UNECE reporting on gender statistics activities, progress and regional challenges

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Abstract:

This presentation will give an overview of current and forthcoming activities in gender statistics in the UNECE region. There are four interlinked strands of work: providing a platform for exchange of knowledge and best practice; methodological work; capacity-building activities; and data collection and dissemination.

UNECE work on gender statistics is guided by the Steering Group on Gender Statistics. Work Sessions bring together experts from across the region to share experience and identify needs for methodological work. Major initiatives have included the manual 'Developing Gender Statistics: a practical tool' and a set of 115 gender indicators recommended for use in UNECE countries. The Steering Group has now begun work on the gendered nature of household power and decision-making, looking to identify and evaluate existing indicators and propose ways of filling gaps to measure this topic more thoroughly. A task force on valuing unpaid household service work is also in the process of developing guidelines for statistics on this topic.

The UNECE region has great diversity in the extent of development of statistical systems, and notable gaps remain in the production, quality and use of sex-disaggregated statistics on gender-relevant topics. UNECE workshops for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia aim to improve these countries' statistical capacity in a variety of areas: past workshops have covered measurement of violence against women, time-use surveys, gender perspectives in labour statistics, women's entrepreneurship and informal employment. Plans for 2017 include workshops to aid national statistical offices in providing training to their end users in how to access, use and interpret gender statistics, making use of a newly-developed Toolkit.

Through its statistical database, UNECE makes available data collected from national statistical offices and from international sources on a simple-to-use platform, permitting easy tabulation, visualization, analysis and extraction of data. The Gender Database (which is only one part of the full database, alongside economic, transport, forestry and development statistics) covers 52 countries of North America, Europe and Central Asia and represents a valuable source of information on the role of men and women in the economy and society of these countries. It covers ten domains, such as crime and violence, public life and decision-making, education and work-life balance, with data for 1980, 1990, 1995 and for each year from 2000 onwards. The latest update of the database is currently in progress and is expected to be completed within the next few weeks.