Progress on mainstreaming gender in business and trade statistics

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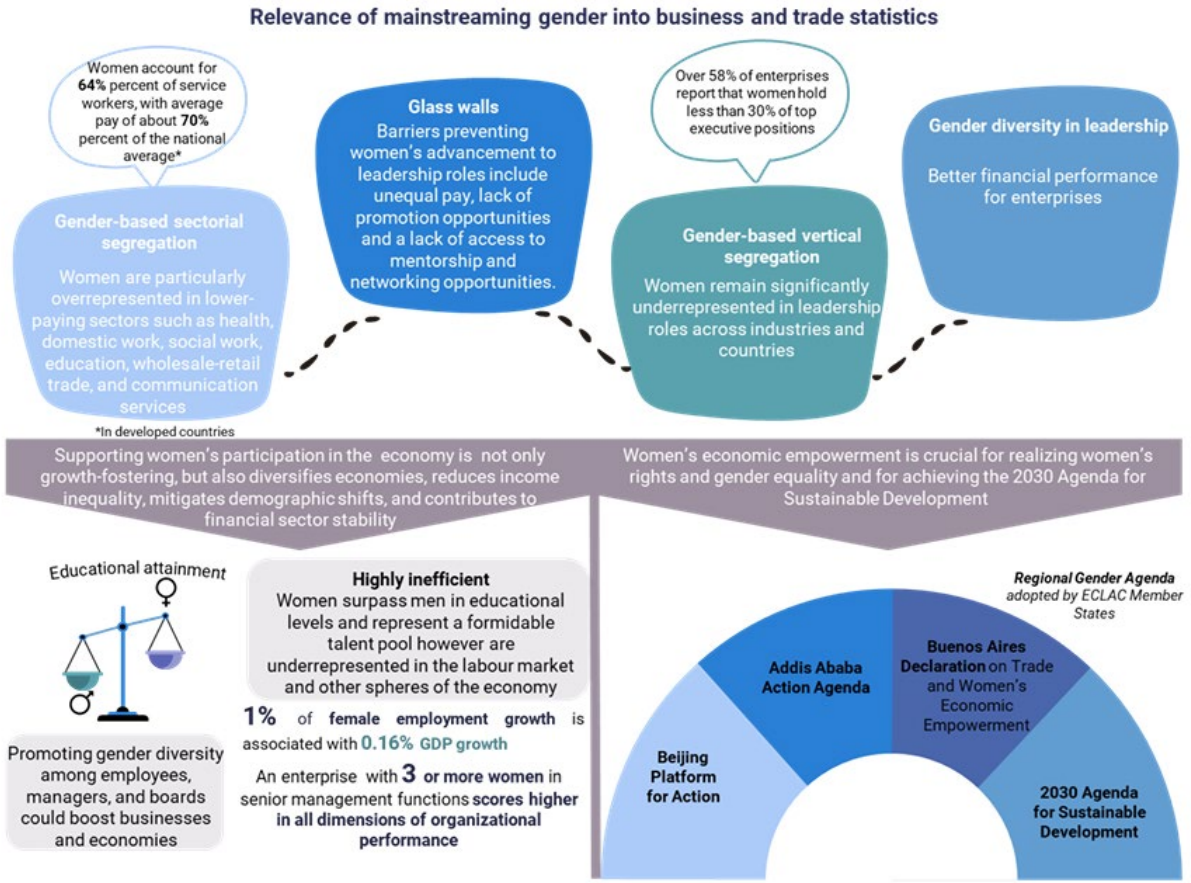
Background

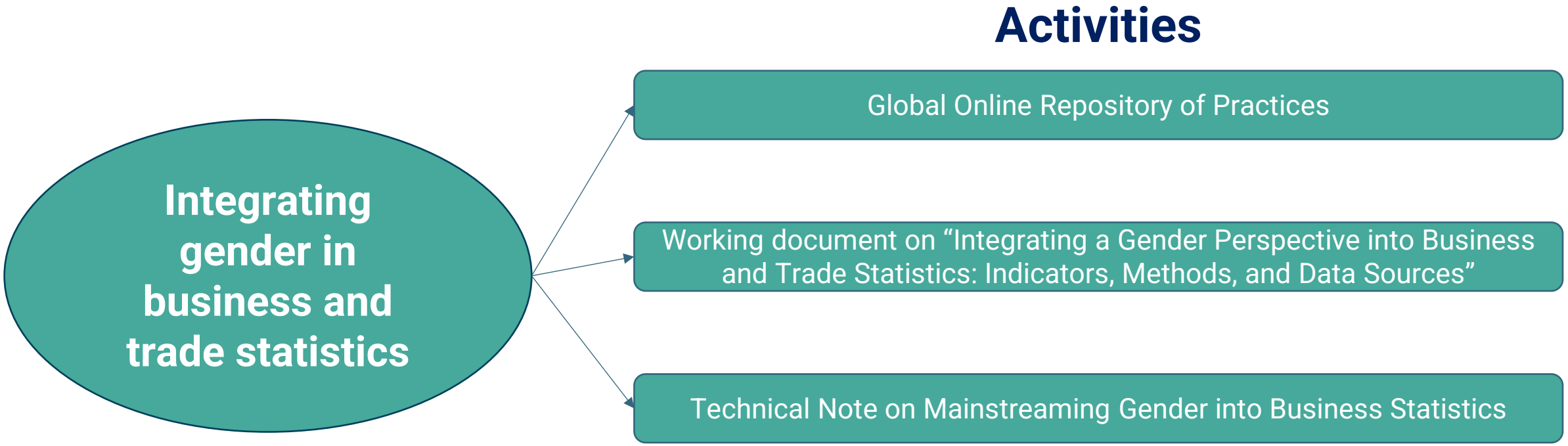
The UNSC, during its 54th meeting (2023) welcomed the development of guidance on the integration of a gender perspective into business and trade statistics.

For the 55th session of the UN Statistical Commission (2024), the IAEG-GS prepared the **Guidance Note on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective into Business and Trade Statistics**, which include inputs from the Task Team on Business Dynamics, Business Demography and Entrepreneurship (TT-BDBDE). Also, in this session, the UNSC encouraged the UNCEBTS to strengthen ongoing collaboration with the IAEG-GS.



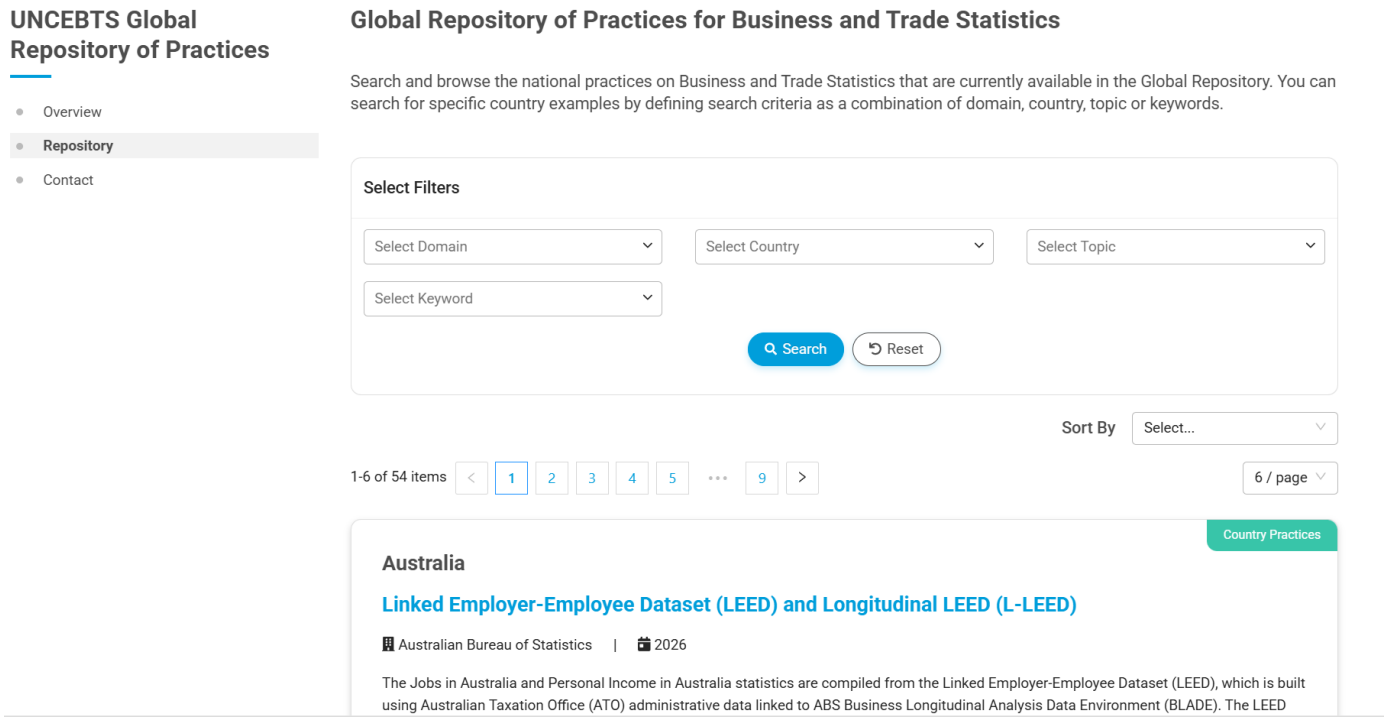
Current works of the TT-BDBDE on integrating gender in business and trade

- The current activities of the TT-BDDE are organized around two workstreams: One focused on entrepreneurship and other in **integrating gender in business and trade statistics**.



Global Online Repository of Practices

Includes national practices on integrating gender in business and trade statistics from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and other statistical agencies.

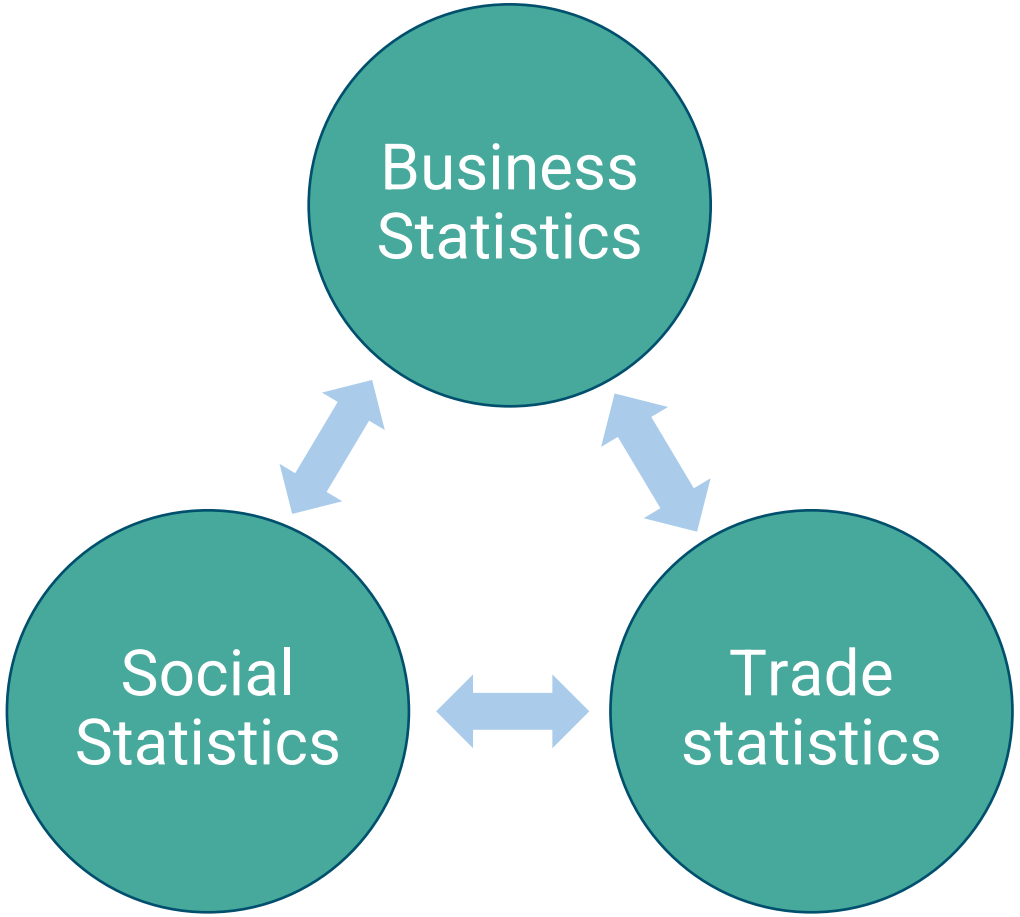


Likewise, these practices are a valuable input for enriching the document on indicators related to the integration of business and trade statistics.

https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/UNCEBTS-global-repository-of-practices/search

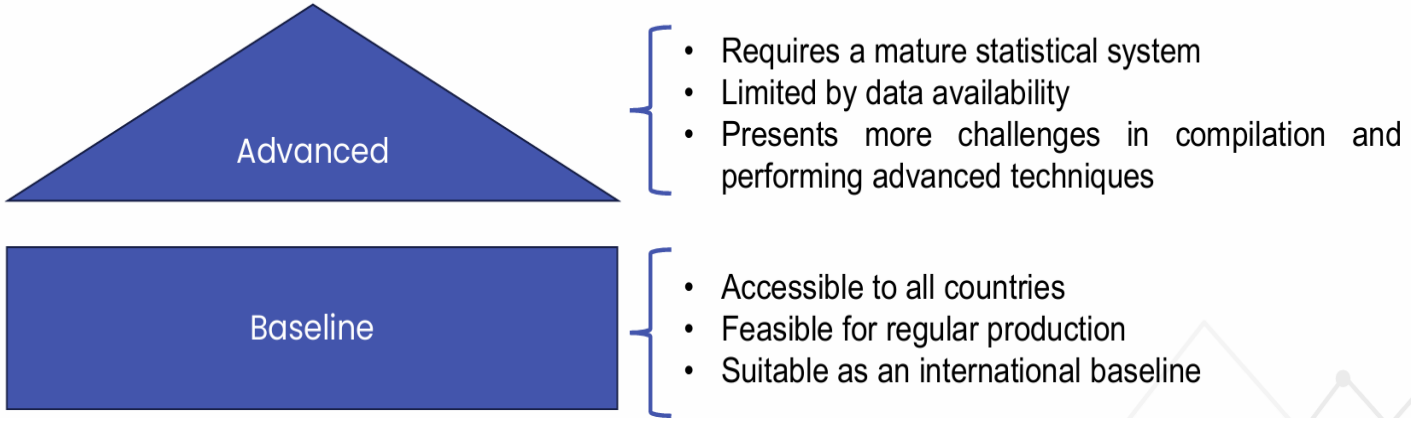
Working document on “Integrating a Gender Perspective into Business and Trade Statistics: Indicators, Methods, and Data Sources”

The objective of the document is to present key conceptual and methodological framework for producing a set of indicators of gender in business and trade indicators, taking into account the different statistical infrastructures of countries, and supporting the production of relevant and internationally comparable data.



Working document on “Integrating a Gender Perspective into Business and Trade Statistics: Indicators, Methods, and Data Sources”

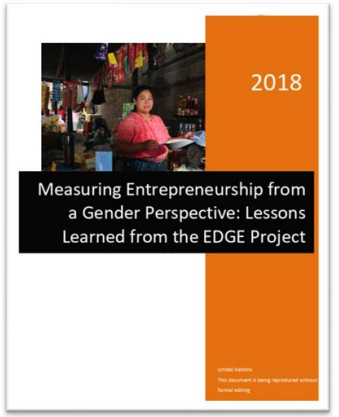
- The working document presents a conceptual and methodological framework for developing a set of 25 gender-in-business and trade relevant indicators.
- The document also provides full metadata for each indicator, including data sources, algorithms, and methodological guidance.
- These indicators are classified in two tiers (basic and advanced), taking into consideration the different statistical infrastructures across countries and the feasibility to calculate them.
- Basic indicators can be produced with relatively standard infrastructure, and advanced indicators may require more mature systems.



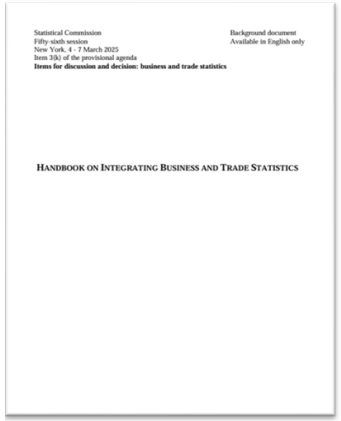
Technical Note on Integrating Gender into Business and Trade Statistics

The objective of this work is to provide conceptual, methodological, and practical guidance to support countries in integrating a gender perspective into business and trade statistics. Building on the existing work in this field, the Technical Note aims to offer countries practical and accessible tools to support initial implementation efforts, while also encouraging a gradual transition towards more advanced methodologies and analytical approaches, in line with their capacities and priorities.

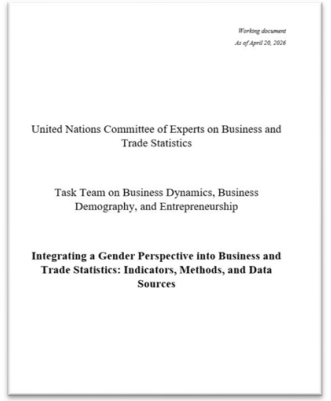
Measuring entrepreneurship from a gender perspective (2018)



Handbook on integrating business and trade statistics (2025)



Guidance note on Mainstreaming gender into business and trade statistics (2024)



Working document "Integrating a gender perspective into business and trade statistics: indicators, methods and data sources" (in progress)

Main takeaways

- Need to **go beyond dissagregating by sex**: Meaningful gender statistics require analytical breakdowns (by economic activity, enterprise size, earnings, etc.) to reveal patterns like occupational segregation or wage gaps that simple ratios disaggregated by sex cannot show.
- **Reliance on a mature Statistical Business Register**: a strong SBR and availability of unique business identifiers are the building blocks for linking datasets and producing advanced gender measures, without adding burden to enterprises.
- **A tiered approach** is a must. Countries with less mature statistical infrastructure can take a practical first step by adding sex-disaggregated variables to existing surveys, building toward more advanced indicators over time.
- **Collaboration is essential** to harmonize concepts and definitions and ensure that indicators are internationally comparable and policy-relevant.
- **Joint contributions** from the IAEG-GS, UN Women, UNSD, and UNCEBTS Task Teams have strengthened the Working Document on relevant indicators.
- **Knowledge sharing** has been enhanced through the Global Online Repository of Practices, which currently includes 21 country practices contributed by IAEG-GS and UNCEBTS members.

Next steps

- Regarding the working document on integrating gender in business and trade statistics, the TT-BDBDE is currently addressing the inputs provided by the IAEG-GS. It is expected to have an updated version for end July 2026.
- Additionally, it is expected to discuss with UNSD the next steps concerning this working document, in order to make it publicly available for compilers in the NSOs.
- Regarding the technical note, Istat and INEGI are working in a first draft and the activities to establish a subgroup on integrating gender into business statistics to assign responsibilities.
- Experts from various agencies and organizations are being invited to participate in this subgroup.

United Nations

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