



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
8 December 2021

Original: English

---

## Statistical Commission

### Fifty-third session

1–4 March 2022

Item 3 (h) of the provisional agenda\*

**Items for discussion and decision: gender statistics**

## Gender statistics

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

The present report, which was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2021/224 and past practices, provides a summary of recent activities undertaken by the Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics under the Global Gender Statistics Programme to strengthen gender data in support of progress towards gender equality and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, the report provides an update on the development of guidelines to improve the production of time-use data, in collaboration with a group of subject-matter experts and as requested by the Commission in its decisions 48/109 (see [E/2017/24](#)) and 51/115 (see [E/2020/24](#)), introducing a minimum harmonized instrument for time-use data collection, quality considerations for time-use surveys and options to modernize time-use data production. The report also provides information on the outcomes of the eighth Global Forum on Gender Statistics and the conclusions of recent meetings of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, including a revised minimum set of gender indicators; a call for a global survey of gender statistics programmes to assess progress since 2012, when the most recent survey on the topic was conducted; and a proposal for the integration of a gender perspective into the work of the Commission, as called for in its decision 51/115.

Action to be taken by the Commission is set out in paragraph 39 of the report.

---

\* [E/CN.3/2022/1](#).



## I. Introduction

1. The present report provides a summary of the work of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics in 2020 and 2021 pursuant to the requests of the Statistical Commission contained in its decisions 42/102, 44/109, 48/109 and 51/115, in terms of: (a) developing methodological guidelines for the production and use of gender statistics, including on the measurement of time use and unpaid domestic and care work; (b) serving as the coordination mechanism for the Global Gender Statistics Programme, inter alia by convening the annual meetings of the Group; and (c) organizing the Global Forum on Gender Statistics every two years. Furthermore, the report describes other ongoing and planned activities of the Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, including proposed work to integrate a gender perspective into the work of the Commission, pursuant to its decision 51/115.

## II. Development of methodological guidelines to improve the production and use of time-use data

2. The value of time-use data is increasingly acknowledged, particularly for measuring unpaid household service work, well-being and gender equality. Time-use data are also critical to guiding policies and research related to changing work practices, commuting and transportation, as well as education, health, culture, environment and sports.<sup>1</sup> In addition, time-use data can provide insights related to the life conditions of certain population groups, such as older persons, children and persons with disabilities. When carried out regularly, time-use surveys also provide evidence of changing patterns in people's use of time, including as a result of using new technologies. Therefore, time-use data analysis is fundamental for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a broad range of public policies, including those called for to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, time-use data are necessary and the direct input for indicator 5.4.1 (proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location), which is critical to assessing progress towards gender equality.<sup>2</sup> Indeed, time-use data are essential to measuring the participation of women and men in unpaid work and their contribution to the economy, while also providing the evidence needed for monitoring many other Sustainable Development Goals and targets.<sup>3</sup> Time-use data are also important components for the measurement of quality of life, an area of high policy attention, particularly in the context of accounting for people's well-being to complement the measurement of economic performance, beyond gross domestic product.<sup>4</sup> In addition, it is expected that, as part of the update of the 2008 System of National Accounts,<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), *Guidelines for Harmonizing Time-Use Surveys* (Geneva, 2013). Available at <https://unece.org/info/Statistics/pub/21855>.

<sup>2</sup> On an average day, women spend about three times as many hours on unpaid domestic work and care work as men (<https://worlds-women-2020-data-undesa.hub.arcgis.com/apps/time-spent-in-unpaid-work-total-work-burden-and-work-life-balance/explore>). Global indicator 5.4.1 (proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location) is used to measure and monitor progress towards better distribution of unpaid work between women and men.

<sup>3</sup> See the background document presented at the fifty-first session of the Commission, available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3m-PolicyRelevance-E.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph E. Stiglitz, Amartya Sen and Jean-Paul Fitoussi, Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (2009); see also [A/75/982](https://www.un.org/development/desa/policy/2009/A/75/982).

<sup>5</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/towards2025.asp>.

additional “extended accounts” will be included for improved monitoring and analysis of well-being, including measures of unpaid household work.

3. As mandated by the Commission in its decisions 48/109 and 51/115, since 2018, the Statistics Division and the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics<sup>6</sup> have been working towards the implementation of the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics 2016 and the modernization of time-use surveys, in the context of updating the *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work* (referred to here as the United Nations guidelines)<sup>7</sup> and with the overall objective of further promoting this critical data collection across countries and over time. In particular, through the promotion of light solutions and instruments proposing diaries as well as stylized questions, built on a common set of minimum criteria as described in the minimum harmonized instrument, together with critical considerations on the quality and digitization of time-use data production, it is expected that more countries will produce time-use statistics, including on time spent on unpaid work.

4. After the endorsement by the Commission in 2020 of the initial priority outputs developed by the Expert Group with a focus on selected components of the United Nations guidelines (policy relevance: making the case for time-use surveys in support of Sustainable Development Goal monitoring, concepts and definitions, modernizing time-use surveys, minimum harmonized instrument, quality assurance in the context of time-use surveys and statistics),<sup>8</sup> the Group further expanded and finalized the work on the minimum harmonized instrument and on the quality and modernization of time-use data production. Owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Expert Group also developed a rapid assessment instrument for collecting time-use data during crises, based on best practices among members of the Group.<sup>9</sup> A brief description of each of these work streams is provided below. Additional information on these components is provided in dedicated background documents, available online on the website of the Commission (<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/>). These core components of the upcoming United Nations guidelines are brought to the Commission for endorsement.

## A. Minimum harmonized instrument for the collection of time-use data

5. In response to countries’ requests for support in the collection of time-use statistics, in particular in the context of Sustainable Development Goal monitoring, the Expert Group developed a minimum harmonized instrument for the collection of time-use data, including for the measurement of indicator 5.4.1, in line with the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics 2016 and other international standards, to ensure cross-country comparability. The instrument can be used by national statistical offices in the proposed format, or it can be considered as the basis or the minimum requirements for the design of a more detailed time-use data collection using either diaries or stylized questions. The minimum harmonized instrument has been designed for digital data collection.

6. The predefined list of activities included in the minimum harmonized instrument was agreed by the Expert Group on the basis of: (a) information available in about 15 light diaries used by countries around the world; and (b) activities used in stylized questions in 15 Latin American and Caribbean countries. The predefined list of activities covers all possible activities that could be carried out by a person in

<sup>6</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/time-use/time-use-expert-group/>.

<sup>7</sup> Available at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesf/seriesf\\_93e.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesf/seriesf_93e.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/>.

<sup>9</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/time-use/time-use-expert-group/>.

a day and consists of 25 activities (including “other” to account for activities that are not listed). This list of activities was developed for use in light diaries and stylized questions and represents the minimum requirements to enable the production of time-use statistics in line with the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics 2016 (second-level activities).

7. The current version of the minimum harmonized instrument updates and significantly expands the version reviewed by the Commission at its fifty-first session.<sup>10</sup> This light survey instrument is now complete, builds on the extensive experience in producing time-use statistics acquired by countries and agencies that are members of the Expert Group, and provides the minimum information required for measuring and monitoring indicator 5.4.1, with 9 of the predefined 25 activities related to unpaid domestic and care work, to ensure the collection of granular data for meaningful gender analysis.

8. The new elements of the minimum harmonized instrument, explained in detail in a background report available on the website of the Commission, include a stylized questionnaire, to provide an alternative option to countries not wishing to use a diary, focusing on the same list of 25 activities mentioned above; a background information section, presenting the minimum variables to be collected as background characteristics in time-use surveys; and the finalization of the light diary. The background report in which the instrument is presented also contains an additional piece comparing and promoting standardization between two broadly used international classifications: the Harmonized European Time-Use Surveys and the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics 2016, to facilitate the adoption of the minimum harmonized instrument across countries. Even as the Expert Group will continue to learn from countries’ experience in piloting and using the instrument, the Commission is invited to review and endorse it.

9. Finally, the Expert Group has been discussing the collection of information on passive care (International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics codes 416, passive care of children, and 425, passive care of dependent adults). The Group would like to acknowledge the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United States of America for their efforts in developing a provisional definition of “supervisory” care, which expands the definitions of passive care in the International Classification, and for their initial considerations on how to measure it. This work is not part of the proposed instrument designed to ensure harmonization across countries by promoting a minimum set of requirements. However, information on passive care and a provisional definition of supervisory care is included as an annex to the background report, as reference for potential future work.

## **B. Modernizing time-use surveys**

10. The traditional time-use survey approach using paper diaries is resource intensive, in particular during the collection and digitization of information and the coding of activities. Consequently, the Expert Group agreed to modernize the collection of time-use statistics by promoting the replacement of paper diaries with digital tools, such as computer-assisted personal interviews, computer-assisted telephone interviews, computer-assisted website interviews and the use of smartphone apps. In addition to high data-collection and processing costs, national statistical offices are also reporting challenges in conducting time-use surveys due to

---

<sup>10</sup> Available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3m-MinimumHarmonizedInstrument-E.pdf>.

low response rates and delays in the dissemination of survey results. The Expert Group is promoting the adoption of a mixed-mode approach combining the aforementioned digital tools that enables the targeting of different population groups and the provision of participation options to respondents, as ways to reduce non-response.

11. In accordance with Commission decisions 48/109 and 51/115, the Expert Group has reviewed experiences in the use of technology and digitization of time-use data collection across countries. The use of technology is becoming an integral part of the production of time-use statistics in many countries for improved efficiency in data collection, increased data quality and more timely data dissemination. Technology can also facilitate the implementation of activity classifications, including the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics 2016, during all survey phases; in particular, it simplifies activity coding during data processing.

12. The Expert Group has also identified and assessed challenges faced by countries, including access to and coverage of technology (for self-completed instruments) and a potential “mode effect” to be accounted for, in particular when countries are mixing modes for data collection. In this regard, the Expert Group has studied the work undertaken by Eurostat and partners on innovative tools for household budget and time-use surveys, including solutions to lower the burden for respondents, increase response rates and decrease the overall workload of national statistical offices.

13. The updated report on modernization, available as a background document on the website of the Commission, provides a summary of the work of the Expert Group undertaken in 2021. The background report contains country examples and greatly expands the draft submitted to the Commission at its fifty-first session,<sup>11</sup> including cost, quality, methodological and organizational considerations, population representability, and data protection and privacy. The report gives an explanation of modern options for collecting time-use data, including the use of a computer versus a smartphone, a website versus an app, and geolocation, and other considerations, while providing the advantages and disadvantages of each method. Finally, the use of mixed-mode data collection, both self-administered and with interviewers, is explained in the report. The background document on modernizing time-use data collection will be incorporated into the upcoming United Nations guidelines.

### C. Quality assurance in the context of time-use surveys and statistics

14. The quality of a survey is of extreme importance to obtaining relevant, accurate and reliable results. Quality assurance procedures should be implemented to prevent unacceptable practices and minimize errors in the production of data. The Group developed and presented to the Commission in 2020 an initial framework for defining quality in the context of time-use surveys, to guide the collection of data and enable a multidimensional assessment of the quality of time-use statistics produced.

15. The current background document on quality, available on the website of the Commission, expands and discusses in detail the draft submitted to the Commission at its fifty-first session.<sup>12</sup> The report’s focus is on critical design features with important quality considerations that are specific to time-use surveys. The report covers quality in dedicated stand-alone time-use surveys versus a module included as

<sup>11</sup> Available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3m-Modernization-E.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> Available at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3m-Defining\\_Quality-E.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3m-Defining_Quality-E.pdf).

part of a larger survey, and quality considerations specific to the data-collection mode (whether personal interview, telephone survey, web survey or multi-mode). In the background document, quality considerations are discussed in relation to the reference period for time-use data collection, the survey content and level of detail, secondary and simultaneous activities, and contextual information, including “for whom” and “with whom”. Finally, post-survey processing is also discussed, including calculating the response rate, diary coding and editing, imputation and dissemination. The background document on quality in the context of time-use data collections will be incorporated into the upcoming United Nations guidelines.

#### **D. Time use during crises: rapid assessment instrument**

16. In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Expert Group has prepared a rapid assessment instrument to facilitate data collection, analysis and dissemination in a timely manner during times of crises, such as the current pandemic. The instrument is to be used to inform policymakers of the impact of the crisis on people’s daily life and routines, as it provides a snapshot of the “relative changes” and how the population is adapting to the situation. It can be adjusted to any kind of crisis situation. In the context of COVID-19, it can be used to gather information such as the impact of teleworking and home schooling, as well as to assess additional time spent on unpaid care activities, especially childcare. The instrument targets a minimum list of activities and the amount of time spent on each and assesses whether the amount was the same, more or less compared with before the pandemic. The recommended tool is a stylized question-type instrument with predefined answer categories rather than open-ended questions. It is intended to provide a rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on daily activities, and results obtained will not be comparable to what is typically collected through time-use surveys. The instrument is accompanied by a background questionnaire to collect essential information to perform a meaningful analysis. The instrument, together with advocacy material, is currently available on the website of the Statistics Division.<sup>13</sup>

#### **E. Future plans**

17. In 2022 and 2023, the Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Expert Group, will continue to consolidate technical inputs for the finalization of the United Nations guidelines. During that period, the Division and the Expert Group will also assist countries in implementing the proposed options to collect time-use data in efficient ways. The guidelines will be submitted to the Commission in 2024 and will reflect lessons learned and feedback received from countries on the use of the proposed methods.

---

<sup>13</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/time-use/time-use-expert-group/TU-during-crises-instrument-final.pdf> and <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/time-use/time-use-expert-group/Background-domains-questionnaire-for-TU-during-crises-final.pdf>.

### III. Conclusions of and follow-up to recent meetings of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics

18. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics,<sup>14</sup> comprising representatives of the gender statistics programmes of international, regional and national institutions, was established in 2007 to promote collaboration among key stakeholders, discuss and agree on priority areas to strengthen gender statistics and fill in gender data gaps, in a coordinated manner. In 2011, the Commission, by its decision 42/102 (see E/2011/24), recommended an expansion of the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to include holding annual meetings of the Group and convening the Global Forum on Gender Statistics biennially.

19. Since the topic of gender statistics was most recently discussed by the Commission, in March 2020, two annual meetings of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group have taken place: the fourteenth annual meeting of the Group, whose conclusions are reported below, and the fifteenth meeting, which took place after the submission of the present report and whose conclusions will be available in a background document on the website of the Commission.

20. The fourteenth annual meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group was held online on 4, 5 and 7 December 2020 by the Statistics Division. A total of 92 gender experts and statisticians attended the meeting, including 34 participants from 19 national statistical offices,<sup>15</sup> the regional commissions<sup>16</sup> and 15 international organizations and entities.<sup>17</sup> The meeting was co-chaired by Statistics Finland and by the Office of the Director General for Policy Planning (Statistical Standards) of the Government of Japan. The Statistics Division acted as the secretariat.

21. At the meeting, methodological developments in measuring and monitoring specific areas of gender concerns and the gender-differentiated impacts of COVID-19 were reviewed and discussed. Selected conclusions of the meeting are reported below. A detailed report of the meeting is available on the website of the Statistics Division.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>14</sup> The current members of the Group are the national statistical offices of 21 countries, namely, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan (Co-Chair), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, South Africa, Switzerland (Co-Chair), Uganda, the United States of America, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, and the following organizations: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ILO, Inter-Parliamentary Union, International Telecommunication Union, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, regional commissions, Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (secretariat), UN-Women, World Health Organization and World Bank Group.

<sup>15</sup> Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, Republic of Moldova, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda, United States of America, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

<sup>16</sup> Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), ECE, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

<sup>17</sup> FAO, ILO, OECD Development Centre, OECD/Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, Population Division, Statistics Division, UNDP, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN-Women, WHO and World Bank.

<sup>18</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/gender>.

22. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group noted various efforts and initiatives undertaken by national statistical offices to gather almost real-time data during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to measure and monitor fast-changing circumstances quickly and efficiently. Innovative measures developed by national statistical offices to respond to the challenges of the pandemic included new partnerships within and across organizations, accelerated investments in information technology, switching to data-collection modes and updating frames that relied on technology, further exploration of non-traditional and complementary data sources such as administrative records, and increased flexibility in planning.

23. Phone interviews and web applications were reported as the methods adopted by both international and national statistical offices to collect information during the pandemic. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group noted the importance of developing and/or maintaining master sampling frames for emails and phone numbers, to be complemented with mailing addresses and other lists, particularly in developing countries, in order to be able to randomly select individuals, households and enterprises. In that context, the ability to leverage existing infrastructure for quick and efficient deployment was noted.

24. The collection of data on violence against women during the pandemic was considered particularly complex. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group noted the proposed initiatives to use rapid assessment surveys to collect information on this sensitive topic and highlighted potential challenges. In particular, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group acknowledged the importance of ensuring that ethical and safety protocols were in place during data collection through phone interviews, given that, during lockdown periods, potential victims might not be alone when answering questions.

25. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group agreed that the COVID-19 crisis had pushed national statistical offices to explore and use complementary as well as non-traditional data sources that could also be used in post-pandemic times. In that context, it was noted that simplified access to administrative records during the pandemic, for example, was a welcome opportunity to better understand the nature and availability of information in administrative systems and as a first step towards ensuring improved data integration across various ministries in the post-COVID-19 context.

26. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group welcomed the release of the online platform of *The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics*, developed by the Statistics Division and presenting a compilation of 100 short gender data stories covering progress towards gender equality since 1995, written by the Division and members of the Group. The Group also welcomed the development of a redesigned global gender data hub<sup>19</sup> for disseminating the minimum set of gender indicators, to be fully interoperable with other geocoded databases maintained by the Division. The Group welcomed the data hub as a good example of the role of data experts in facilitating the use of data assets and in maximizing their value. It congratulated the Division for the planned development and expected launch of the platform in 2021 and acknowledged the Division's critical and central role in improving global gender data.

27. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group acknowledged that it was important to develop a strong communication strategy for and strengthen the skills of national statistical offices in effective and contemporary approaches to disseminating gender statistics. In times of crises such as the current pandemic, a strong strategy was key to informing data users and the broader public about changes adopted by national statistical offices and international entities in the methodology used to collect data. A clear and targeted communication campaign should also be adopted when releasing survey results, in particular to highlight that data collected in the time of COVID-19

---

<sup>19</sup> Available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/>.



might not be comparable to pre-COVID-19 data, owing to data quality limitations or changes implemented in the data-collection instruments used.

28. Under the guidance of Statistics Finland, a subgroup of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group<sup>20</sup> was tasked with identifying Sustainable Development Goal indicators that were relevant from a gender perspective, and to update the minimum set of gender indicators, taking into account the updated list of indicators approved at the session of the Commission in 2020. After several rounds of comments and feedback from the entire Inter-Agency and Expert Group, the recommendations of the subgroup were finalized in November 2021. The revised minimum list of gender indicators is annexed to the present report, and the final list of gender-relevant indicators is available in a background document on the website of the Commission.

29. Under the guidance of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a subgroup of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group<sup>21</sup> has been working since 2018 on recommendations on how to use administrative data systems as a source of sex-disaggregated and gender-specific indicators required to monitor global, national and subnational policy commitments and inform development programmes. Research undertaken so far shows that administrative data can be well suited to monitoring gender equality because they are updated on an ongoing basis and their granularity allows for the intersectional analysis of vulnerable subpopulations. However, key challenges remain, including a lack of demand for gender data in the absence of a national gender policy, limited data capacity, a lack of coordination across sectors and institutions, a lack of correspondence and standardization with statistical definitions, coverage and inclusion, limited access to administrative data files, and a lack of trust in using administrative data. Furthermore, selected gender-specific challenges, such as the extent to which women and girls are less likely to have identification documents or the ability to gain access to services, thereby decreasing their chances of being captured by administrative systems, were pointed out by some countries. A set of guidelines will be produced with recommendations for improving the use of administrative data for gender analysis, including digitization, strengthening capacity on gender statistics across the statistics infrastructure and establishing a national coordination mechanism to support the production of gender statistics across relevant administrative data systems.

30. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified long-standing issues of gender inequality and has highlighted the need for more and better gender data. In 2021, the Statistics Division, in collaboration with the regional commissions, started compiling and reviewing national practices in the use of non-traditional sources of data for gender analysis. Responses were received from 12 countries<sup>22</sup> that contributed a total of 33 data studies. An initial assessment of the information received so far reveals that more and more countries are now exploiting sources of gender data that they did not traditionally use. Depending on national experiences, newer sources may include administrative registers, big data, citizen-generated data or combinations of sources. This inventory of national experiences will be further expanded and disseminated online.

31. Finally, at the fifty-first session of the Commission, the global statistical community requested that a gender perspective be adopted and integrated into all the

<sup>20</sup> The Advisory Group on Gender Indicators is composed of Brazil, Egypt, Finland (Chair), Italy, Jordan, the Philippines, ESCAP, ESCWA, UNEP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN-Women and the World Bank.

<sup>21</sup> This Advisory Group is composed of Brazil, Canada, Ghana, India, Jordan, Morocco, Uganda, Zimbabwe, UNICEF (Chair), ILO, the OECD Development Centre, UNFPA, UNODC, the World Bank, ESCAP, ECLAC, ECA, the Statistics Division and UN-Women.

<sup>22</sup> Argentina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Finland, Ghana, Jordan, Mexico, Peru, South Africa and Switzerland.

agenda items of the Commission, as is, for example, the current practice in the Statistical Conference of the Americas (decision 51/115).

32. The fifteenth meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group will take place from 6 to 8 December 2021 to discuss, among other things, ways to integrate a gender perspective into the agenda items of the Commission and monitor related progress, while also discussing the general mandate of the Group on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all phases of planning, production and usage of data and statistics, in all statistical areas. The conclusions of the meeting, including an initial proposal by the Group, covering the scope, content and process, to support the ongoing work undertaken by the Bureau of the Commission to integrate a gender perspective into the Commission's work, will be available on the website of the Commission.

#### IV. Conclusions of the eighth Global Forum on Gender Statistics

33. The Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Statistical Office and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and under the guidance of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, held the eighth Global Forum on Gender Statistics virtually from 30 September to 1 October 2021, on the theme "Building forward fairer with gender data at the centre". Around 300 participants, including 74 from national statistical offices and 26 from other government agencies, contributed to the Forum. A summary of the proceedings is available online.<sup>23</sup>

34. The eighth Global Forum credited the Fourth World Conference on Women with initiating the systematization of gender statistics at the national and international levels as Governments agreed to develop gender policies and related actions to address gender inequality. It was also noted that the Forum had significantly contributed to the development of gender statistics, including through the production and reporting of the minimum set of gender indicators, which helped to inform the Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

35. Discussions were focused on the increased demand for data, including on the extent and prevalence of gender-based violence, particularly intimate partner violence, during COVID-19-related lockdowns, and highlighted the need to establish comprehensive systems for information on violence against women, based on multiple data sources, in order to enable the provision of adequate help services.

36. Furthermore, the Forum:

(a) Promoted fit-for-purpose production of time-use data and welcomed the ongoing modernization and development of practical and flexible tools to improve the relevance, availability and frequency of the data;

(b) Highlighted the power of data granularity in addressing intersecting inequalities and in targeted policymaking on specific needs concerning different vulnerable social groups. It was recognized that data integration across different sources was a path forward for several areas of gender concerns, as long as data sources were considered complementary and not substitutes for each other, and as long as users were informed about potential quality issues with non-traditional data sources, particularly when data were initially collected for non-research purposes;

(c) Emphasized the importance of a strong partnership and a permanent dialogue between data users and producers in producing trustworthy and fit-for-purpose gender data, identifying data gaps and reinforcing the reputation of national statistical offices and trust in official statistics. In this context, it was pointed out that

<sup>23</sup> See [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/genderstat-forum-8/Report%20of%20th%20FGS\\_2021\\_FINAL.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/genderstat-forum-8/Report%20of%20th%20FGS_2021_FINAL.pdf).

the national statistical offices needed to modernize data processes and systems to meet emerging user needs and ensure the timely availability of quality information;

(d) Recommended collecting personal data with the sex dimension by default to enhance the utilization of data. Having the data disaggregated by default by sex extraordinarily increased their potential uses, prolonged their life and therefore reduced the overall expense of data-collection activities;

(e) Promoted the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all phases of planning, production and usage of data and statistics, in all statistical areas, building on the ongoing work at the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the Commission. Establishing data partnerships and collaboration in various fields would facilitate the integration of a gender perspective throughout the official statistical system;

(f) Welcomed ongoing methodological work to measure emerging topics intersecting with gender, such as gender identity, trade, environment and the digital gender divide, and called for the development of United Nations statistical guidelines on the use of big data for gender analysis; on producing statistics on men's perspectives and experiences, including in the context of violence, to better understand root causes; on integrating different data sources to establish an integrated gender statistics system; and on measuring stereotypes;

(g) Called for a survey of gender statistics programmes around the world, to be undertaken by the Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, to assess the current status of gender statistics and to take stock of progress, or the lack thereof, since the most recent comprehensive survey conducted in 2012;

(h) Called for the mobilization of adequate financial resources for the production, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics, while pointing out the need to demonstrate the value of data through adequate policy use, and for the formulation of data needs from different users' perspectives. Donor funding was an important resource; however, greater importance lay in the mobilization of domestic financial resources.

## V. The way forward: priorities for 2022 and 2023

37. In 2022 and 2023, under the Global Gender Statistics Programme, the work of the Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group will cover the activities agreed upon by the Group at its fourteenth and fifteenth meetings. In particular, priority will be given to the finalization of the United Nations guidelines on time-use statistics and other methodological material and related capacity-building activities; undertaking a global survey of national gender statistics programmes and disseminating the results; and developing and testing a proposal, based on concrete examples, on how to integrate a gender perspective into the work of the Commission.

38. Furthermore, the Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, will organize and convene the sixteenth and seventeenth meetings of the Group and the ninth Global Forum on Gender Statistics, planned for 2023. Countries are invited to express interest in hosting it.

## VI. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission

39. **The Commission is invited:**

(a) **To endorse the work of the Statistics Division and the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics, including the**

**minimum harmonized instrument for time-use data collection, quality considerations for time-use surveys and options to modernize time-use data production, as the core components of the upcoming update of the United Nations guidelines for producing time-use statistics in an efficient way while promoting international comparability;**

**(b) To approve the proposed future plans of the Statistics Division and the Expert Group to finalize the United Nations guidelines and build country capacity in the area of time-use statistics; and to express interest in using the proposed methods, including through the piloting of the minimum harmonized instrument;**

**(c) To provide guidance on how to integrate a gender perspective into all the agenda items of the Commission (decision 51/115); to recall the central role of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics on all matters related to gender statistics and welcome the Group's initial discussions on the topic; and to request the Group to report back in 2024 on its proposed plan and recommendations on how to implement and monitor implementation of the decision, based on pilot work on selected areas undertaken in collaboration with other subject-matter groups;**

**(d) To take note of and support other work priorities of the Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group under the umbrella of the Global Gender Statistics Programme, including a second global survey of national gender statistics programmes and the organization of the ninth Global Forum on Gender Statistics; and to request countries to express their interest in hosting the Forum.**

## Annex

## Minimum set of gender indicators\*

<i>Indicator No.</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Sustainable Development Goal indicator reference</i>	<i>Tier</i>	<i>Leading agency</i>
<b>I. Economic structures, participation in productive activities and access to resources</b>				
I.1	Average number of hours spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	5.4.1	2	Statistics Division/ UN-Women
I.2	Average number of hours spent on total work (total work burden), by sex		2	Statistics Division
I.3	Labour force participation rate for persons aged 15–24 and 15+, by sex		1	ILO
I.4	Proportion of employed who are own-account workers, by sex		1	ILO
I.5	Proportion of employed who are contributing family workers, by sex		1	ILO
I.6	Proportion of employed who are employer, by sex		1	ILO
I.7	Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training	8.6.1	1	ILO
I.8	Percentage distribution of employed population by sector, each sex (sectors here refer to agriculture; industry; services)		1	ILO
I.9	Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex	8.3.1	2	ILO
I.10	Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	8.5.2	1	ILO
I.11	Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider, by sex	8.10.2	1	World Bank
I.12	(a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure	5.a.1	2	FAO
I.13	Gender gap in wages, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities	8.5.1	2	ILO

\* This minimum set of gender indicators differs from the list presented at past sessions of the Statistical Commission. It has been updated to reflect the agreements made at the fourteenth meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, based on the proposal of its Advisory Group on Gender Indicators.

<i>Indicator No.</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Sustainable Development Goal indicator reference</i>	<i>Tier</i>	<i>Leading agency</i>
I.14	Proportion of employed working part-time, by sex		2	ILO
I.15	Prime-age employment-to-population ratio by sex, household type and presence of children		1	ILO
I.16	Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)	1.1.1	1	UN-Habitat
I.17	Proportion of individuals using the Internet, by sex	17.8.1	1	ITU
I.18	Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	5.b.1	2	ITU
QI.1	Extent of country commitment to gender equality in employment		1	ILO
QI.2	Extent of country commitment to support reconciliation of work and family life		1	ILO
QI.3	Length of maternity leave		1	ILO
QI.4	Percentage of wages paid during maternity leave		1	ILO
<b>II. Education</b>				
II.1	Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	4.2.2	1	UIS
II.2	Total net enrolment rate, primary, by sex		1	UIS
II.3	Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education, by sex		1	UIS
II.4	Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education, by sex		1	UIS
II.5	Completion rate (primary education)	4.1.2	1	UIS
II.6	Completion rate (lower secondary education)	4.1.2	1	UIS
II.7	Gross graduation ratio from tertiary education		1	UIS

<i>Indicator No.</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Sustainable Development Goal indicator reference</i>	<i>Tier</i>	<i>Leading agency</i>
II.8	Proportion of females among tertiary education teachers or professors		1	UIS
II.9	Youth literacy rate of persons (15–24 years), by sex		1	UIS
II.10	Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill	4.4.1	2	UIS/ITU
II.11	Educational attainment of the population aged 25 and older, by sex		1	UIS
<b>III. Health and related services</b>				
III.1	Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	3.7.1	1	Population Division
III.2	Under-5 mortality rate, by sex	3.2.1	1	UNICEF/ Population Division/ WHO
III.3	Maternal mortality ratio	3.1.1	1	WHO/ UNICEF/ UNFPA
III.4	Antenatal care coverage		1	UNICEF
III.5	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	3.1.2	1	UNICEF
III.6	Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older, by sex	3.a.1	1	WHO
III.7	Proportion of adults who are obese, by sex		1	WHO
III.8	Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations	3.3.1	1	UNAIDS
III.9	Access to antiretroviral drug, by sex		1	WHO
III.10	Life expectancy at age 60, by sex		1	Population Division
III.11	Adult mortality by cause and age groups	3.4.1	1	WHO
<b>IV. Public life and decision-making</b>				
IV.1	Women's share of government ministerial positions		1	IPU

<i>Indicator No.</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Sustainable Development Goal indicator reference</i>	<i>Tier</i>	<i>Leading agency</i>
IV.2	Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	5.5.1	1	IPU/ UN-Women
IV.3	Proportion of women in managerial positions	5.5.2	1	ILO
IV.4	Percentage of female police officers		2	UNODC
IV.5	Percentage of female judges		2	UNODC
IV.6	Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	5.6.1	2	UNFPA
QIV.1	Presence of a gender quota for parliament (reserved seats and legal candidate quotas)		1	IPU
QIV.2	Presence of a gender quota for parliament (voluntary party quotas)		1	IPU
QIV.3	Existence of law on gender statistics		2	PARIS21 (to be confirmed)
<b>V. Human rights of women and girl children</b>				
V.1	Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	5.2.1	2	WHO/ Statistics Division/ UNICEF/ UN-Women/ UNODC/ UNFPA
V.2	Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence		2	WHO/ Statistics Division/ UNICEF/ UN-Women/ UNODC/ UNFPA
V.3	Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age	5.3.2	2	UNICEF
V.4	Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	5.3.1	2	UNICEF
V.5	Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	3.7.2	1	Population Division



<i>Indicator No.</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Sustainable Development Goal indicator reference</i>	<i>Tier</i>	<i>Leading agency</i>
QV.1	Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex	5.1.1	2	UN-Women/ World Bank/ OECD
QV.2	Existence of laws on domestic violence		1	UN-Women
QV.3	Whether or not inheritance rights discriminate against women and girls		1	OECD/ World Bank
QV.4	Legal minimum age at marriage, by sex		1	Statistics Division

*Abbreviations:* FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; ILO, International Labour Organization; IPU, Inter-Parliamentary Union; ITU, International Telecommunication Union; OECD, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; PARIS21, Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century; UIS, Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UNAIDS, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UN-Habitat, United Nations Human Settlements Programme; UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund; UNODC, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; UN-Women, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; WHO, World Health Organization.