United Nations

International Workshop on Gender Statistics

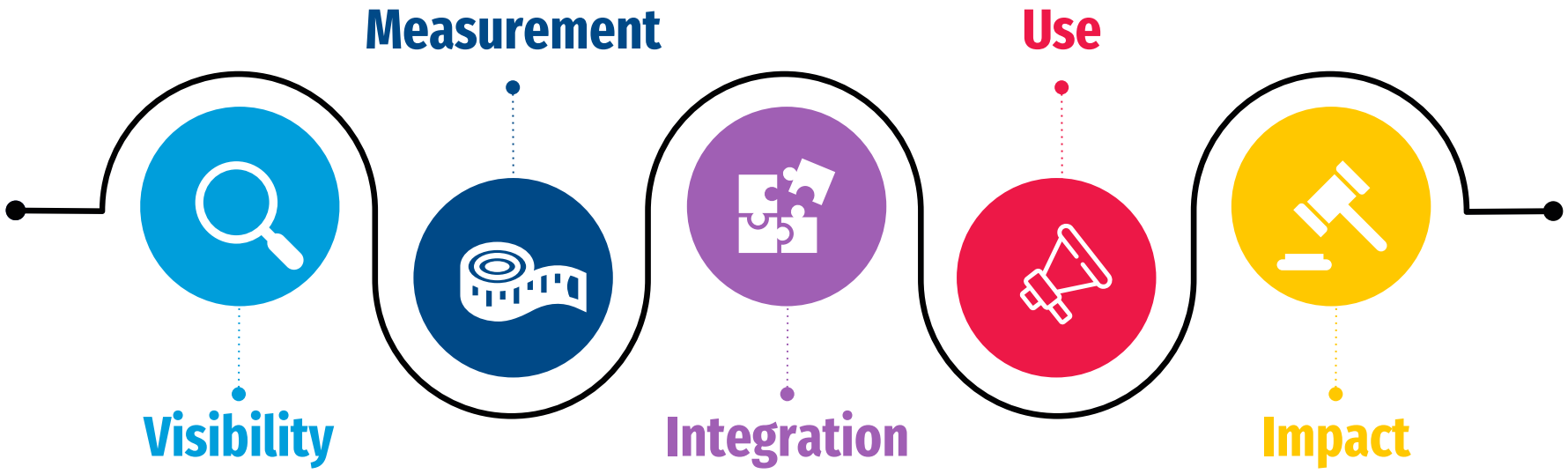
CONCLUSIONS

30 JULY 2026

Department of Economic and Social Affairs | Statistics

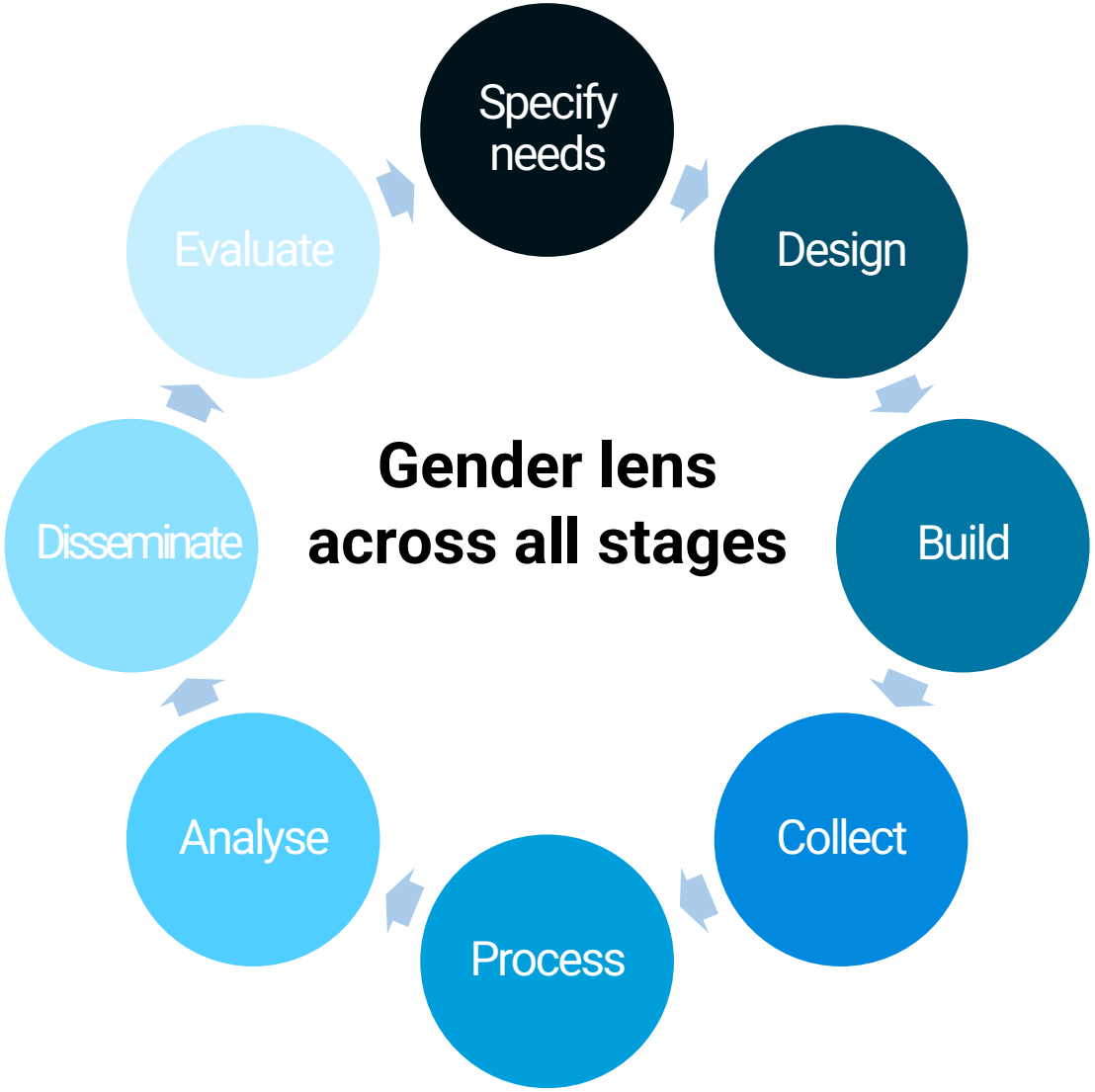
From Visibility to Impact

This workshop was about moving gender statistics from a specialized area to a cross-cutting lens for improving the relevance, quality and policy impact of official statistics.
Gender statistics were repeatedly framed as going beyond sex-disaggregated data and requiring gender-sensitive concepts, methods, analysis and dissemination.



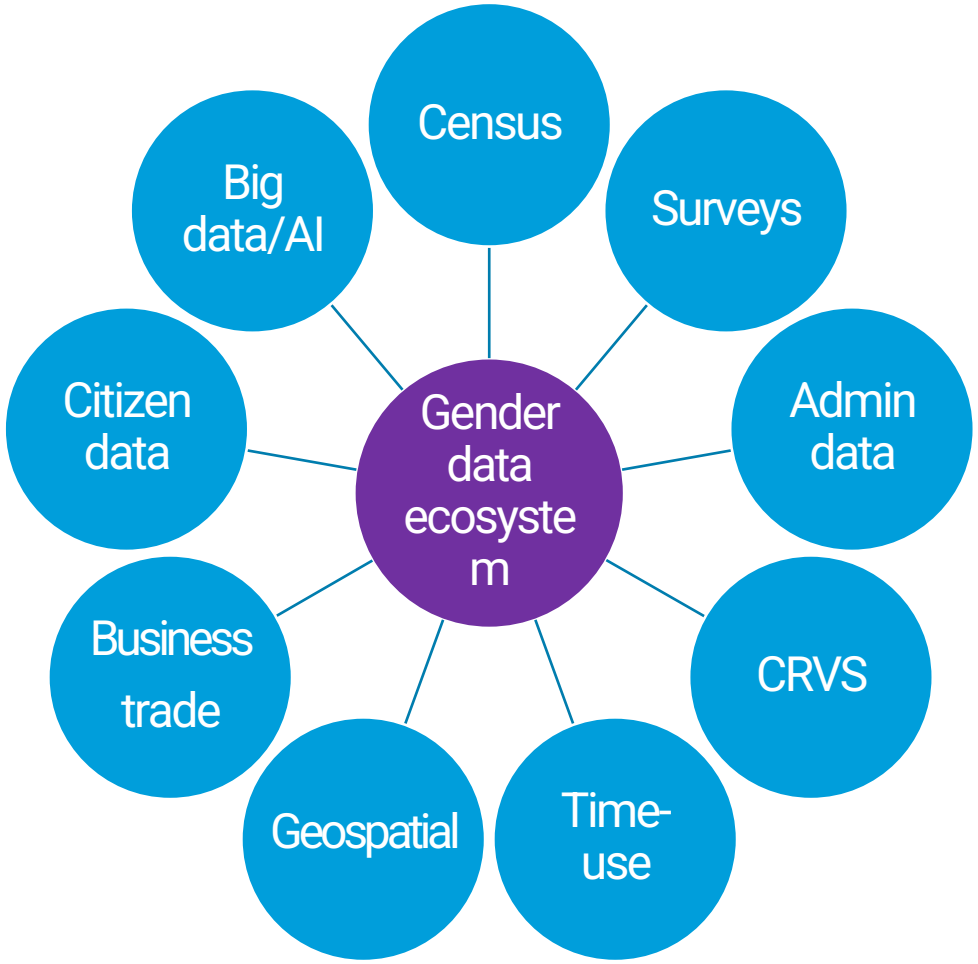
Gender statistics are a system-wide responsibility

The workshop repeatedly emphasized that gender statistics should be integrated across all official statistics and the full statistical process — from concepts and design to collection, linkage, analysis, dissemination and use.



The Evidence Base: We Need to Connect the Dots

No single data source can capture the complexity of people's life experiences and gender inequalities. The workshop highlighted the need to connect censuses, surveys, administrative records, CRVS, time-use data, geospatial data, business registers, big data, citizen data, and linked microdata.



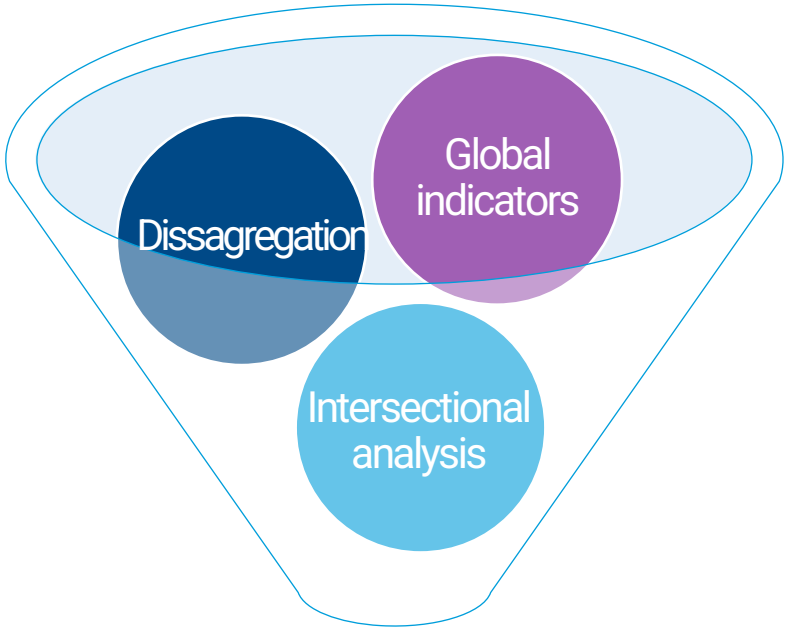
Dissagregation
Who is affected?

Intersectionality
Who is left behind?

Integration
How do different sources tell the story?

From indicators to lived realities

Indicators and indices are useful aids for monitoring progress — but the workshop also reminded us that averages and aggregates can hide important realities.



Policy-relevant evidence

The measurement architecture

- Minimum Set of Gender Indicators
- SDG indicators
- Composite indices
- Thematic indicators

The questions behind the numbers

- Who is being left behind?
- Where are the largest gaps?
- How do inequalities intersect?
- What is missing from the aggregate picture?
- Are we measuring what matters?

Making the invisible visible

Some of the most consequential gender inequalities remain invisible unless we deliberately measure what conventional statistics overlook.

Invisible reality	Data that makes it visible
Unpaid care	Time-use surveys
Violence	VAW & VAC surveys and classifications; DHS, MICS
Sexual and reproductive health and rights	DHS, MICS, GGS
Childhood gender roles	Child statistics and time-use data
Disability inequalities	Census, Child functioning modules
Climate vulnerability	Admin. Records, geospatial information, Census, Household, Gender-environment surveys

Measurement choices shape what becomes visible—and therefore what can be addressed.

Gender Inequality Is Everywhere — Even Where We Do Not Usually Look

Business & trade

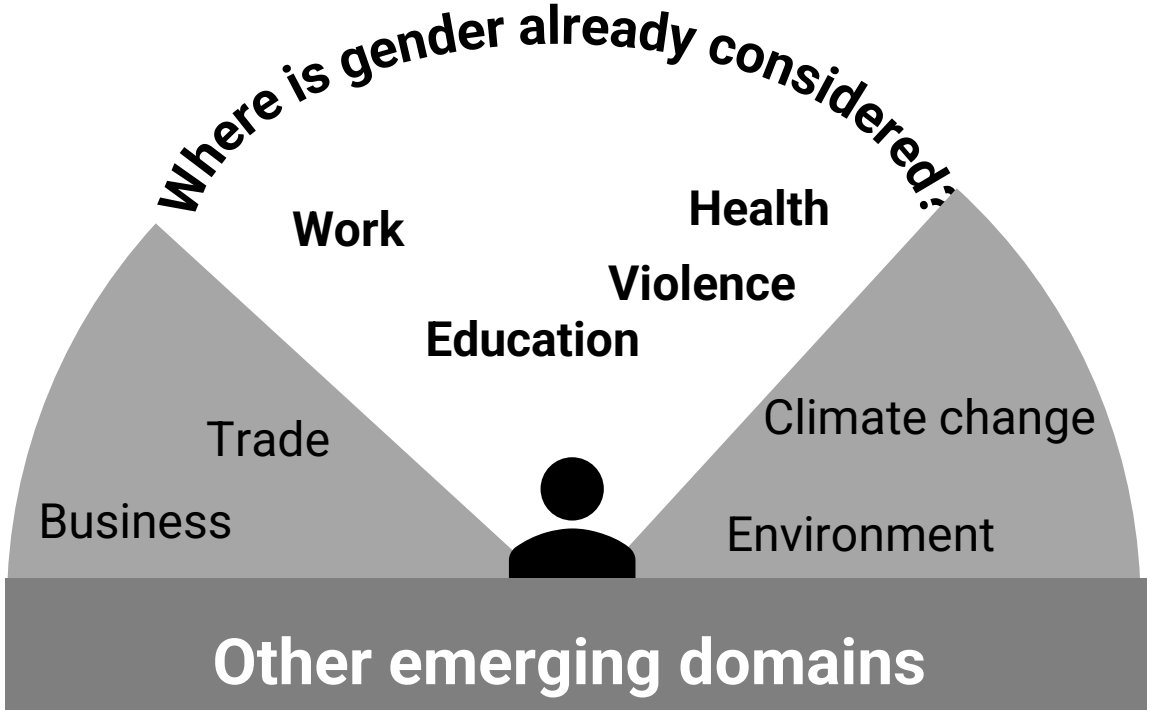
- Who owns businesses?
- Who participates in trade?
- Who benefits from economic opportunities?

Climate & environment

- Who is exposed?
- Who is vulnerable?
- Who has the resources to adapt?

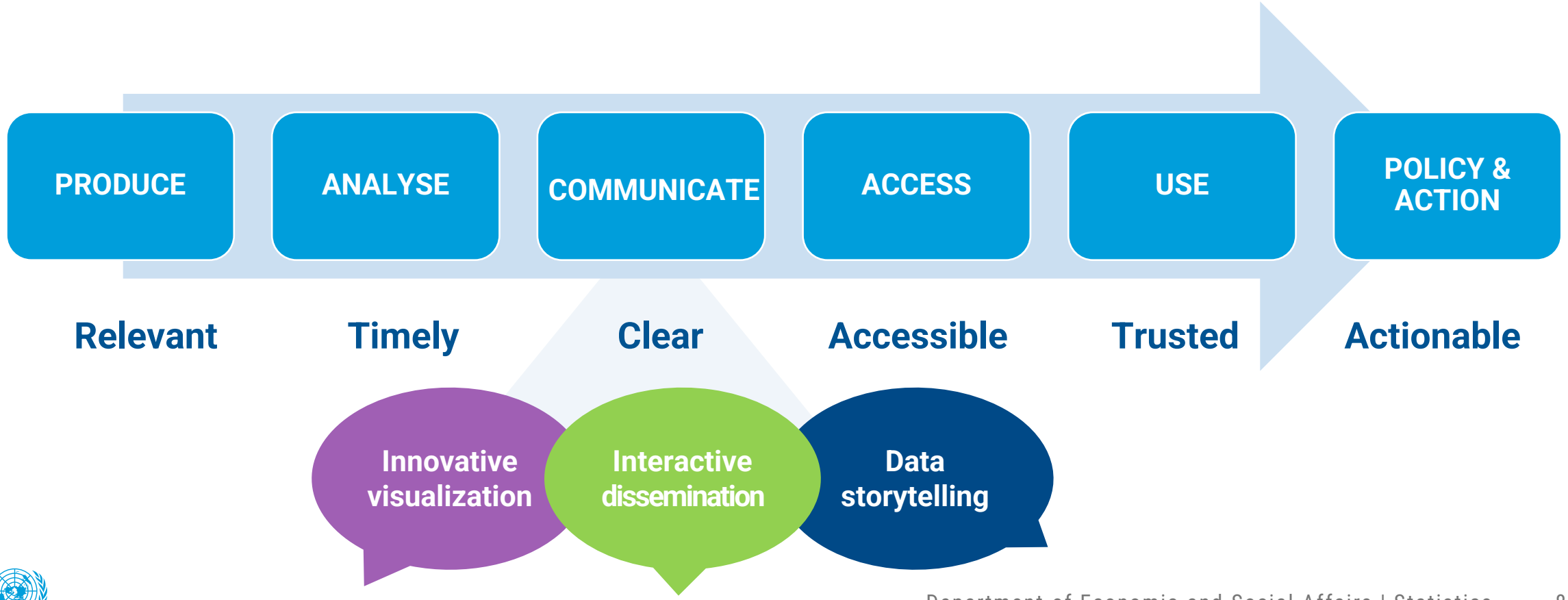
A major takeaway of the workshop is the need to move gender statistics beyond the domains where gender is already expected to matter.

If gender is absent from the statistical framework, gender inequalities can remain absent from the policy conversation.



From Data Production to Data Use

Dissemination and communication are not final steps; they are part of the data value chain. Data must be designed with users in mind and translated into products that support policy, advocacy, research, media engagement and public understanding.



What Successful Systems Have in Common

Country experiences differed, but successful gender statistics systems shared common ingredients: leadership, international & national policy, statistical architecture, coordination & partnerships, sustainable financing, capacity investments, data integration, dissemination and user engagement.

So, Where Do We Go from Here?

The workshop points to a shared direction: continue moving from visibility to impact by institutionalizing gender mainstreaming, connecting data systems, strengthening intersectional analysis, expanding into emerging domains and ensuring data are used for policy.

Turn data into action
Invest in communication, accessibility, labs and partnerships so data inform decisions. Integrate into VNRs.

Expand the gender lens into emerging domains
Bring gender perspectives into emerging and "gender-neutral" domains (digital divide, business and trade, climate change)

Deepen intersectional analysis
Move beyond averages to identify who is being left behind

Institutionalize gender mainstreaming
Embed gender across statistical strategies, standards, work programmes, capacity building and budgets.

Coordination
Institutional coordination across the NSS

Connect data systems and expand data sources
Connect data sources, standards, classifications and analytical dimensions.

United Nations

妇女能顶半边天

Women can carry half of the sky