



**Workshop on Improving the Integration of a Gender Perspective
into Statistics**

SIAP Chiba, Japan
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Opening Statement

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Delivered by
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Representatives of the UN family

Distinguished Participants,

On behalf of Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Acting Director of the United Nations Statistics Division, I would like to welcome you to the UN Workshop on Improving the Integration of a Gender Perspective into Statistics. I would also like to express deep appreciation to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan for their support and kind hospitality and congratulate SIAP for an excellent job and a very efficient collaboration in preparing and hosting this meeting.

Gender statistics are key for evidence-based policy making, for monitoring trends in reducing gender inequalities and progress in women's empowerment. However, there is still a lack of adequate data and an urgent need to ensure the full mainstreaming of gender into the production, analysis and dissemination of official statistics.

As many of you already know, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) has been actively working on the production and monitoring of gender statistics since the early 1980s, in response to the call for more statistics on the status of women.

UNSD over the years has been focusing on the review of concepts and methods; compilation and dissemination; and technical assistance and training on gender statistics. The success of these programmes in responding to users needs has resulted in strong partnerships between UNSD and counterpart agencies and coordinated support for the development of gender statistics.

It is in this collaborative context with partner agencies and national statistical offices, and as mandated by the UN Statistical Commission, that the UN Statistics Division has developed a new Manual to assist countries in their efforts to improve gender statistics.

Over the next few days, we will introduce the new Manual *Integrating a Gender Perspective into Statistics* and discuss measurement tools and methods available to address gender issues in “traditional” areas such as work and health, as well as in some “emerging” and “not regularly measured” areas such as violence against women and time use.

During the workshop we will also present and discuss two additional forthcoming publications: the *Guidelines for the Production of Statistics on Violence against Women*, prepared by UNSD and the *Guide on Gender Analysis of Census Data* to be published shortly by UNFPA. All three publications will be at the basis of the workshop and used as reference material for harmonized concepts, definitions and methods on their respective areas, addressing current methodological needs of National Statistical Offices and ensuring the production of internationally comparable gender statistics.

This training workshop aims at improving the availability, quality, and use of gender statistics in countries, by providing guidance and examples on the collection, analysis, and presentation of gender relevant statistics. The training material we have prepared takes into account the latest developments in international concepts and methods in statistics and incorporates expert input from national statistical offices, UN and other specialized agencies.

The workshop is constructed around the idea of gender mainstreaming in national statistics. Mainstreaming, or integrating a gender perspective in statistics, means that gender issues and gender-based biases are taken into account systematically, in all official statistics and at all stages of data production. This perspective shows a clear departure from traditional approaches that used to define gender statistics as data disaggregated by sex and the production of

gender statistics as a compilation of statistics targeted mainly to women's advocates. This workshop, instead, will focus on three critical dimensions to obtain relevant and reliable gender statistics: (1) the need for a comprehensive coverage of gender issues in data production; (2) ensuring the integration of a gender perspective into all data collections; and (3) the need to improve the dissemination and presentation of gender statistics.

Finally,

We trust that the concepts learnt in this training will assist you in your efforts to produce, communicate and use gender-relevant statistics. Statistics that are reliable, harmonized and critical to provide evidence on the relative situation of women and men. We believe this workshop is also an important opportunity to share and learn from each other's experiences and to identify strategies to accelerate the process of mainstreaming gender into statistics.

Let me conclude by expressing my appreciation for your participation in this meeting, and by thanking once again the Government of Japan, our colleagues from SIAP, from UNFPA and the WB for their contribution to this event. The UN Statistics Division is looking forward to working with you all, representatives of national statistical offices and other government entities and regional and international agencies, during this workshop and in the future, to promote the advancement of gender statistics.

Thank you and I wish you a very successful meeting.