascalientes, Mexico**

**Report on the Meeting of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical  
Commission on Statistical Indicators on Violence against Women \***

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## I. Introduction

### Background and objective of the meeting

1. The Meeting of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on Statistical Indicators on Violence against Women was held 9-11 December 2009, in Aguascalientes, Mexico. It was jointly organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI).
2. The main purposes of the meeting were to (a) continue the work on developing the indicators in line with the recommendations in the first report; (b) conduct an in-depth technical review of the methodologies currently applied to observe violence against women; and (c) provide methodological advice for the developing of *Guidelines for producing Statistics on Violence Against Women*, regarding the selection of core and additional topics, sources of data, relevant statistical classifications, outputs, wording of questions and all other pertinent issues.
3. This report summarizes the presentations and discussions made during the meeting and highlights the major conclusions and recommendations. The discussions focused mainly on the content of the set of indicators; the list of indicators for statistical surveys on violence against women and the future work, in terms of developing international statistical *Guidelines* to conduct surveys on violence against women and the production of statistics on violence against women using other data sources.

### Participation

4. Eleven members of the Friends of the Chair group were represented in the meeting – Australia, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Mexico, Thailand, Turkey and United States of America. Participants came from National Statistical Offices and have experience with the collection and compilation of statistics on violence against women. In addition, Italy, having apologized for not being able to attend, was in constant contact with the meeting's proceedings, exchanging information and opinions. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women and the World Health Organization participated as observers. The list of participants is included in Annex 1.

## Opening session

### *National Institute of Statistics and Geography Mexico*

5. Mr. Miguel Cervera Flores, Director of Socio-demographic Statistics at INEGI Mexico welcomed the participants to the meeting and he introduced its objectives, proposed to conduct a worldwide survey on violence against women with homogenous indicators and stated that the meeting's outcomes will feed into the national initiative to normalize the classification of crimes.

### *UNSD*

6. On behalf of Dr. Paul Cheung, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Mr. Srdjan Mrkić welcomed the participants to the meeting. He outlined that the main objective of this meeting was to institute a universal methodology on statistics of violence against women. The meeting would therefore produce a proposal for a set of *Guidelines for producing Statistics on Violence against Women* in terms of classifications, topics, data, outputs and other pertinent issues. Mr. Mrkic expected that the meeting would stimulate fruitful discussions. Mr. Mrkic also expressed UNSD's appreciation to the INEGI Mexico for its hospitality.

## Organisation of the workshop

7. The full and annotated agenda of the workshop is included in Annex 1. The abridged version is shown below:

1. Registration of participants
2. Opening
3. Logistics and adoption of agenda
4. Methodological Overview of Surveys on Violence against Women
5. Indicators on Physical violence
6. Indicators on Sexual violence
7. Indicators on Psychological violence
8. Indicators on Economic violence
9. Indicators on intimate partner violence
10. Indicators on harmful practices
11. Other indicators
12. Interregional Development Account Project *Enhancing Capacities to Eradicate Violence against Women through Networking of Local Knowledge Communities*: Presentation on Violence against Women survey module
13. Outline for Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women
14. Follow-up work of the Friends of the Chair group

15. Conclusions and recommendations
16. Closing

8. Most of the sessions -except sessions 4, 12 and 13 which involved a presentation- were plenary floor discussions that provided the participants with a forum for debates, sharing of experiences and exchange of views. Sessions 4, 12 and 13 were presentations introducing background papers.

9. The meeting sessions were chaired by Ms. Eva Gisela RAMÍREZ RODRÍGUEZ (Mexico), Ms. Mariana KOTZEVA (Bulgaria) and Mr. Srdjan MRKIĆ (UNSD). The Rapporteur for the meeting was Ms. Marcella JONES-PUTHOFF (U.S.A).

## **II. Summary of discussions**

### **Session 4. Methodological Overview of Surveys on Violence against Women**

10. A representative of the United Nations Statistics Division introduced the paper on the thorough review of the current methodologies used to measure violence against women, their compatibility with the interim set of indicators proposed by the Friends of the Chair group and their suitability at the international level. The presentation highlighted the strong need to evaluate this set against the availability of data, both at national and international settings to assess their applicability.

11. The main findings of this review are:

- i. The most readily available indicator is physical violence during lifetime by relationship to the perpetrator, as it proved to be generated by over 80% of the total number of surveys subjected to the analysis.
- ii. The classifications used for relationship to perpetrator in most cases stopped at the intimate partner (current or former).
- iii. There was lack of the availability of the total rate for both physical and sexual violence – available in no more than 50% of surveys – as well as age-specific rates for both physical and sexual violence - available in about one-third of the surveys. This fact points to the need to further investigate the type of methodological obstacles that prevented such computations and for additional technical analysis on the computation of rates.
- iv. The overlap between the last two indicators of the interim set with the first four represents a difficulty when analyzing the availability of data. The difference in their denominators - ever-partnered women vs. total number of women – calls for a deep discussion on the definition of partner.

- v. The variability of surveys measuring violence against women and the indicators produced thereof points to the need to move beyond indicators. Indicators as defined in the first report of the Friends of the Chair to the UN Statistical Commission are not widely available, contrary to what the group expected; there are a number of difficulties in harmonization. The Friends of the Chair need to define and develop guidelines on which variables and classifications are to be collected, from the point of view of instituting sample surveys on violence against women in national statistical systems.

12. During the discussion, the Friends of the Chair acknowledged the value of developing clear and unambiguous classifications, especially for relationship to the perpetrator and age, as the risk factors and consequences vary accordingly. The Friends of the Chair reiterated the view elaborated at length in their Report to the United Nations Statistical Commission that quantifying violence against women requires both the use of statistical surveys and administrative records, depending on the form of violence experienced by women. Consequently, this meeting focused on three major outcomes:

- i. The content of the recommended set of indicators, irrespective of the source of statistics
- ii. The list of indicators for statistical surveys on violence against women, including substantive deliberations and conclusions on their content and dimensions
- iii. The future work related to developing international statistical *Guidelines* to conduct statistical surveys on violence against women.

13. The Friends of the Chair agreed that this meeting would focus on the statistical methodology for a specific survey on violence against women.

14. A critical dimension refers to the reporting (or the lack of thereof) of suffered violence to authorities or other institutions. The Friends of the Chair recommend that this dimension – reporting of violent events to the authorities or other institutions – be always incorporated in the set of the four indicators on physical and sexual violence.

15. Lifetime experience of violence against women, irrespective of its form, i.e. whether physical, sexual, psychological or economic, should be assessed as of 15 years of age and above. Experience of violence at earlier ages, while extremely important in terms of the need to prevent it, may not fall within the scope of the phenomenon of violence against women as considered by the Friends of the Chair.

## **Session 5. Indicators on Physical Violence**

16. The Friends of the Chair endorsed the approach of designating the indicators on physical violence – total and age specific rate of women subjected to physical violence in

the last 12 months and during lifetime by severity of violence, relationship to perpetrator and frequency – as core indicators for measuring violence against women. This form of violence is most frequent, as surveys conducted so far clearly indicate.

17. Experience in conducting surveys on violence against women points to the need to list different acts of violence rather than attempting to develop a general and generic definition of physical violence, which is dependant on national circumstances, cultural background, tradition, subjective perception and so forth. Consequently, the preliminary classification of individual acts of physical violence presented in the draft outline of the *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women, Volume I: Statistical Survey* is an adequate basis for further elaboration. The list should not be exhaustive or closed-ended, as country specific types of violence need to be incorporated as distinct modalities. In that context, the wording of the modalities requires careful consideration due to linguistic and substantial peculiarities. In addition, the meeting agreed that it was convenient to develop an aggregated list of acts consisting of groupings of individual acts, to allow for national specificities and, at the same time, for international comparisons.

18. As the severity of a given violent act can be perceived differently by victims depending on the perpetrator, it is not recommended to assign a severity level to individual acts of violence. It would be preferable to assess the topic of severity independently of the list of acts of violence, by developing a scale based on consequences suffered by the victim.

19. The Friends of the Chair group discussed at length having “fear” taken into account to define categories of severity and even acts of violence. For example, if the victim is incapable to lead her daily life as a result of violence, the event should be considered as “severe”, even if no physical damage has been done. However, national cultural circumstances have different social views of “fear”, making it a subjective term that loses meaning in international settings. Consequently, the meeting decided that due consideration must be given to both physical and emotional consequences when determining severity.

20. The frequency of physical violence carries a different weight depending of the recollection period and the perpetrator. In the case of the experience of physical violence in the last 12 months, frequency should consist, ideally, of counting each individual violent act that the victim suffered in that period of time. In the view of results of available surveys showing that counting individual events presents considerable difficulties, certainly the framing of the question can be elaborated in such a way not to request the exact count (for example, if the violence occurred once a week, twice a month, and so forth) but always enabling to ultimately compute the total number of occurrences. As for physical violence experienced in the lifetime, frequency refers to a different count, allowing a less precise approximation, such as once, few times, many times.

21. Recognizing different risks to women depending of their life cycles, the Friends of the Chair suggest to explore a more reliable approximation of frequency of physical violence during lifetime on the basis of different life periods/segments/phases (such as

pregnancy, youth, elderly, for example) and measure frequency within each of those periods.

22. Relationship to the perpetrator is a key element of violence against women. Consequently, this is a crucial variable that has to be included in all surveys on violence against women. The classification of relationships to the perpetrator should capture the gender of the aggressor and the power relationship that exists between aggressor and victim.

23. The classification presented in the outline for *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women, Volume I: Statistical Survey* represents a solid basis for further deliberations. It would benefit from adding sub-categories of relationship by further disaggregating main categories (relatives, for example, should be further broken down based on the degree of relationship). In addition, it was also agreed that the definition of intimate partner should be subject to national circumstances.

24. In a similar fashion as with the list of acts of physical violence, the Friends of the Chair group agreed that it was convenient to develop a classification of relationship to perpetrator that allows for national specificities and, at the same time, for international comparisons.

## **Session 6. Indicators on Sexual Violence**

25. The Friends of the Chair endorsed the approach of designating the indicators on sexual violence – total and age specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence in the last 12 months and during lifetime by severity of violence, relationship to perpetrator and frequency – as core indicators for measuring violence against women.

26. While adopting the same approach as for physical violence, in terms of listing individual acts of sexual violence rather than attempting to develop a general definition, it was concluded that it would be necessary to break down the classification based on the severity of violence. It was agreed that the lack of consent is the key determinant of sexual violence.

27. The list of acts to be considered as acts of sexual violence, the concepts of sexual harassment and stalking, along with their definitions and their inclusion as acts of sexual violence were discussed and reflected upon at length. The Friends of the Chair concluded that there is a need to invest additional efforts in assessing the optimal method for distinguishing these acts from acts such as sexual assault and rape. Coupled with this, the question of computation of rates arose. Combining these statistics in one general rate of sexual violence experienced by women may result in conclusions that might be misleading.

28. To this regard, during deliberations, it was proposed to develop a classification that distinguishes between contact and non-contact acts of sexual violence. In addition, there exist specific related circumstances, such as pregnancy resulting from rape and forced



abortion that carry particular consequences and may or may not be considered as acts of sexual violence. Therefore, the Friends of the Chair concluded that in the development of the *Guidelines on Producing Statistics on Violence against Women*, the classification of acts of sexual violence and their breakdown by severity require special consideration, taking into account psychological effects and other kinds of consequences to the victim.

29. Following the same approach as with physical violence, the Friends of the Chair recognized that the risk of sexual violence differs according to women's life cycles. It was suggested that an approximation of frequency of sexual violence during lifetime be explored on the basis of life periods/segments/phases (such as pregnancy, youth, elderly, for example) and measure frequency within each of those periods.

30. The Friends of the Chair reflected on what age threshold to consider, given that, even if the target population is defined as women of 15 years of age and over, they might have been subjected to sexual violence at younger ages. Consequently, the meeting decided to have two different approaches depending on the relationship to perpetrator. In the case of indicators considering sexual violence perpetrated by the partner, the issue would be solved as follows: any event of sexual violence would be recorded, regardless of whether the victim was below or above 15 year of age at the time of the event, given that she is above the threshold at the time of the survey. On the other hand, in the case of indicators of sexual violence perpetrated by a non-partner, the meeting decided to consider events occurring after 15 years of age with a view of avoiding confusion with child abuse, which falls outside the scope of violence against women.

31. As for the classification of relationship with the offender and the frequency in the last 12 months, the same approach as for the indicators on physical violence applies to the sexual violence indicators. In addition, the Friends of the Chair recommend distinguishing the events where the acts of sexual violence are inflicted by a group of perpetrators, rather than by a single one.

## **Session 7. Indicators on Psychological Violence**

32. The Friends of the Chair concluded that the indicator on psychological violence – total and age specific rate of women subjected to psychological violence in the past 12 months by an intimate partner – should be incorporated in the core set of statistical indicators on violence against women.

33. The meeting discussed at length whether to expand the indicator on psychological violence to a lifetime period, in addition to the past 12 months. A powerful argument against this was the bias introduced by the inaccuracy of reporting facts that occurred in the far past, termed recall bias in statistical settings. Consequently, the Friends of the Chair agreed to collect data only on the past 12 months for as many partners declared by the respondent.

34. It was agreed that threats, humiliation, mocking and controlling behaviors are some of the modalities of psychological violence. This form of violence more often than not

accompanies physical violence and is a precursor of it. The Friends of the Chair exchanged views on the methodological challenges that this inherent association of physical and psychological violence pose to the development of statistical instruments. Therefore, the meeting saw the need for a review of available data on psychological and emotional violence in order to develop a classification of acts, severity and frequency that provide guidelines to national statistical authorities in designing surveys on violence against women.

## **Session 8. Indicators on Economic Violence**

35. The Friends of the Chair concluded that the indicator on economic violence – total and age specific rate of women subjected to economic violence in the past 12 months by an intimate partner – should be incorporated in the core set of statistical indicators on violence against women.

36. The Friends of the Chair exchanged views on the importance of providing researchers and policy makers with micro and macro data on economic violence, as it is phenomenon that often precedes other types of violence, especially within households. Furthermore, it is inherently associated with poverty measures that do not take into consideration the increased vulnerability of women, as they often perform unpaid work.

37. The meeting discussed at length the settings where economic violence against women can occur as opposed to acts of discrimination and which of these settings fall under the field of action of the Friends of the Chair group. In this regard, the meeting agreed to focus on economic violence perpetrated by an intimate partner, broken down by the same categories as physical, sexual and psychological violence. Other settings such as the work environment, specifically issues like harassment at work resulting in abandoning employment; discrepancies in salaries based on gender and so forth, may represent additional topics in the dedicated survey on violence against women or can be investigated through other types of surveys.

38. Following the same approach as is in psychological violence, and taking into account the disadvantages of expanding the timeframe to lifetime, the Friends of the Chair agreed to collect data only on the past 12 months for as many partners declared by the respondent.

39. Relating to the list of acts of economic violence, the discussion touched on family formation and dissolution practices, taxation legislation and other specificities related to culture and country settings that have a heavy influence on property distribution. These considerations called for the need of keeping the list of acts well balanced in terms of sources of economic assets. Modalities of economic violence are identified in the list below, however, it has to be outlined that these examples are illustrative and that the full elaboration of acts of economic violence suffered by women require additional research and analysis:

- i. Denying access to financial resources resulting in adverse consequences to the wellbeing of the woman
- ii. Denying access to property and durable goods
- iii. Deliberate non-compliance of the intimate partner regarding economic responsibilities, such as alimony, often resulting in considerable exposure of the victim to poverty and hardship
- iv. Denying access to the labor market, health care and education
- v. Denying participation in decision-making relevant to economic status

40. Taking into account the nature of this indicator in terms that it consists of a behavior over a period of time, the dimensions of severity, frequency and consequences were assessed as not fully relevant by the Friends of the Chair.

### **Session 9. Indicators on Intimate Partner Violence**

41. The Friends of the Chair concluded that the intimate partner violence indicators – total and age specific rate of ever-partnered women that experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months and in their lifetime – should remain in the core set of indicators.

42. After discussing at length the methodological implications of preserving these indicators in the core set, the Friends of the Chair agreed that they are primarily dissemination indicators, i.e. that they do not require additional collection of statistics. The meeting emphasized that these indicators require additional processing of data already collected for core indicators on physical and sexual violence.

43. Continuing with the discussion on methodological issues inherent to the indicators of violence perpetrated by an intimate partner, the Friends of the Chair reflected on the target population to be used as denominator. Strictly, the target population is ever-partnered women; however, experience shows that the estimation of this population cannot be drawn from the same survey, as it yields inaccurate figures. This points to the need of having available a census or sample benchmark of ever-partnered women, as the true target population, to be able to compute reliable indicators.

44. On the other hand, it was suggested that a proxy be used, i.e. consider using all women aged 15 years and over. This suggestion generated considerable controversy among the Friends of the Chair. While the use of this proxy target population facilitates the computation of these two indicators, their statistical reliability would depend heavily on how close the true target population and the proxy target population are from each other. Evidence shows that, depending on country circumstances as well as the definition of intimate partner, the difference is estimated at 5 to 8 per cent between ages 15 and 18, decreasing substantially after age 18. Consequently, the Friends of the Chair advised using the true target population - ever-partnered women aged 15 and over – and allowed for the possibility of using the proxy target population – all women aged 15 and over –

given that all precautions have been taken to estimate the difference between these two populations and that this difference is small.

45. Considering the wide variation in terms of partnership formation patterns, depending on cultural and national circumstances, the meeting concluded that more work needs to be done with regards to definition of intimate partner, keeping it as broad as possible, not limited to marriage or legal unions.

46. During the debate, the Friends of the Chair reflected upon the convenience of joining the two forms of violence – physical and sexual – together for the computation of these indicators. They agreed on the need to joining them together, as, in the case of intimate partnership, both physical and sexual violence are inflicted simultaneously, therefore it would be neither conceptually sound, nor pragmatically possible to disentangle them as separate indicators. Consequently, it was agreed to yield a cumulative indication of intimate partner violence.

47. The Friends of the Chair highlighted the need of obtaining information on the characteristics of the perpetrator, especially in the case of violence inflicted by an intimate partner. To this respect, the meeting advised collecting socio-economic variables, such as education and employment, as well as age. It was agreed that, considering the complexity of questionnaire development, characteristics of the perpetrator would be collected on the current and/or most recent partner.

48. It has to be emphasized that this refers only to the collection of characteristics of the perpetrator, and that computation of lifetime prevalence of violence against women implies that all former partners inflicting physical or sexual violence are recorded, even if their respective characteristics are not.

## **Session 10. Indicators on Harmful Practices**

### ***Early and forced marriage***

49. The Friends of the Chair, building on the conclusions presented in their report to the United Nations Statistical Commission, deliberated at length in regard to the inclusion of the phenomenon of early marriage in the core set of statistical indicators for measuring violence against women. Noting that the term “early” still has different connotations, and that the legal age for marriage differs from country to country, the Friends of the Chair concluded that there is a lack of universally accepted threshold that would enable statistical comparability and consistency.

50. Furthermore, the meeting reflected on the adverse consequences suffered by young women entering at an early age into marriage, such as reduced education and career prospects, and an increased risk of physical and sexual violence. The Friends of the Chair recognized that these adverse consequences do not only affect women entering into an early marriage, but also those entering cohabitation at an early age.

51. Consequently, the Friends of the Chair recommended that early marriage, or rather, early union, remains an additional indicator as a proxy for violence against women and that national statistical authorities depending on national circumstances, assess the appropriateness of including the topic in statistical surveys on violence against women.

52. As for the phenomenon of forced marriage, irrespective of the age of the bride, the Friends of the Chair recommended that this phenomenon be considered as an additional statistical indicator of violence against women. Given the complexity of the phenomenon, the meeting considered that there is a need to assess the key elements that make for it, such as perpetrator, age of bride, age of groom, among other variables. Consequently, more work needs to be done to determine the most appropriate way of measuring prevalence of forced marriage, whether through a statistical survey on violence against women or some other health and demographic survey.

### ***Female Genital Mutilation***

53. The Friends of the Chair concluded that the total and age specific rate of women subjected to female genital mutilation should be incorporated in the core set of indicators of violence against women, even though it is not a widespread phenomenon in the world. Because female genital mutilation is an extreme form of physical, sexual and psychological violence, the meeting decided that it is convenient to distinguish it as an independent indicator.

54. Furthermore, the Friends of the Chair recognized that the dedicated surveys for violence against women are not an adequate means of data collection on this topic, but the demographic and health surveys or population census are better suited for the task. The meeting recommend that this topic, where relevant, is included as a core topic in all demographic and health surveys conducted at national and sub-national levels.

## **Session 11. Other Indicators**

### ***Femicide in general and spousal homicide in particular***

55. The Friends of the Chair deliberated concerning the fact that this social phenomenon is becoming more prominent, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this region, the definition is restricted to current or former partners as perpetrators, however, the meeting decided that more work needed to be done for defining the term for the purpose of data collection and statistical processing at the global level.

56. After sharing lessons learned from national experiences, which included the formation of partnerships between the national statistical systems and the media and the strengthening of judicial registration systems, the Friends of the Chair concluded that given the nature of femicide the most adequate sources of data for this indicator are administrative records.

57. In this context, the meeting agreed that the minimum criteria for producing statistics on femicide are administrative records disaggregated by sex coming from reliable procedures. The Friends of the Chair recommended that this indicator be elaborated in a follow-up stage, in terms of a unifying definition, statistical methodology to integrate administrative records, characteristics of the aggressors, quality of administrative records and the possibility of being incorporated in the core set of indicators on violence against women.

58. To this regard, the meeting wished to emphasize that particular attention in the next phases of the work of the Friends of the Chair group should be placed on crime and criminal justice statistics, as these are the most reliable source of data for this indicator.

### ***Stalking***

59. The Friends of the Chair felt that, while stalking is a relevant phenomenon within the framework of violence against women, they were faced with a variety of inconsistent definitions, depending on national legal or statistical frameworks. A particular challenge in terms of defining the concept was the inclusion or exclusion of sexual harassment, as well as a possible interaction with emotional violence and fear. Thus, the Friends of the Chair decided that this topic would remain for further work. A comprehensive list of acts needs to be developed, as well as survey methodology to collect data on this issue. The Friends of the chair highlighted the need of taking into consideration the different national legal frameworks.

### ***Physical and sexual violence in childhood***

60. The Friends of the Chair considered pertinent to make a clear distinction between indicators on current child abuse and adult women who were abused in their childhood. The Friends of the Chair concluded that only the latter falls within the scope of its mandate and agreed to limit it to sexual violence, given that physical violence during childhood is not necessarily associated with gender.

61. The meeting concluded that this indicator should be included as an additional topic in the framework of indicators of sexual violence in a dedicated survey on violence against women. This additional topic – sexual violence suffered during childhood – is to be addressed retrospectively via an additional variable describing this particular characteristic of the victim.

### ***Discrimination and violence at work***

62. The Friends of the Chair decided to address this indicator through the indicators on economic violence. Issues like harassment at work resulting in abandoning employment; discrepancies in salaries based on gender and so forth, may represent additional topics in the dedicated survey on violence against women or can be investigated through other types of surveys.

### ***Trafficking of women***

63. The Friends of the Chair concluded that the indicator on trafficking of women should be incorporated in the additional set of statistical indicators on violence against women. Experience shows that data collection in this regard faces peculiar methodological complications, as the victims are extremely difficult to find while abroad and extremely reluctant to participate in interviews after returning to their country of origin. Consequently, surveys on violence against women are neither the most appropriate vehicle to collect data on such phenomenon, nor able to yield a complete panorama on the prevalence of trafficking of women.

64. The meeting agreed that administrative records might be a more adequate data source. Thus, the Friends of the Chair recommended the elaboration of this indicator at a later stage, when administrative records are looked at as an integral data source for particular indicators.

### ***Impact of sexual violence on sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS***

65. Considering that violence against women, in all its forms and manifestations, has a wide range of associations with women's health and wellbeing, the Friends of Chair considered that the rationale for singling out the case of HIV/AIDS as a standalone indicator might be of doubtful value. Therefore the Friends of the Chair concluded to exclude the indicator on impact of sexual violence against women on sexually transmitted diseases from the global set of indicators on violence against women.

### ***Extent to which women recognize they suffered violence as a crime***

66. Recognizing that this a perception indicator, not a factual one, the Friends of the Chair agreed that particular research methodology needs to be developed in order to collect data properly. As a result, the meeting recommended further work on how to adequately measure the extent to which women recognize suffered violence as a crime.

### ***Hidden violence unreported to authorities***

67. The Friends of the Chair exchanged views on the importance of obtaining data on unreported physical and sexual violence, as the reasons for not reporting vary widely according to certain characteristics of the victim or the perpetrator, which has great implications for policy formulation.

68. The meeting felt that, rather than an independent indicator; this issue would be better addressed treating it as an additional variable. Consequently, the meeting introduced it as a dimension, at the same level as frequency, severity, and so forth, to be collected for the four indicators on physical and sexual violence. In addition, the Friends of the Chair decided to rename this subject "violence unreported to authorities" as opposed to "hidden violence unreported to authorities", considering that the new term defines better the observed phenomenon.

## **Session 12. Interregional Development Account Project: Presentation on Violence against Women survey module**

69. Under the Development Account Project on Eradicating Violence against Women, the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe, Statistical Division, was assigned the development of a survey module that can be attached to an existing survey at the national level and provide an alternative for the dedicated statistical survey on violence against women. The draft module was developed and commented upon by an expert group meeting in September 2009.

70. The latest version of the questionnaire, comprised of sixty questions, was presented by the Statistical Division of the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe at this meeting of the Friends of the Chair. It was pointed out that this instrument was developed with a view of producing data for the computation of the interim set of indicators put forward by the Friends of the Chair in their report to the Statistical Commission in its 40<sup>th</sup> session.

71. The Friends of the Chair acknowledged the development of this module and its content. It was noted that, while in principle it meets the interim set of indicators in terms of content, the Friends of the Chair expressed the need of thorough elaboration for the implementation, including statistical strategy and computation methodology.

72. Specifically, concerns were raised in regard to ensuring the safety of the respondents in the framework of the master survey that might focus on a completely unrelated topic, as well as issues related to sampling, as the sample frame will be developed for the master survey, not the module on violence against women. The meeting also voiced their concern regarding the computation of indicators, given that there are no guidelines on how to process the data, and the fact that the possible lack of randomness coming from the sampling may prevent accurate estimates. In addition, the issue of translation was raised; the Friends of the Chair pointed out that the inadequate translation of the instrument might affect comparability. Other issues such as the need for extensive and additional training of the enumerators and relatively short time-frame (mid-2011) to accomplish testing in ten countries were also discussed.

73. Therefore, the meeting recommended the development of a comprehensive implementation manual addressed to national statistical offices willing to use the survey module covering at length all issues raised. To this regard, it has to be emphasized that certain participating countries may run this module only as a pilot – testing the protocols, methodology and questionnaire – while others might attempt at generating statistics for the core indicators.

74. In that context, the Friends of the Chair recommended that any further work on the development and the implementation of the module needs to take these concerns into consideration; to proceed cautiously and be fully aware of adverse consequences that may affect both the master survey and the module. The Statistical Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe took note of the advice offered by the Friends of the Chair and stated that it will be reflected upon during their next Expert Group Meeting, which would be held in the first half of 2010



### **Session 13. Outline for Guidelines for producing Statistics on Violence against Women**

75. The Friends of the Chair expressed the appreciation for the outline of the forthcoming *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women*, presented by the United Nations Statistics Division. It was concluded that the outline presents a solid foundation for the future development of this document. Its contents cover the major topics to be addressed via a dedicated survey on violence against women. The outline is comprised by four main chapters plus a number of annexes. The main chapters touch on a) The role of the survey within the national statistical and academic community; b) Definitions and essential features; c) Planning and organizing and d) Core and additional topics. The annexes would include tabulations to be produced, framing of questions, sample questionnaires, national experiences and references to other key documents, among other useful aids.

76. A number of comments and suggestions were provided by the Friends of the Chair; these were duly noted and will be incorporated in the second draft of the handbook. One of the main emphases was on whether and how to provide support to victims. Additional remarks referred to issues like cluster sampling, interviewers' training and selection criteria, time needed for interview and its impact on planning and budgeting, questionnaire design, as well as computation of nominators and denominators. In particular, the Friends of the Chair exchanged views on the convenience of collecting extensive data on the perpetrator's characteristics, as it would be indirectly supplied by the victim. Because victims might not have accurate information, or might be affected by bias, this information could be rendered unreliable.

77. The meeting recommended that the handbook discuss ethical issues pertaining to this survey, in terms of sensitive topics, neutrality, safety of both enumerators and respondents, implementation of the survey in high risk areas, sampling, among other matters. It was concluded that this subject required further collection of national practices and elaboration.

### **Session 14. Follow-up work of the Friend of the Chair group**

78. The Friends of the Chair discussed at length the future work programme of the Group. It was concluded that the work of the Friends of the Chair should be extended beyond the first phase, ultimately until 2015. The first phase of the work of the Group consists of identifying the set of core and additional statistical indicators on violence against women, conducting a review of national experiences, developing international *Guidelines* for conducting statistical surveys on violence against women and submitting them to an Expert Group Meeting by the end of 2010. To this regard, the Friends of the Chair agreed to take into consideration the findings that will be obtained through the pilot test of the survey module presented by UN Economic Commission of Europe. The first phase is expected to be finalized by submitting the final draft of the *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women*, together with the report from this meeting held in

Mexico, 9-11 December 2009, which presents the required sets of indicators, to the United Nations Statistical Commission in February 2011.

79. For the second phase, the Friends of the Chair concluded that there is a need to continue the work on two fronts. The first one refers to investigating the inclusion of indicators that have the source of data in administrative and civil society records in the core set, such as femicide, for example. The second front refers to formulating recommendations to ensure that the statistical data collections that have a source in administrative records, such as crime statistics, are adjusted to provide source on gender statistics in general, and violence against women statistics, in particular.

80. In doing so, the Friends of the Chair group needs to coordinate closely with other international and regional initiatives aimed at improving administrative records that are planned in the next several years, in order to avoid overlap and/or contradictions. In addition, the meeting recognized that there is a wealth of national experiences on the use of judicial, police and hospital records to produce statistics in general, which should be reviewed systematically in order to identify the overarching challenges of this exercise. Special attention should be paid to the impact of national legislations on the production of internationally comparable statistics on violence against women coming from administrative sources.

81. The Friends of the Chair decided to explore the possibility of introducing a world-wide homogenous violence against women statistical data collection exercise, as initiated by the Chair of the Friends of the Chair.

### **III. Conclusions and Recommendations**

82. The Friends of the Chair recognized that this meeting is an outstanding event as the measurement of violence against women is vital for decision-makers to formulate public policies, and national statistics offices are in need for international *Guidelines* on how to produce statistics on this issue. The Friends of the Chair expressed appreciation to the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía of Mexico and the United Nations Statistics Division for effective preparation, warm hospitality and efficient conduct of the meeting.

83. The Friends of the Chair concluded that the interim set of statistical indicators for measuring violence against women adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission needed to be expanded and constituted as a set of core indicators and a set of additional topics.

84. The core indicators are detailed as follows:

- i. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to physical violence in the last 12 months by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency

- ii. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to physical violence during lifetime by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency
- iii. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence in the last 12 months by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency
- iv. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence during lifetime by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency
- v. Total and age specific rate of ever-partnered women subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by current or former intimate partner in the last 12 months by frequency
- vi. Total and age specific rate of ever-partnered women subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by current or former intimate partner during lifetime by frequency
- vii. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to psychological violence in the past 12 months by the intimate partner
- viii. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to economic violence in the past 12 months by the intimate partner
- ix. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to female genital mutilation

85. The additional topics are detailed as follows:

- i. Economic violence in settings such as the work environment, specifically issues like harassment at work resulting in abandoning employment; discrepancies in salaries based on gender and so forth may represent additional topics.
- ii. Early marriage, or rather, early union, remains an additional indicator as a proxy for violence against women. National statistical authorities depending on national circumstances, will assess the appropriateness of including the topic in statistical exercises on violence against women.
- iii. Forced marriage, irrespective of the age of the bride, was recommended as an additional statistical indicator of violence against women. The Friends of the Chair recognized the need of further work to determine the most appropriate way of producing statistics on forced marriage.
- iv. Experience of abuse during childhood should be included as an additional topic to be addressed retrospectively via a variable describing the victim's characteristics.
- v. Trafficking of women should be incorporated in the additional set of statistical indicators on violence against women. Experience shows that data collection in this regard faces peculiar methodological complications

86. A dedicated statistical survey on violence against women representative for the national and major sub-national levels was found to be the instrument of choice for producing accurate and relevant statistics on the first eight core statistical indicators on violence against women, as well as additional indicators numbers i., ii and iv.

87. Taking into consideration the fact that implementing this recommendation would not be possible in all national circumstances due to the lack of statistical capacity and/or funding, a module attached preferably to a health or demographic survey would be a viable alternative.

88. The Friends of the Chair recommend that data for core indicator number ix. be collected through demographic surveys, health surveys or population census.

89. Additional indicators iii. and v. have their source mainly in administrative records, such as hospital, judicial, border or civil registration records. The Friends of the Chair agreed that elaboration on all these indicators, and others such as femicide should be the focus of their work during the second stage of their mandate.

90. Finally, the Friends of the Chair recommended that national governments commit themselves toward producing accurate, relevant and timely statistics on violence against women as it has an appalling impact on the lives of individuals, families and society at large.

91. The Friends of the Chair agreed to brief chief statisticians and the statistical community on the developments of the work of the group via a side event during the forthcoming 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Statistical Commission. The meeting trusted UNSD the organization of such briefing.

92. UNSD committed to develop the *Guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women*, as approved and revised by the Friends of the Chair during this meeting as well as to submit the draft to an Expert Group Meeting for review.

93. Mr. José Antonio Mejía Guerra from INEGI's governing board thanked the participants and UNSD for their continuous support and congratulate them for the outcomes reached. Afterwards, he officially closed the Friends of the Chair meeting.

## Annex 1. List of Participants

No.	Country / Organization	Contact Person Information
1	Australia	Mr. Bob McCOLL Assistant Statistician Social Conditions Statistics Branch Australian Bureau of Statistics
2	Bangladesh	Mr. Md. Shahjahan ALI MOLLAH Director General Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
3	Bulgaria	Ms. Mariana KOTZEVA President National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria
4	Chile	Ms. Veronica OXMAN Advisor on Gender Statistics National Statistics Institute of Chile
5	China	Ms. Wei LIU Deputy Counsel National Bureau of Statistics of China
6	Costa Rica	Ms. Aida CHAVES VILLALTA Manager of Indicator Systems Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC)
7	Egypt	Ms. Soad AHMED EL-HAWARY General Director Head of Women, Child and Gender Unit CAPMAS, Egypt
8	Mexico	Mr. Miguel CERVERA FLORES Director General of Statistics Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)
9		Ms. Eva G. RAMIREZ RODRIGUEZ Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)
10	Thailand	Ms. Chalermkwun CHIEMPRACHANARAKORN Head of International Statistical Affairs Group National Statistical Office

No.	Country / Organization	Contact Person Information
11	Turkey	Ms. Deniz UYANIK Team manager Gender Statistics TurkStat
12	United States of America	Ms. Marcella JONES-PUTHOFF Demographic Statistician United States Census Bureau Population Division/Age and Special Populations
13	UN Economic Commission for Europe	Ms. Tiina LUIGE Senior Statistician UNECE
14		Ms. Henrica A.F.M. (Henriette) JANSEN Consultant UNECE
15	UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Ms. Vivian MILOSAVLJEVIC Division for Gender Affairs ECLAC
16	UN Division for the Advancement of Women	Ms. María Herminia GRATEROL GARRIDO Social Affairs Officer DAW/DESA
17	UN Statistics Division	Mr. Srdjan MRKIĆ Chief Social and Housing Statistics Section Demographic and Social Statistics Branch Statistics Division
18		Ms. M. Isabel COBOS HERNÁNDEZ Associate Statistician Demographic Statistics Section Demographic and Social Statistics Branch Statistics Division
19	World Health Organization	Ms. Christina PALLITTO Technical Officer WHO

## Annex 1. Organisation of work

Tuesday, 8 December 2009	
19:30–21:30	<p><b>1. Registration of participants</b> A registration desk will be set up at the Quinta Real Hotel</p>
Wednesday, 9 December 2009	
9:00–9:30	<p><b>2. Opening</b> Introductory remarks by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- INEGI Mexico</li> <li>- United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)</li> </ul>
9:30 – 9:45	<b>Break / Photography</b>
9:45 – 10:00	<p><b>3. Logistics and adoption of agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of agenda</li> <li>• Selection of Rapporteur</li> <li>• Organizational issues</li> </ul>
10:00 – 11:00	<p><b>4. Methodological Overview of Surveys on Violence against Women</b> It introduces the paper on the thorough review of the current methodologies used to measure violence against women, their compatibility with the indicators proposed by the Friends of the Chair (FoC) group and their suitability at the international level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNSD presentation (Paper No. 1)</li> <li>• General discussion</li> </ul>
11:00 – 11:15	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:15 – 13:00	<p><b>5. Indicators on Physical violence</b> [Papers No. 2, No.3, No.4, No.5, No.6, No.7, No.8]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Classification of types of violence (events).</li> <li>b. Classification of severity of violence.</li> <li>c. Classification of relationship to the perpetrator.</li> <li>d. Classification of frequency.</li> <li>e. Characteristics of victim.</li> <li>f. Timeframe to determine “ever in her lifetime”.</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General discussion</li> </ul>
13:00 – 14:30	<b>Lunch break</b>

<b>14:30 –16:15</b>	<p><b>6. Indicators on Sexual violence</b> [Paper No. 2, No.3, No.4, No.5, No.6, No.7, No.8]</p> <p>a. Classification of types of violence (events).  b. Classification of severity of violence.  c. Classification of relationship to the perpetrator.  d. Classification of frequency.  e. Characteristics of victim.  f. Timeframe to determine “ever in her lifetime”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General discussion</li> </ul>
<b>16:15 – 16:30</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>16:30 – 17:30</b>	<p><b>7. Indicators on Psychological violence</b> [Paper No. 2, No.3, No.6, No.8]</p> <p>a. Classification of types of violence (events).  b. Classification of severity of violence.  c. Classification of relationship to the perpetrator.  d. Classification of frequency.  e. Characteristics of victim.  f. Timeframe to determine “ever in her lifetime”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General discussion</li> </ul>
<b>18:30 – 20:00</b>	<b>Welcome cocktail gathering (venue to be confirmed)</b>
<b>Thursday, 10 December 2009</b>	
<b>9:00- 10:30</b>	<p><b>8. Indicators on Economic violence</b> [Paper No.3, No.6, Papers TBA]</p> <p>a. Classification of types of violence (events).  b. Classification of severity of violence.  c. Classification of relationship to the perpetrator.  d. Classification of frequency.  e. Characteristics of victim.  f. Timeframe to determine “ever in her lifetime”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General discussion</li> </ul>
<b>10:30- 11:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>11:00- 12:00</b>	<p><b>9. Indicators on intimate partner violence</b> [Paper No. 2, No.3, No.4, No.5, No.7, No.8]</p> <p>a. Classification of types of violence (events).  b. Classification of severity of violence.  c. Classification of frequency.  d. Characteristics of victim.</p>



	<p>e. Timeframe to determine “ever in her lifetime”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General discussion</li> </ul>
<b>12:00 – 13:00</b>	<p><b>10. Indicators on harmful practices</b> [Paper No. 2, No.4, No.5, No.6, No.7, Papers TBA]</p> <p>a. Early marriage and forced marriage, b. Female genital mutilation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General discussion</li> </ul>
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>14:00 – 15:15</b>	<p><b>11. Other indicators</b> [Paper No. 3, No.5, No.7, Papers TBA]</p> <p>a. Femicide in general, and spousal homicide in particular. b. Stalking. c. Physical and sexual violence in childhood. d. Discrimination and violence at work. e. Trafficking of women f. Impact of incidence of sexual violence against women on sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. g. Extent to which women recognize they suffered violence as a crime. h. Hidden violence unreported to the authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General discussion</li> </ul>
<b>15:15 - 15:45</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>15:45- 17:00</b>	<p><b>12. Interregional Development Account Project <i>Enhancing Capacities to Eradicate Violence against Women through Networking of Local Knowledge Communities</i>: Presentation on Violence against Women survey module</b> [Paper TBA]</p> <p>A presentation of the progress of the Inter-regional group work and the implementation of the survey module.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interregional group presentation</li> <li>• General discussion</li> </ul>
<b>Friday, 11 December 2009</b>	
<b>9:00 - 10:15</b>	<p><b>13. Outline for Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women</b> [Paper TBA]</p> <p>A proposal for the outline of the guidelines will be presented by UNSD and discussed in plenary.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General discussion</li> </ul>
<b>10:15 – 10:45</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>10:45 – 13:00</b>	<b>14. Follow-up work of the Friends of the Chair group [Paper No]</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General discussion</li> </ul>
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>14:00 – 16:00</b>	<b>15. Conclusions and Recommendations</b>
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	<b>16. Closing</b>