



International Seminar on Gender Statistics

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Opening Statement

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United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

Delivered by
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*Mr. Park Hyungsoo, Commissioner of Statistics Korea (KOSTAT),
Ms. Boksil Lee, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family,*

*Ms. Choe Keum-Sook, President of the Korean Women's Development Institute
(KWDI),*

Distinguished Participants,

On behalf of Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Acting Director of the United Nations Statistics Division, I would like to welcome you to the International Seminar on Gender Statistics and thank and congratulate the Republic of Korea and Statistics Korea for an excellent job in preparing and hosting this meeting.

Let me start by reaffirming that gender equality and women's empowerment continue to be at a forefront of global policy concerns. It has become an established norm that development can be greatly facilitated by empowering women and girls and eliminating gender inequalities. In order to support policy changes to ensure gender equality, all our statistical information should be regularly produced to provide solid and objective evidence that fully reflect gender-based differences and address issues related to women and men's roles in society.

While there is wide acknowledgment that gender statistics are key for evidence-based policy making, for monitoring trends in reducing gender inequalities and progress in women's empowerment, yet there is still a lack of adequate data and an urgent need to improve statistical systems to ensure the full mainstreaming of gender into data production, analysis and dissemination.

Work programme of UNSD in the area of gender statistics

Dear colleagues,

It is in this context that I am happy to restate the UNSD firm commitment to bring gender statistics programmes forward and lead the development of gender statistics globally.

As many of you already know, UNSD has been actively working on the production and monitoring of gender statistics for many years, holding a strong leadership role at the global level. The Statistics Division's work on gender statistics was initiated in the early 1980s in response to the call for more statistics on the status of women. The UNSD gender statistics programme was designed to address three main problem areas such as: (a) the need for national statistical systems to take gender issues into account in all stages of statistical production; (b) the limited availability and accessibility of gender statistics; and (c) the under-utilization of gender statistics.

These problems have, to a large extent, been addressed over the years with activities focusing: on the review and development of concepts and methods; the compilation and dissemination of gender statistics; the provision of training to strengthen national statistical capacity; the promotion of best practices and exchange of experiences; and the improvement of international coordination and dialogue with countries.

More recently, since 2006, UNSD has been the secretariat of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), a group of subject-matter experts from national and international statistical offices, in charge of coordinating the Global Gender Statistics Programme, mandated by the UN Statistical Commission.

Of particular importance to our work is the fact that the UN Statistical Commission in February 2013 *“agreed to use the minimum set of gender indicators”*, identified by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, *“as a basic set for international compilation and national data collection”*. We believe this is an important step towards the harmonization of gender statistics among countries for the production of robust and comparable evidence on the status of women and men around the world.

Dear colleagues,

This seminar provides the opportunity to take stock of international standards and review and learn from best practices and each other's experience on selected critical areas

such as: how to integrate gender into official statistics, how to measure and monitor women's career discontinuity, time use and violence against women.

Finally,

We, at the United Nations Statistics Division, are honoured to serve the global statistical community and remain committed to foster the development of gender statistics, promote collaboration among both national and international statistical agencies and to assist national statistical systems to fully integrate a gender perspective in their work.

Let me conclude by expressing our appreciation for your participation in this meeting, and by thanking once again our colleagues from the Korean Statistical Office for the excellent work done in preparation of this event and for all their support and kind hospitality. The UN Statistics Division is looking forward to working with you all to promote the advancement of gender statistics.

Thank you and I wish you a very successful meeting.