



INTER-AGENCY AND EXPERT GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS

Terms of Reference October 2013

I. Background

In 2006, an expert group meeting on Gender Statistics was convened by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in New York to review and identify key initiatives and programmes that support and enhance national statistical offices' capacity to develop gender statistics. This initial meeting acknowledged the importance of strengthening gender statistics in countries and globally through the promotion of training activities, the compilation and dissemination of data, the exchange of experiences and best practices, and through improving international coordination and dialogue with countries in all activities related to gender statistics.

One of the outcomes of the 2006 meeting was the establishment of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) with the purpose of providing guidance and ensuring the coordination at the global level for the advancement of the Global Gender Statistics Programme (GGSP). IAEG-GS main tasks include taking stock, reviewing progress, challenges and emerging needs, and proposing actions to advance gender statistics at the international, regional and national levels. The key task of the IAEG-GS has been and continues to be the coordination of activities/programmes to reduce overburdening statistical offices, maximize synergies and resources for the advancement of gender statistics.

The work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics was mandated by the UN Statistical Commission, and in 2011 it acknowledged the strategic role of the IAEG-GS on the development of Gender Statistics and requested the group along with UNSD to periodically report back to the Commission on their proposed work plans and strategies.¹

According to the mandate by the UN Statistical Commission, the IAEG-GS has been assigned the following main tasks:

- Serve as the coordination mechanism for the Global Programme on Gender Statistics;
- Provide guidance for the development of manuals and methodological guidelines for the production and use of gender statistics; and
- Review gender statistics with the aim of establishing a minimum set of gender indicators.

¹ A milestone was the 2011 programme review on Gender Statistics prepared by Ghana and presented at the UN Statistical Commission. The paper defined objectives and tasks for the Global Programme on Gender Statistics (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc11/2011-3-Ghana-GenderStats-E.pdf>).



The scope of the IAEG-GS is at a global level. IAEG-GS members bring national experiences to align the Global Programme with national programmes on gender statistics thus ensuring its relevance at the country level.

II. Objectives and Tasks

The overall scope of the IAEG-GS is to: take stock and review progress, challenges and emerging needs in gender statistics; identify good practices; and coordinate the global work on gender statistics.

- In addition, the IAEG-GS:
 - Holds annual meetings of the group to update members and coordinate the global work on gender statistics;
 - Convenes biannually the Global Forum on Gender Statistics;
 - Advises on the substantive agenda for the Global Forum on Gender Statistics; and
 - Offers technical support and advancements on methodological work for the enhancement of gender statistics programmes in countries.

The IAEG-GS functions through Advisory Groups. As the need for an Advisory Group presents itself the IAEG-GS can decide to form a group. There have been three advisory groups in the past (Advisory Group on Statistical Legislation, Advisory Group on Gender Statistics Training Activities and Curricula, and the Advisory Group on Global Gender Statistics and Indicators Databases). As of October 2013, there is one active Advisory Group on Emerging Issues (see the group's Terms of Reference for more details).

Specific activities of the IAEG-GS and its Advisory Groups are identified and agreed during the annual meetings of the IAEG-GS.

III. Membership

Members are staff from gender statistics programmes/units of international, regional and national institutions. Members should be senior statisticians committed to the advancement of gender statistics from both specialized data-producing agencies, statistical offices of Regional Commissions, and selected NSOs. Members are selected on the basis of their know-how and expertise on the subject matter. Members need to be active in the deliberations/activities of the IAEG-GS.

- In particular, members from international and national statistical offices are:
- Agencies – data producers at the international level, contributors of data and methodological work; and involved in agency-specific work that is relevant to the global programme
 - Countries – in charge of gender statistics, committed to improve gender statistics and to contribute in the development of the IAEG-GS' work (e.g., participate in Advisory Groups, provide feedback, etc).



The overall membership should ensure geographical representation and a balance between developed and developing regions. The need for some “permanency” in the representation of countries as members is necessary to assure continuity in the development of the work programme of the Group.

The Secretariat may invite other agencies or individuals as resource persons or observers as the need for them arises. Membership may be increased or decreased as the exigencies of the work require and based on available resources.

- Secretariat: the United Nations Statistics Division serves as the Secretariat of the IAEG-GS.
- Chair: Rotates on a 2-year period. The chair position of the IAEG-GS is assigned to the country hosting the biennial Global Forum on Gender Statistics. The chairperson will work closely with UNSD, the Programme Secretariat, and report on work progress, problems identified, solutions recommended and decisions to be made.

IV. Organization of Work

The IAEG-GS will work through electronic exchanges and regular meetings. It is expected that an annual meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics will take place each year. When the Global Forum on Gender Statistics takes place, the IAEG-GS meeting will be held back-to-back with the Global Forum. Other meetings will be convened on the basis of need, specific tasks to be accomplished and available resources.

V. Expected duration

The work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics in relation to the coordination of the Global Programme on Gender Statistics is on-going. This ToR will be reviewed when needed.