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**United Nations Entity for
Gender Equality and the
Empowerment of Women**

**Statistics Division
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for Asia and the Pacific**

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United Nations Technical Meeting
on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective
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Report of the Meeting¹

Prepared by

United Nations Statistics Division

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I. Introduction

Background and objectives of the workshop

1. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), in collaboration with the Statistics Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), organised a Technical Meeting on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective. The meeting was organized under the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project and brought together national statisticians, partner agencies and regional commissions to discuss the draft *Technical Report on Measuring Individual Level Asset Ownership and Control* (referred to as the *Technical Report* hereafter).

2. Senior experts in charge of household sample survey programmes from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of nine countries attended the meeting: China, Georgia, Ghana, Maldives, Mongolia, the Philippines, Rwanda, Uganda and Vanuatu. In addition, seven NSOs (Georgia, Ghana, Maldives, Mongolia, the Philippines, Uganda and Vanuatu) were also represented by their senior experts in charge of gender statistics programmes. The meeting was attended by experts from donor agencies of Australia, United States, and from the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, FAO, and the Statistics Division of UNESCAP. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

3. The meeting had three key objectives:

- a. Receive feedback from national statisticians on the applicability/feasibility of the draft methodology (presented in the *Technical Report*) proposed under the EDGE project to measure asset ownership at the individual level; and on their capacity to apply the proposed international methods;
- b. Exchange and share good practices and lessons learned on this topic based on experiences gained in selected national statistical offices and partner agencies;
- c. Promote the integration of a gender perspective into national statistical systems with the aim of improving the availability and quality of gender statistics, including on “emerging issues” such as asset ownership and control.

Organization of the workshop

4. The meeting covered the following topics:

- Session 1: Harmonizing gender indicators, including on entrepreneurship and asset ownership
- Session 2: Why measure asset ownership and control at individual level – importance for policy making
- Session 3: Current approaches to measuring asset ownership and control
- Session 4: EDGE draft Technical Report on Measuring Individual Level Asset Ownership and Control: What to measure?

Session 5: EDGE draft Technical Report on Measuring Individual Level Asset Ownership and Control: How to measure?

Session 6: EDGE draft Technical Report on Measuring Individual Level Asset Ownership and Control: Proposed questionnaire and the way forward

The agenda of the meeting is attached in Annex 2.

5. The meeting consisted of:

- a. Presentations by UNSD and UN Women on the importance of measuring asset ownership and control at the individual level and its association with the EDGE project. Existing approaches in measuring individual level asset ownership and control presented by resource persons from UNSD and FAO.
- b. Introductory presentations by UNSD outlining important, yet challenging issues in measuring individual level asset ownership and control, followed by group discussions and plenary reporting.
- c. Country presentations on selected topics to facilitate the sharing of practices on producing asset ownership data at household and individual levels.
- d. Discussion on the way forward including how to finalize the *Technical report* and test the different aspects of the proposed methodology as well as the questions or questionnaire module to measure individual-level asset ownership data in selected countries.

All the presentations and summary of discussions are available on the UNSD website². A summary of presentations, discussions and conclusions reached during the meeting are presented in part II of this report.

Opening session

6. Opening statements were delivered by Ms. Francesca Grum, and Ms. Haishan Fu, Chief of Statistics Division, UN ESCAP.

7. Ms. Francesca Grum welcomed the participants and expressed appreciation to colleagues in UN ESCAP for an excellent job in preparing and hosting the meeting. She outlined the importance of measuring asset ownership and control at the individual level and provided a brief overview of the objectives of the meeting and its association to the EDGE project. Ms. Grum introduced the working modality of this meeting and wished the group a successful meeting.

8. Ms. Haishan Fu welcomed everyone and expressed appreciation to be part of the meeting. Ms. Fu briefed the group about the regional programme in ESCAP for improving social and economic statistics. The programme aims to establish a core set of statistics for countries in the region and to

² http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/Thailand/2013/list_of_docs.htm

improve the technical capacities of national statistics offices in producing the core set of statistics. Gender statistics is a key part of the programme.

II. Summary of presentations and discussions

Session 1. Harmonizing gender indicators, including on entrepreneurship and asset ownership

9. The first presentation in the session, given by UNSD, focused on *Gender Statistics Programmes* at the global and national levels. The first part was an overview of the Global Gender Statistics Programme (GGSP) implemented by UNSD. This programme is mandated by the UN Statistical Commission and coordinated by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS). Its goal is to enhance the capacity of countries to collect, disseminate and use reliable statistics and indicators to assess the relative situation of women and men in gender-sensitive and policy-relevant areas.

10. The four key areas of the Global Gender Statistics Programme include: (a) coordination of efforts on gender statistics at national, regional and international levels; (b) development of methodology on gender statistics; (c) improvement in the capacity of national statistics offices to produce gender statistics; and (d) compilation and dissemination of the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators and preparation of the *World's Women Reports*, to be published every five years.

11. The presentation also introduced the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project, which seeks to accelerate existing efforts to have comparable gender indicators on health, education, employment, entrepreneurship and asset ownership. The EDGE project is a three-year initiative building on the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS). Specific objectives of the EDGE project include (a) compiling at the international level selected Tier-I gender indicators and (b) undertaking methodological work on Tier-III gender indicators. Developing methodology on measuring asset ownership from a gender perspective fits into the second objective of the EDGE project.

Session 2. Why measure asset ownership and control at individual level – importance for policy making

12. The presentation by UN Women focused on the importance of measuring asset ownership at the individual level from different angles. Assets people own are an essential component of their welfare and they serve different functions including: (a) determining social status and security; (b) producing goods and generating incomes; (c) representing accumulated wealth and (d) providing buffers against shocks. In particular, sex-disaggregated asset ownership data monitor gender equality, women's empowerment and human development. It was emphasized that sex-disaggregated asset ownership data may answer many policy relevant questions, including questions concerning differences between women and men in the quantity and quality of assets owned; differences between women and men in acquiring, using and disposing of assets; and how asset ownership affects the productivity of women in agriculture and business. Asset ownership from a gender perspective also provides a good indicator of poverty and poverty dynamics and may be easier to obtain than using sex-

disaggregated income data. Asset ownership data at the individual level are also important for national and international monitoring of national progress and for estimating capital formation in the household sector for the System of National Accounts.

13. The presentation prepared by Ghana explained that data on household level asset ownership were used to assess poverty levels of households and to implement government policy on poverty reduction. Individual-level poverty data collected in the Demographic and Health Survey made it possible to assess the correlation between women's empowerment and asset ownership. The Gender Asset Gap Project carried out in Ghana also enabled a better understanding of the association between women's assets and their access to microfinance. Household level asset data collected in the Ghana Living Standard Survey may also be used to calculate capital formation in the household sector.

14. The Philippines' presentation demonstrated how women's ownership of assets can be used as an indication of wealth, and examples from the Demographic and Health Survey indicated that women who had more assets also had more decision making power in the household.

15. Discussion following the presentations focused on users of asset ownership data and how national statistical offices cater to the needs of users. Users of sex-disaggregated asset ownership and control data include government agencies, international partners, women's organizations, researchers, NGOs and financial institutions. It was noted that users might have varying levels of technical capacity. Depending on the level of capacity of users, either raw data or results of analyses could be provided to them.

Session 3. Current approaches to measuring asset ownership and control

16. The session started with a presentation by UNSD summarizing the pre-meeting assignments. Participants from national statistical offices were requested to complete a pre-meeting assignment. The assignment was designed to explore: (a) whether data on asset ownership and control at household and individual levels are collected in countries; (b) on the basis of which data sources; (c) the policy relevance of collecting such data; (d) what type of assets are of importance in countries; (e) operational issues if sample surveys are used in collecting asset ownership and control data (at household and/or individual level); (f) challenges in collecting such data; (g) potential surveys for collecting individual level asset ownership and control data in the near future; and (h) contextual information relevant to asset ownership such as marital regimes and land tenure systems in countries. The assignment also asked for comments from participants on the *Technical Report*. The pre-meeting assignment is attached in Annex 3.

17. All of the nine countries represented at the meeting collected asset ownership data at the household level. Six countries also indicated that they have already collected individual-level data or that they would be interested in exploring administrative sources, such as land and house registries that have information on owners by sex. Data sources currently used include household sample surveys, administrative sources and population census (Table 1).

Table 1. Sources of data for household-level and individual-level asset ownership

Country	Household level asset ownership data		Individual level asset ownership data	
	Source	Source Information	Source	Source Information
China	Survey	Integrated Household survey	No	
Georgia	Survey	Quarterly Integrated Household Survey	No	
Ghana	Survey	2005/06 and 2012/13 Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS)	Survey	2005/06 and 2012/13 Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS)
Maldives	Census Survey Adm.	2006 census 2009/10 household income/expenditure survey Agricultural land/house registers	Adm.	Agricultural land/house registers
Mongolia	Survey	2012 HIES and LSMS	No	
Philippines	Survey Adm.	2013 National DHS 2013 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey Department of Trade and Industry Business Name (BN) Register	Adm.	DTI Business Name (BN) Register
Rwanda	Survey	2010-2011 (Integrated Households Living Condition Survey: EICV3)	Survey	2010-2011 (Integrated Households Living Condition Survey: EICV3)
Uganda	Survey	National Household Survey, every 2 years	Survey	National household survey
Vanuatu	Survey	2010 HIES	Survey	2010 HIES land/business registry

18. Most countries indicated that asset ownership data at the household level are important to study the wellbeing and wealth of households, which may be used for policy in alleviating poverty. Individual-level asset ownership data are considered useful particularly in studying the gender gap in wealth.

19. It was also noted by most countries that asset ownership patterns differ greatly by urban/rural residence of the household. Wealth level of the household also has an impact on how households own assets. Such information may be useful in planning the surveys to either stratify the sample or prepare a targeted set of questions to reflect the differences in urban and rural areas, for example.

20. One of the most debated issues in the *Technical Report* is the number of persons to interview and who to interview on ownership and valuation questions. Existing efforts in measuring individual level asset ownership have shown that multiple persons living in the same household may not agree on who owns a certain asset and how much the asset is worth. All of the countries that have replied to the pre-meeting assignment indicated that the head of the household is interviewed for almost all surveys, with the exception of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). In a typical DHS, all eligible women, i.e., women within a certain age range, are interviewed.

21. All responding countries used paper questionnaires for their surveys and reported that questionnaires are not translated into the local languages. The surveys usually rely on interviewers to translate the questionnaire at the time of the interview. However, previous studies have shown that using the exact wording of certain questions is very important and small variation in the wording may elicit biased responses. It is usually preferred to have those questions translated into local languages to avoid interviewer biases due to the use of on-site translation.

22. Obtaining reliable information on individual level asset ownership requires extensive training of the interviewers on many issues. For example, the interviewers need to be familiar with the marital regimes and land tenure systems in the country. When asking about legal land ownership, the interviewers need to be familiar with the land deed. All responding countries indicated that interviewer training is part of their survey programme and the length of the training varies from 1 week to 28 days.

23. In terms of challenges in measuring individual level asset ownership, some countries have indicated that data quality has suffered from poor questionnaire design, incompetent interviewers and non-responses. Sometimes women are also hesitant in responding to the survey.

24. Assets that are of importance to countries also vary. Land and dwelling are considered important for most of the responding countries, followed by livestock and enterprise.

25. Most responding countries provided some information on marital regime and land tenure system in the country. In general, rights to assets vary depending on whether the asset was acquired before the marriage or within the marriage and whether there is formal marriage or informal union. Land property rights also vary, depending on the type of land (customary versus leased land, for example).

26. During the plenary discussion after the introductory presentation most of the participants focused on the list of assets that are relevant in countries.

27. FAO prepared a draft paper and made a presentation on its recent experiences with incorporating a gender perspective into agricultural censuses and surveys, with particular reference to agricultural land. These experiences have occurred principally within the framework of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA). The presentation: highlighted key WCA aspects for the analysis of gender gaps in land ownership; summarised the review to date of WCA 2010 national experiences with gender analysis; presented tools for sex-disaggregated data collection of land ownership and management; and proposed issues and topics for consideration and discussion by the meeting.

28. In the follow-up discussions, it was agreed that FAO and the EDGE project team will collaborate in order to ensure harmonisation of concepts and codes in the EDGE pilot studies with FAO concepts and recommendations in WCA. In addition, EDGE will follow up and update FAO on further development and data provision requirements for Indicator 12 (Proportion of adult population owning land, by sex) of the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators, which is under the responsibility of FAO. This requirement will be a powerful rationale for inclusion of a stronger gender dimension into WCA 2020 and for encouraging greater collaboration between national statistical systems and gender-oriented stakeholders during various stages of the census process.

29. The presentation made by Ms. Cheryl Doss (EDGE consultant) provided a summary of existing efforts in collecting individual level asset ownership data. The Living Standards Measurement Study - Integrated Surveys of Agriculture, Demographic and Health Survey, Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index and the Gender Asset Gap Project were covered in the presentation. A brief description of the types of assets and how questions were asked, either at the household or individual level, was provided.

30. The presentation made by Maldives outlined three data sources that can be used to generate household and/or individual-level asset ownership data. They include population censuses, sample surveys and administrative records, such as housing and land registries. In the 2006 Maldives census, a question was asked on whether the owner of the principal dwelling was a man or a woman or both. The 2009/2010 Household Income and Expenditure Survey asked questions on ownership of consumer durables by the household. The house and land registries in Maldives record the owners of house and land by various characteristics of the owner, including sex. Unfortunately, the registration records are generally not compiled into statistics and the information is not accessible by the statistical office.

31. Uganda made a presentation on its gender statistics programme, the current practice of collecting asset ownership and challenges faced in collecting individual-level asset ownership data. The Gender Statistics Programme in Uganda is integrated into the main statistical framework. Uganda has been conducting both panel and cross-sectional sample surveys to collect various socioeconomic data. Specialized gender-related surveys have also been conducted on topics such as domestic violence, gender-based violence and asset ownership. On asset ownership, questions have been asked to cover the entire household's assets and identify who the owner(s) is. Changes in assets are important to answer certain policy questions, and are only collected at the household level.

32. Challenges faced in collecting individual level asset ownership data include: (a) how to assign the share of ownership to individuals if a particular asset is jointly owned; (b) the additional information to be collected in order to study the relationship of asset ownership and women's empowerment (for example) needs to be identified; (c) the importance of various categories of assets varies by region, culture and socio-economic status; and (d) assets owned by individuals in the household might not be known by the respondent, and it is a challenge to identify the right person to interview.

33. The presentation also outlined a new initiative of adding a question on ownership by sex into the Uganda Panel Household Survey 2012-13. It was pointed out that due to competing user demand, it is advisable to propose a prioritized set of questions to reduce respondent burden.

Session 4. EDGE draft Technical Report on Measuring Individual Level Asset Ownership and Control: What to measure?

34. The session started with a presentation made by Ms. Cheryl Doss on various issues related to what to measure including (a) which assets to include in the data collection and how they should be defined; (b) type of ownership that is referred to; (c) important background information to be collected; and (d) collecting contextual information. The presentation was followed by group discussions and reporting at the plenary session. The following conclusion was reached by the meeting:

Which assets to include

35. A number of core assets were identified and they include: (a) land including agricultural and non-agricultural land; (b) dwelling for principal residence; (c) other real estate; (d) agricultural

equipment/machinery/structures including those that are functional and used for cultivation or processing; (e) livestock and poultry; (f) household materials/consumer durables and valuables; (g) financial assets including savings account, stocks and bonds, pensions, credits and liabilities; and (h) other assets for household non-farm enterprises (including structures/buildings and equipment for the enterprise).

36. Other types of assets were also discussed during the meeting including intellectual properties such as copyrights. It was recommended to treat this as additional asset, should a country feel the need to include it in the study.

37. It was emphasized during the meeting that types of assets should be selected if (a) they are relevant, as much as possible, from a gender perspective; and (b) they facilitate international comparison. It was agreed that all of the above eight categories of assets should be treated as core assets. Data on a few key consumer durables would be collected across countries for comparability, while each country would cover additional consumer durables. However, flexibilities should be allowed in including or excluding certain sub-categories of each core asset, subject to national applicability.

Type of ownership to measure

38. There are many types of ownership that can be captured in a sample survey. They include (a) reported ownership; (b) documented ownership; (c) control over the asset in terms of rights to sell/rent/bequeath, (d) economic ownership-who derives financial benefits from assets and (e) access or use rights. The type of asset ownership that should be captured to reflect, as much as possible, the gender perspective, varies by asset. For example, documented ownership may only be relevant for land and dwellings.

Background information to collect

39. There are three types of information that should be collected to maximize the use of sex-disaggregated asset ownership data: (a) basic demographic information pertaining to the household and individual; (b) information reflecting women's empowerment; and (b) asset-ownership related variables that enable a better understanding of the characteristics of assets, the ownership and the value of assets.

40. Important demographic information includes: household composition (for the understanding of the relationship of the respondent to the reference person); sex, age, educational attainment, employment status, income, marital/partnership status, duration of marriage or union, marital/partnership history (for inheritance), whether polygamous family and length of stay in the house.

41. Given the importance of analyzing the relationship between women's empowerment and asset ownership, the meeting suggested that additional information on women's decision making in specific areas such as health care and spending on education should be collected. Appropriate questions should be added if not already present in other parts of the questionnaire of the survey to which the asset ownership module will be attached.

42. Important asset-ownership related variables vary by the type of asset. For example, location and size are important for land and dwellings. Equally important for dwellings are the number of years that they have been built. To understand the gendered patterns of asset acquisition, it is useful to have information on how the major assets were acquired.

43. Recording of the interview setting is also important. In particular, it is important to know who was present during the interview. Was the respondent alone? Was the respondent distracted? Was she taking care of the baby?

Contextual information to be collected

44. Contextual information, in a survey that collects individual-level asset ownership data, defines how questions should be asked and how data are analyzed and interpreted. The contextual information is also important in training the interviewers so they can verify, during the interview, the accuracy of reported information. The meeting agreed that the following contextual information is needed: (a) laws and norms regarding marital property; (b) laws and norms on inheritance; (c) forms of land tenure; (d) people's understanding of ownership; and (e) relevant categories of joint ownership.

45. It was noted that the best way to collect such information is to conduct qualitative studies and focus group discussions before the survey field work is undertaken.

Local language translation of questionnaires for certain concepts (e.g. ownership/control/management)

46. The concepts of ownership, control and management are very complicated to understand, especially for countries that have multiple local languages. Due to the fact that slight changes in the wording of the questions might elicit important differences in responses, it is advisable to translate asset ownership related questions into at least the major regional languages. It is important not to allow the interviewer too much flexibility to interpret the questions, in order to ensure consistency in the answers. It would also be useful to have the interviewers teamed with people who understand the region for the interview.

Session 5. EDGE draft Technical Report on Measuring Individual Level Asset Ownership and Control: How to measure?

47. The session started with a presentation made by Ms. Cheryl Doss outlining issues related to how to measure individual level asset ownership data. Issues covered include: (a) how many persons and whom to interview to obtain accurate data on asset ownership at the individual level; (b) how to value assets; and (c) what types of training are needed for the interviewers. The presentation was followed by group discussion and reporting in plenary. Participants agreed on the following aspects.

Whom to interview

48. Different mechanisms were discussed extensively in terms of whom to interview when collecting asset ownership data at the individual level. Those include interviewing (a) the principal couple in the household together; (b) the principal couple in the household separately; (c) two people, consisting of a principal man and woman or the most knowledgeable man and woman in the

household; (d) the head of household or the most knowledgeable person in the household and (e) one person (man or woman) selected randomly from households.

49. The group agreed that the selection of the most appropriate interviewing setting should be based on the following criteria:

- a. Objective of the data collection. If the basic objective of the study is to estimate asset ownership at the individual level, then interviewing one man or one woman from the household might be sufficient. That is, a randomly selected man or woman from the household would provide sufficient information about individual rights and decision-making regarding assets. However, if there is also an interest in understanding intra-household/couple decision-making power, then interviewing both members of the principal couple might be preferred.
- b. Sustainability of the methods – the proposed method should be easily integrated into existing national survey programmes;
- c. Comparability among countries;
- d. Cost-effectiveness. Will the added complexity of interviewing two people from the same household (as per point ‘a’ above) provide relevant and easy to interpret information? Having multiple respondents from the same household will result in discrepancies in answers in terms of who owns/controls an asset that will require rules for reconciliation.
- e. The group discussed possibilities of using the EDGE project as a vehicle for testing different interviewing settings (whom to interview). Results of the testing will provide input for an internationally-agreed methodology on collecting asset ownership at the individual level. Information on costs and resources needed will also be taken into consideration. Once tested and approved by the pilot countries, the methodologies should be usable in nationally representative household surveys.

Valuation of assets

50. In terms of the valuation of assets, the group agreed that valuation applies more to certain assets such as land, dwellings, agricultural equipment and selected consumer durables. The most challenging values to derive are those for land and dwellings. In general, the System of National Accounts method – how much it will cost if you sell it today – is preferred. To obtain the best estimate of values, it was suggested that training of interviewers is crucial so that interviewers are familiar with the real estate market for the areas they are responsible and erroneous responses can be detected during the interview.

51. The discussion also covered how to work with countries that do not have established markets for land and dwellings or where tenure type precludes so. This is particularly relevant for Pacific Island countries. The technical report should also provide guidance on how to obtain values for these countries.

52. The group also commented that administrative sources (or ICP that provides information on rental), although not always accurate, could be used as a secondary source to evaluate the accuracy of the values derived from household surveys. Collecting relevant characteristics of the land and dwellings, such as size, age of the dwelling, construction material used, location etc, can be used to validate, impute or revise the values obtained from the respondents.

53. Formulation of the valuation questions should take into consideration the sensitivity related to values attached to assets, especially financial assets. One suggestion is to only ask for responses in broad monetary categories rather than in exact amounts.

Training of interviewers:

54. It was stressed that training of interviewers is crucial for obtaining accurate information on asset ownership at the individual level. Special training is needed in the following areas:

- a. If the survey is to interview a randomly selected respondent (male/female pre-determined), special training is needed to make sure the interviewers identify the right person;
- b. Recording of who the respondent(s) is. This is recommended because in many surveys although the respondent is selected as the one with certain characteristics (often the head of the household), the person actually answering the questions may be another person from the same household. The selected respondent might not be available at the time of the interview or may not be confident in answering questions. For data collection, particularly at the individual level when the survey specialists have specified a randomly selected household member, recording information on the “real” respondent is crucial to ensure the quality and reliability of the statistics produced.
- c. Skip patterns. The interviewers should be familiarized with the skip patterns of the asset questions.
- d. Second respondent and verification. If there is a second respondent in the same household, training should also focus on how to obtain the “most accurate” answers and what to do if there is difference in reported assets and asset ownership.
- e. Avoid double counting of assets. Certain household assets might be used for both running a household business and for the household’s own consumption. It is recommended that such assets are counted only once under assets for business.
- f. Contextual information; relevant terms and definitions; and different types of legal documents related to asset ownership.
- g. Obtaining the value of assets may be complicated in nature and interviewers should be trained on how to minimize non-response and to improve accuracy of the data.
- h. Consideration of safety issues when responses may generate conflict among household members.
- i. Selecting the appropriate timing for the interview is also important to ensure that the selected household member is available for the interview.

Session 6. EDGE draft Technical Report on Measuring Individual Level Asset Ownership and Control: Proposed questionnaire and the way forward

Review of the proposed questionnaire

55. The meeting reviewed and discussed the proposed set of draft questions. Comments received will be reflected in the revised version of the asset module.

The way forward:

a. Learning from previous exercises

56. Given the fact that the Gender Asset Gap Project (GAGP) was conducted in three countries (Ghana, Ecuador, and one state of India) using stand-alone household surveys, the meeting recommended better identifying lessons learnt from GAGP and considering them in the development of the EDGE project methodology. This is particularly important for answering the question of “whom to interview” as the GAGP interviewed two persons in each household; hence, studying the difference in responses between the two persons would be instrumental in the finalization of the EDGE project asset ownership methodology.

57. The table below summarizes the work plan/key activities discussed and agreed to at the meeting:

Year	Activities
2013	<i>Technical Report on Measuring Individual Level Asset Ownership and Control</i> finalized, with options on certain operational elements
	Pilot countries begin conducting qualitative studies on contextual information and provide lists of activities and related cost estimates for piloting module/questions on asset ownership
	EDGE to commission additional study on lessons learnt from the GAGP
2014	Experiment field operation with different options (China, Philippines, Uganda)
	Collecting asset ownership data through questions (or a questionnaire module) in Uganda and Ghana
	Contextual information available for all EDGE pilot countries
2015	Collecting asset ownership data through questions (or a questionnaire module) in China, Georgia, Philippines, Mongolia, Vanuatu, Maldives, Rwanda
	Data analysed and disseminated
2016	International guidelines on collecting data on asset ownership at individual level presented and approved by the UN Statistical Commission
	The Minimum Set of Gender indicators on asset ownership moved from Tier-III to Tier-II

b. Potential surveys for the EDGE piloting

58. All of the participating countries expressed interest in becoming part of the EDGE project, to pilot the proposed new methodology. Upcoming household surveys will be fielded between 2014 and 2015 (see table below). It was indicated that some of the pre-testing (on questionnaire design, interviewing settings and question formulation) may be carried out in 2014.

Country	Potential survey(s) for EDGE piloting
China	Integrated Household Survey 2014; Agricultural Census 2016
Georgia	Integrated Household Survey April 2015
Ghana	Household-based agricultural census 2014; household-based integrated enterprise survey 2014; LFS 2015 (maybe)
Maldives	Household income and expenditure survey 2015
Mongolia	Household Social and Economic Survey 2015 (pre-testing of questions may be done in 2014)
Philippines	In a module of LFS January or October 2015
Rwanda	Integrated Household Living Condition Survey (EICV5, 2016)
Uganda	Annual Panel Household surveys; consumption and other surveys (household-based)
Vanuatu	Household Income and Expenditure survey 2015

c. Setting up an EDGE pilot country implementation plan

The meeting agreed that each EDGE pilot country would compile an implementation plan covering different stages of the potential survey for EDGE and corresponding time frame. This will help both countries and the EDGE project move forward smoothly.

Activities	Timetable*	Agency Responsible
I. Planning and Preparatory		
1. Establishing country team	August 2013	NSO
2. Development of analytical framework	September 2013	NSCB, NSO
3. Review of existing surveys		
4. Consultation w/ data users	October 2013	NSCB, NSO
5. Partnership agreement w/ ADB/institutional arrangements	December 2013	
6. Development and pretest of questionnaire as hh survey module	1 st Semester 2014	
7. Revision and finalization of survey instruments to include sampling design, questionnaire, training manuals	2 nd Semester 2014	
II. Pilot Survey		
1. Training	2nd quarter 2015	
2. Data Collection	October 2015	
3. Supervision	October 2015	
4. Field editing	October 2015	

III. Post Pilot Survey Activities		
1. Manual editing	November 2015	
2. Machine processing	December 2015	
3. Analysis of results	January 2016	
4. Preparation of technical results, factsheets	January 2016	
5. Publication	1 st quarter 2016	
6. Dissemination of results	1 st quarter 2016	
7. Documentation	2014-2016	

Annex 1. List of Participants

No.	Country / Organization		Contact Person Information
1.	AUSTRALIA	1.	Ms. Sally Moyle Principal Sector Specialist Gender Equality Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)
2.	CHINA	2.	Ms. Ping Tang Consultant Department of Household Surveys National Bureau of Statistics
3.	GEORGIA	3.	Mr. Giorgi Kalakashvili Head of Social Statistics Division National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat)
		4.	Mr. Tengiz Tsekvava Deputy Executive Director National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat)
4.	GHANA	5.	Ms. Bernice Serwah Ofori-Baadu Head, National Accounts; and Coordinator for Gender Statistics Working Group Ghana Statistical Service
		6.	Mr. Peter Takyi Peprah Senior Statistician & Head of Survey Organization Team Ghana Statistical Service
5.	MALDIVES	7.	Ms. Fathimath Nihan Asst Systems Programmer Dept. of National Planning
		8.	Ms. Fathimath Riyaza Asst Director Dept. of National Planning
6.	MONGOLIA	9.	Mr. Amarbal Avirmed Head of Population and Housing Census Bureau National Statistical Office
		10.	Ms. Oyuntsetseg Mashir Senior Officer Population and Social Statistics Department National Statistics Office
7.	PHILIPPINES	11.	Ms. Ericta Carmelita Administrator National Statistics Office
		12.	Ms. Lina Castro Assistant Secretary General National Statistical Coordination Board
7.	RWANDA	13.	Mr. Nicolas Mwizerwa Statistician in-charge of household surveys and poverty National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda

No.	Country / Organization		Contact Person Information
8.	UGANDA	14.	Ms. Norah Teopista Madaya Wamayi Director Statistics Coordination Services Uganda Bureau of Statistics
		15.	Mr. James Muwonge Director Uganda Bureau of Statistics
9.	UNITED STATES	16.	Ms. Krista Jacobs Program Analyst, Gender & Youth Advisor Foreign Agricultural Service Development Resources and Disaster Assistance Division United States Department of Agriculture
10.	VANUATU	17.	Mr. Roger Smithy Acting Statistician Vanuatu National Statistics Office
		18.	Mr. Benuel Lenge Senior Statistician Vanuatu Government
11.	ADB	19.	Mr. Kaushal Joshi Senior Statistician, ERD/ERDI Asian Development Bank
		20.	Ms. Melissa Pascua Associate Economics and Statistics Officer Asian Development Bank
12.	AFDB	21.	Ms. Alice Nabalamba Assistant to the Director Statistics Department African Development Bank
13.	FAO	22.	Mr. John Curry Consultant Statistics Division Food and Agriculture Organization
		23.	Ms. Josie Bance Ferez Chief Technical Advisor Food and Agriculture Organization
14.	UNESCAP	24.	Ms. Haishan FU Chief, Statistics Division Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) 8th Floor, United Nations Building Rajadamnern Nok Avenue Bangkok 10200, Thailand
		25.	Ms. Sharita Serrao Associate Statistician ESCAP Statistics Division
15.	UN Women	26.	Mr. Papa SECK UN Women 220 East 42nd Street, 17th Floor New York, NY 10017, United States
16.	UN Statistics Division	27.	Ms. Francesca GRUM Chief, Social and Housing Statistics Section Demographic and Social Statistics Branch Statistics Division

No.	Country / Organization		Contact Person Information
		28.	Ms. Haoyi CHEN Statistician, Social and Housing Statistics Section Demographic and Social Statistics Branch Statistics Division
17.	Expert	29.	Ms. Cheryl DOSS Senior Lecturer in Economics and Global Affairs Yale University

Annex 2. Agenda

United Nations Statistics Division

UN Women

in collaboration with

Statistics Division, ESCAP

EDGE Project Technical Meeting on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective

Bangkok, Thailand

30 July – 2 August 2013

Agenda

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), in collaboration with the Statistics Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), are organizing a Technical Meeting on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective.

The meeting is organized under the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project and will bring together national statisticians, partner agencies and regional commissions to discuss the draft *Technical Report on Measuring Individual Level Asset Ownership and Control*.

During this four-day meeting, participants will:

- (a) Review and discuss the draft *Technical Report* prepared under the EDGE project and presenting the proposed methodology to collect individual-level asset data through a dedicated module attached to a multi-purpose national household survey;
- (b) Share national practices/experience on measuring asset ownership at the individual level and provide input to further improve the proposed methodology; and
- (c) Discuss the EDGE project implementation strategy in selected pilot countries.

The key objectives of the meeting are:

- Receive feedback from national statisticians on the applicability/feasibility of the methodology proposed under the EDGE project to measure asset ownership at the individual level; and on their capacity to apply the proposed international methods;
- Exchange and share good practices and lessons learned on this topic based on experiences gained in selected national statistical offices and partner agencies;
- Promote the integration of a gender perspective into national statistical systems with the aim of improving the availability and quality of gender statistics, including on “emerging issues” such as asset ownership and control.

30 July 2013

09.00 – 13.00 **Welcome (UNSD, UNESCAP, All)**

Objectives of the meeting

Short Round Table Introduction

Harmonizing gender indicators, including on entrepreneurship and asset ownership (UNSD, All)

The session provides an overview of the EDGE project and of the Global Gender Statistics Programme, including the minimum set of gender indicators.

Why measure asset ownership and control at individual level – importance for policy making? (UN women, Ghana, Philippines, All)

The session discusses policy relevance of individual level data on asset ownership and control, at international and national level (Paras. 8 – 27)

14.00 – 17.00 **Current approaches to measuring asset ownership and control (UNSD, FAO, All)**

The session reviews practices in participating countries as well as selected recent surveys and studies to measure assets (Paras. 28 - 66)

1. Summary of pre-meeting assignments on existing efforts (UNSD)
2. Agricultural censuses/surveys (FAO)
3. LSMS-ISA surveys, Gender Asset Gap Project, Women Empowerment in Agriculture, DHS (UNSD)
4. Other activities (Maldives, Uganda)

31 July 2013

09.00 – 17.00 **EDGE draft *Technical Report on Measuring Individual Level Asset***

Ownership and Control: What to measure? (UNSD, All)

The session will cover an introductory presentation based on the draft Technical Report provided to participants in advance of the meeting, followed by group discussions. Some of the points the session will focus on are:

1. Which measures of gender asset and wealth gap? (Paras. 161-174)
2. Which assets to include? (Paras. 68 – 77)
3. What to measure for asset – legal/de facto ownership, access, control and/or management? (Paras. 93 - 97)
4. Are we measuring individual and/or joint ownership? (Paras. 98 – 101)
5. What level of comparability across countries we are looking for? (To be added)

1 August 2013

09.00 – 17.00 **EDGE draft *Technical Report on Measuring Individual Level Asset Ownership and Control: How to measure?* (UNSD, All)**

The session will cover an introductory presentation based on the draft Technical Report provided to participants in advance of the meeting, followed by group discussions. Some of the points the session will focus on are:

1. Is there difference in asset ownership by urban/rural (or other characteristics)? How should the differences be reflected in the data collection (sampling stratification, questionnaire design; and estimation) (To be added)
2. What contextual information (e.g., legal marital/inheritance regime, land tenure system) needs to be collected before the survey? (Paras. 99-101 on marital regimes; other to be added)
3. What specific background information (e.g., type of marriage/union, marital history, quality of land and dwelling) related to asset-ownership needs to be collected? (To be added)
4. How many persons to interview and who to interview for gender analysis (Paras. 106 – 113)
5. What is the unit of observation and analysis – asset or individual? (Paras. 102 – 105)
6. How should the questionnaire be structured to ensure that we do not double-count assets reported by more than one person? (Paras. 114 – 145)
7. How should the link to entrepreneurship be made? (To be added)
8. How to measure value of assets? (Paras. 78 – 92)
9. How to reconcile disagreement among multiple respondents – on ownership and/or valuation? (Paras. 154 – 161)
10. Can we use administrative records to measure/value assets from a gender perspective? (To be added)

2 August 2013

09.00 – 15.00 **EDGE draft *Technical Report on Measuring Individual Level Asset Ownership and Control: Proposed methodology* (TBD, All)**

The session will consist of working groups discussing the proposed questionnaire to measuring asset ownership and control. The session will also summarize additions/changes to the draft Technical Report to ensure the Report proposes methods that are practical and feasible for national statistical offices. The session will also identify:

1. Possible surveys in participating countries to pilot the EDGE methods
2. Steps to finalize the Technical Report
3. Testing/piloting schedule

15.00 – 17.00 **Conclusions and the way forward (UNSD)**

Annex 3. Pre-meeting assignment

United Nations Statistics Division

UN Women

in collaboration with the

Statistics Division, ESCAP

Technical Meeting on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective

Bangkok, Thailand

30 July – 2 August 2013

In preparation for the meeting, we would like you to provide information on your work as gender statistics or survey expert in your country. Questions are outlined in the following pages.

Please submit the completed document in electronic format to the E-mail address chen9@un.org by **19 July 2013 (Friday)**.

Thank you in advance for your input!

Questions on Measuring Asset Ownership at Household Level:

1. Does your country collect data on ownership of assets, such as land, house, agricultural equipment, business etc?
 Yes No

2. If yes, how were the data collected? Is data collected from administrative sources or sample surveys?

3. If administrative source is used, please provide details on the source and on the information obtained.

4. If a sample survey was used, when was the last time that asset ownership data were collected?
 - a. The responsible agency – was the national statistical agency involved in planning and conducting the survey and analyzing the results? Any other agency(ies) involved?

 - b. Is the survey in paper questionnaire format or via tablet/other electronic devices?

 - c. Was the sample nationally-representative? How big was the sample size?

7. Which assets are the most relevant from a gender perspective analysis in your country? Some of the possible assets are listed below:
- a. Dwelling
 - b. Other real estate
 - c. Agricultural land
 - d. Agricultural equipment
 - e. Livestock
 - f. Household nonfarm enterprises
 - g. Consumer durables
 - h. Financial assets
 - i. Credit/debt
 - j. Business (non-household enterprises)
 - k. Others, please specify

Questions on Measuring Asset Ownership at Individual Level:

8. Has your country also collected asset ownership data at individual level (as opposed to at household-level)?

Yes No

9. If yes, what was the policy relevance of collecting such data? Please provide a reference to any policy that has been or will be in place to encourage individual ownership of assets.

10. Is data collected from administrative sources or sample surveys?

11. If administrative source is used, please provide details on the source and on the information obtained.

12. If a sample survey was used, please describe details of the data collection, including

- a. The responsible agency – was the national statistical agency involved in planning and conducting the survey and analyzing the results? Any other agency(ies) involved?

- b. Is the survey in paper questionnaire format or via tablet/other electronic devices?

- c. Was the sample nationally-representative? How big was the sample size?

- d. Was training for the interviewers provided? How long was the training? What was covered in the training?

13. Does owning assets at the individual level vary greatly by urban/rural residence of the household? Does it vary by region? If yes, please describe briefly the differences. Were such differences reflected in the data collection tool (question formulation, for example)?

Questions on Potential Sample Surveys for Measuring Asset Ownership at Individual Level:

14. If your country is interested in measuring asset ownership at the individual level, what would be the next available sample survey to collect such information. Please provide more information on the survey – name, type of survey, sample size, agency in charge, type of asset ownership data you would like to obtain.

Background Information

15. Please provide a brief description of the laws about property ownership within marriage. Does marriage provide property rights to the spouse? And what about those in an informal marriage or consensual union? What happens to property acquired during marriage if there is a divorce or when one spouse dies? Who inherits property when someone dies without a will? Are there laws regarding who may inherit or who must inherit? Are there any laws limiting property ownership by women?
16. Please describe the patterns of land ownership in your country. To what extent do individuals own land? Is there any difference among regions? To what extent do women own land, either individually or jointly with their husband? Are there any specific laws encouraging or discouraging women's land ownership?

Specific questions on the Technical Report:

1. On the basis of what is recommended and the material provided in the Technical Report, would your office be able to use it? By adding a module on a planned sample survey in the near future?
2. Are there any specific additions you would like to see in the Technical Report?
3. Which parts of the Technical Report need to be enriched?
4. What are your specific comments on each chapter of the Technical Report?