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**Global Forum on Gender Statistics  
10-12 December 2007  
Rome, Italy**

**Report of Global Forum on Gender Statistics\***

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## **I. Introduction**

### **Background and objective of the meeting**

1. The Global Forum on Gender Statistics was held 10-12 December 2007 in Rome, Italy organized by the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Department of Rights and Equal Opportunities and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the United Nations (the Statistics Division and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Economic Commission for Europe), in collaboration with the World Bank. The Forum was attended by over 120 participants representing more than 50 countries, 18 UN agencies, and several other international organizations and development partners (see annex 1 for the List of Participants).
2. The Global Forum was held as part of the UNSD Global Gender Statistics Programme to enhance the capacity of countries to collect, disseminate and use quality gender statistics. Following the Forum, there was a meeting of the Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) on December 13.
3. The Global Forum was the first of a series of international meetings on gender statistics to be held annually with the purpose of promoting the advancement of gender statistics among decision makers and all other user groups. To that end, some of the key objectives of the Forum were to:
  - (a) Officially launch the Global Gender Statistics Programme (GGSP) and the Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS);
  - (b) Officially launch Gender Info, a new global database of gender statistics and indicators in selected areas of policy concern;
  - (c) Review technical developments in selected areas both at the national and international levels and recommend actions for further developments of gender statistics in these areas, including securing high-level commitment for their implementation.

### **Opening session**

4. The Forum was opened by Luigi Biggeri, President of Istat. Mr Biggeri welcomed all participants and wished them a very fruitful discussion. He gave a brief overview of the history of gender statistics in Italy. In response to Beijing, Italy produced a publication of gender analysis, and has since been very supportive and active in the development of gender statistics. Most recently in the area of violence against women.

Line ministries in Italy continue to show strong support for the work of ISTAT in gender statistics.

5. Paul Cheung, Director of UNSD also gave an opening statement in which he joined Mr. Biggeri in welcoming the participants. He called for renewed efforts to advance gender statistics worldwide and announced UNSD's Global Programme on Gender Statistics.

6. Formal opening remarks were also made by Donatella Linguiti, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Rights and Equal Opportunities, Italy; Kourtoum Nacro, UNFPA; Bianca Maria Pomeranzi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy; and Barbara Pettine, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Italy. Several important themes were raised in the opening remarks included the importance of gender statistics for monitoring the progress of women and men following the Beijing Conference and of creating policies and laws to support improving the situation of women relative to men. Panelists also pointed to the broad range of uses for gender statistics including gender budgeting and the importance of time use surveys to reveal the lack of parity between women and men and as a tool for gender budgeting. Emphasis was also placed on the importance of recognizing that gender statistics constitute more than just the sex disaggregation of data but a much broader view of the type of data that is collected, the techniques used, and the analysis of data from a gender sensitive perspective.

### **Organization of the meeting**

7. As laid out in the Organization of Work (Annex 2), the meeting was structured along the following main topics:

- (a) High level user producer dialogue on gender statistics
- (b) New challenges in gender statistics
- (c) Emerging demands for gender statistics in Italy
- (d) Measuring violence against women
- (e) Engendering household surveys: measuring poverty and access to resources
- (f) Engendering household surveys: measuring work
- (g) Social indicators and gender equality: indicators and measurement tools
- (h) Engendering population censuses
- (i) Producing gender statistics through population censuses: perspectives from the regional commissions

- (j) Gender statistics from administrative sources: civil registration and vital statistics
- (k) Engendering economic statistics
- (l) Conclusions and recommendations

Background documents and presentation are available on the Global Forum on Gender Statistics website:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Gender\\_Statistics\\_10Dec07\\_Rome/default.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Gender_Statistics_10Dec07_Rome/default.htm)

## **II. Session summaries and conclusions**

### **High level user producer dialogue on gender statistics**

8. Following the formal opening remarks there was a high level user-producer dialogue on gender statistics chaired by Luigi Biggeri, President of Istat. The first panelist, Caroline Hannan, Director of DAW, recalled that the Beijing Platform for Action calls on actors to disseminate statistics relevant to monitoring the status of women. She noted that one drawback of Beijing was that it had few tangible outcomes or benchmarks. In addition, the MDG's were too few and not linked to the most important areas of the Beijing platform. As a result, and because of limited data availability, in the end, we were measuring not what was most important but what we had data on. To conclude, she underscored the need to make all MDG indicators gender sensitive and to use the international reporting instruments to compile indicators relevant for addressing gender concerns. She also stressed the need to strengthen the collaboration between the Statistical Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women.

9. Following Ms. Hannan's remarks, Franca Bimbi, Member of Parliament, Italy spoke. Ms. Bimbi reminded the Forum that sex disaggregation alone did not constitute gender statistics: much more needed to be done. Also, she noted the importance of ensuring that statistics did not inadvertently lead to discrimination. In this regard, she commented on the role of gender contracts in perpetuating gender inequality, and on the importance of the development of social indicators on the status of women, including indicators on social mobility, intergenerational transfers, as well as indicators appropriate for monitoring gender relations in multicultural societies.

10. The next panelist was Daniela Colombo, President of AIDOS, the Italian Association of Women in Development. Ms. Colombo noted that several Forum participants had been present at the Beijing conference and she hoped the Forum would revive the enthusiasm that the Beijing conference inspired in gender equality advocates.

Ms. Colombo also reiterated the importance of the Beijing Platform for Action as a framework for the development of gender statistics.

11. Lucia Fort, Sr. Gender Specialist, PREM Gender and Development, World Bank indicate the intent of the World Bank to participate in the Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and expressed her hope for action oriented comments from the Forum participants. She described the international action plan for the empowerment of women that the Bank is currently developing. The Plan has four main pillars: employment, credit, markets/sellers, and resources/property/land rights. Gender statistics will be essential for this plan as it is difficult to assess which policies work without statistics. Gender statistics are also important for making the case for the importance of gender with countries. She also noted that time use surveys are proving to be a useful tool for measuring informal work in many parts of the world.

12. Heinrich Brünger, Director of Statistics Division, UNECE described the ECE gender database and work in technical capacity building. He noted that ECE was continuing methodological work and ensuring new indicators were gender sensitive. For example, new work was being done to use a human capital approach for developing indicators that would go beyond the scope of social statistics. At the same time, he cautioned against the development of indicators without proper conceptual and methodological considerations, as in the case of a proposed measure of future income. He pointed out that this type of measure, as currently conceived, would be gender biased and should be reconsidered. In addition, he stressed the need to weigh the costs and benefits of incorporating gender into the various sources of statistics, pointing out that for some sources, such as household surveys, the steps would be rather straightforward, but not so for other sources such as administrative records.

13. Michel Glaude, Director of Eurostat, provided an overview of gender statistics in the European Statistical System (ESS). Mr. Glaude discussed the road map for attaining equality between women and men for 2006-2010 in Europe and the status of indicators for monitoring progress in the key areas of concern. He also discussed the future challenges faced by the region such as expanding data collection on gender statistics for specific areas including ICT, reconciliation between work and family life, health, education and life long learning, and crime/victimisation. An additional challenge was that of improving the quality and comparability of gender statistics along the lines of the European Statistics Code of Practice, specifically for the Gender Pay Gap. To conclude, Mr. Glaude noted that EUROSTAT planned to enhance the dissemination of gender statistics with user-friendly Websites and attractive publications and to deepen the analysis of the underlying factors by conducting more econometric studies, addressing attitudinal and behavioural issues, and disseminating anonymised microdata bases to researchers.

14. Carmen Alcaide Guindo, President of National Statistics Institute of Spain discussed how in response to the Beijing Platform for Action, government statistics in Spain and in many other countries have increasingly reflected a commitment to compile information to measure the differences between men and women. This is not a matter

simply of breaking down the data by sex whenever possible, but, more importantly, of ensuring that statistics are designed from the outset so as to identify and collect information on those spheres in which differences between the sexes may exist. The disaggregation of statistics by sex is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for analysis. The statistical system must seek to produce statistics that aid the assessment and diagnosis of the social position of, and the differences between, both sexes. This approach has been termed "gender mainstreaming".

15. Ms. Alcaide pointed out that a distinctive feature of the case of Spain is the government's recent initiative on equality policy. A new Ley de Igualdad ("Gender Equality Act"), passed in March 2007, lays the foundations for ambitious policy in support of effective equality between men and women. In the field of statistics, the Act introduces specific rules on both aspects of gender mainstreaming mentioned above: disaggregation by sex of all statistics on individuals, and the establishment of new indicators to garner more accurate knowledge of the differences in "values, roles, situations, conditions, aspirations and needs of women and men." Ms. Alcaide went on to describe the main actions by INE on gender statistics in response to this innovative legislation.

16. Grace Bediako, Director of the Statistical Office of Ghana, discussed the problem of lack of institutionalization of gender statistics in statistical offices. Often one person is responsible for gender statistics and, if they leave, the programme is put on hold. This poses the question of what institutional framework should house gender statistics. Though progress has been made, considerable work is still to be done in gender sensitization. Ms. Bediako echoed earlier speakers in pointing out that sex disaggregation of data does not constitute gender statistics. Ms. Bediako stressed the importance of returning to the Beijing Platform for Action for guidance and of expanding gender statistics training programmes to address the lack of institutionalization of gender statistics. She also noted that successful gender statistics programmes require financial resources and leadership.

### **Launch of Gender Info 2007**

17. Paul Cheung, Director of UNSD, introduced Gender Info 2007 –a new database of gender statistics and indicators in key areas of policy concern developed by UNSD in collaboration with UNICEF and UNFPA. He noted that the database was part of the Division's efforts to improve access to key gender statistics and indicators at the global level. He exhorted participants to use the database and to provide feedback for future improvements. Nicolas Pron, UNICEF Senior Project Officer and DevInfo Project Manager, conducted a demo of Gender Info 2007, highlighting its contents, key features and presentation capabilities (see: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/genderinfo/default.htm>)

## **New Challenges in Gender Statistics**

18. Irena Križman, Head of Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia chaired the session on New Challenges in Gender Statistics. The first presentation was on engendering official statistics for monitoring development given by Francesca Perucci of UNSD. Ms. Perucci pointed out that there is universal recognition that gender equality and women's empowerment are necessary conditions to achieve development. Governments need to honor existing international commitments to mainstream gender into all development policies and to promote the empowerment of women; data should be available to support this effort and to identify the progress that is being achieved. Goal 3 of the MDG's addresses gender equality; however, only some of the dimensions of gender equality and empowerment are captured by the three indicators under Goal 3. There are also problems of data availability and data quality and to address this emphasis should be placed on promoting adequate data collection programmes. Data available from official national and international sources still do not allow us to monitor the basic aspects of development related to gender and to inform policies with the necessary statistics. It is essential to ensure that capacity building programmes and initiatives to improve the financing for the development of statistics also include a gender perspective. In addition, there is a need to develop standards and guidelines through the formal intergovernmental process (Statistical Commission) to ensure full involvement and commitment by national statistical systems.

19. Linda Laura Sabbadini of Istat spoke on the topic of new measurement challenges in the areas of violence, discrimination, and economic statistics. Ms. Sabbadini opened her presentation by pointing out that many phenomena that are crucial from a social and an economic point of view, such as unemployment, poverty and economic development are not gender neutral. If planning and scheduling are developed without considering gender, men and women will benefit unequally. Statistics are a basic tool to address the problem. For many years, NSO's were economics-centered and it wasn't until the Beijing conference that the situation really began to change. Violence, discrimination, and economics are three areas where the goals of Beijing have not been reached. Violence against women is invisible in most countries. It is very difficult to gather data on and requires careful methodological consideration. Italy has conducted a survey, as have several other countries, but we still do not have international guidelines to ensure comparability across countries. There are also many areas within social statistics where sufficient data is often lacking to address discrimination. Discrimination occurs against many social groups: women, the elderly, the disabled, etc. It is important to have labor statistics disaggregated for these groups to detect discrimination. It is also important to have data on overlapping cleavages where discrimination may be double, for example elderly women or disabled women. Finally, it is important to address indicators that do not adequately portray women's economic situation. Unemployment statistics are one example. Women's unemployment rate may be low but this does not take into account discouraged workers. Measuring income and surveying enterprises must be done with a gender perspective as the "household income" conceals women's contribution. Italy also recently conducted a survey of enterprise owners and found many significant differences between women- and men-owned enterprises.

20. Joann Vanek of WEIGO discussed the importance of going beyond traditional measures of work to measure quality of work. Issues relating to quality of work are emerging as a challenge in the development of gender statistics. For example, one important criticism of Millennium Development Goal 3 relating to the equality of employment between women and men measured by the share of women in non-agricultural wage employment, is that the indicator measures only the presence or absence of non-agricultural wage work and not the quality of that work. Also the growth of more flexible types of work arrangements creates a need to develop statistics that capture these new forms of work. For example, part time and temporary wage employment and own account self-employment represents significant and often growing shares of total employment in most developed countries today. Comprehensive and comparable data on these types of employment are not available and developing them needs to be a key priority in the improvement of gender statistics.

21. Ms. Vanek concluded by stating that gender and labour statisticians must work together with advocates to address several challenges:

- (a) more timely and comprehensive data through regular censuses and surveys, especially labour force surveys;
- (b) classifications and methods which are both sensitive to the gender differences in the labor force and the new forms of work that are becoming more prevalent in both developing and developed countries;
- (c) harmonization of frameworks for classifying types of employment to capture these new forms of labour across both developed and developing countries;
- (d) data on employment outcomes, specifically on earnings, poverty risk, hours of work, presence/absence of social protection associated with different types of employment.

22. Angela Me of UNECE identified various challenges to the advancement of gender statistics including that of developing effective institutional arrangements for its mainstreaming; raising gender awareness among management and sectoral experts; and addressing gender issues among sub-population groups. Regarding the latter, she noted that many people face a double disadvantage: they are disadvantaged based on being women as well as being part of an ethnic minority. Disaggregating data by sex only tells part of the story. Ms. Me gave the example of unemployment in the UK. When you look at unemployment by sex in the UK, women have lower unemployment than men. Women's total unemployment rate is a relatively low 4.2 per cent. When you disaggregate the data further by ethnic group, a different situation is revealed. Unemployment for women is well over 5 per cent for 8 out of 9 of the major ethnic groups in the UK, and it approaches 20 per cent for Pakistani women. For Indian and Pakistani women, unemployment rates are higher than for Indian and Pakistani men. Gathering information on ethnic minorities, whether racial, linguistic or religious can be very difficult. Depending on the national context, it may be difficult or impossible to ask

such a question in a census or survey. Obtaining quality data on minority groups poses methodological problems; because many ethnic groups are quite small it may not be possible to gather significant data through a sample survey. Oversampling of small groups is one technique to address this problem. Population censuses and administrative sources are valuable for data on small groups. Ms. Me suggested that using open ended questions on ethnicity and using proxy indicators such as migration status or citizenship might facilitate the collection of data on ethnocultural characteristics.

23. Antonella Picchio of the University of Modena provided an overview of gender budgeting. A budget is a comprehensive account of public expenditures and revenues. It is a highly political document that assesses a distribution of resources, works (paid and unpaid), responsibilities and powers. It provides a general framework of public policy and allows for a higher level of gender mainstreaming. The new mainstreaming challenge is to engender the analytical framework: i.e. the value system, the micro and macro analysis, policy and measures in budgeting. Ms. Picchio presented a matrix of regional government departments and basic human capabilities essential for well being. The matrix of departments and capabilities represents a shift from the usual accounts based on the mere allocation of means to accounts that reflect the well-being ends. This type of accounting has been conducted in several regions in Italy and some of the outcomes include public accounts being made more consistent with the well-being objectives declared in the budgets' introductory documents.

### **Round table with high-level users on emerging demand for gender statistics in Italy**

24. The round table organized by Istat, was chaired by Silvia Della Monica, Head of Department for Rights and Equal Opportunities. Panelists included Isabella Rauti, National Equality Councillor; Aitanga Giraldo, CGIL; Anna Maria Furlan, CISL; Nirvana Nisi, UIL; Renata Polverini, UGL; Rosa Gentile, Confartigianato; Marilu Galdieri, Confcommercio; and Vanda Giuliano, Lega Cooperative. Ms. Della Monica initiated the round table by asking panelists to discuss their views on gender statistics and their relevance for the work carried out by the trade unions.

25. All panelists recognized the importance of gender statistics and emphasized the role that the national statistical office plays in providing the necessary data to understand the different roles that men and women have in participating in the labour market. They also called for bringing to the attention of the European Union the need for better investing on gender statistics within the framework of official statistics. Panelists noted that gender statistics were an important tool in the democratization process as they could be used to make public policies more inclusive, transparent and efficient. Some noted that mainstreaming meant bringing topics to the top of the political agenda and that gender statistics could be used to illustrate problems and bring public attention to issues affecting the attainment of gender equality, and to foster dialogue in society, particularly between women and men. In this regard, some panelists welcomed the inclusion of gender budgeting in the legislation, but noted that there was a need to define specific targets and indicators to assess progress in the attainment of gender equity. Panelists also noted that gender statistics were crucial to quantify women's contribution to society and to identify

emerging needs as well as to have an outlook on the future to pressure the government to take action. Finally, panelists highlighted the need for data on entrepreneurship and women-headed businesses as well as the need to review methodologies for gender budgeting and to make micro-data more comparable.

26. ISTAT took note of the comments and emphasizing that the discussion was a good contribution to the on-going work of the Institute.

### **Measuring violence against women**

27. The session, organized by UNECE and Italy, was chaired by Angela Me, Chief, Social and Demographic Statistics Section, UNECE. Panelists included Maria Giuseppina Muratore from Istat, Eva Gisela Ramirez Rodriguez from INEGI, Heather Dryburgh, Statistics Canada and Saleh Alkafri, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. Each panelist shared their national experience in collecting and disseminating information on violence against women. The presentations highlighted the diverse range of concepts, definitions, sources and approaches used across countries to produce statistics on this topic, and their impact on estimates of violence against women.

28. The chair concluded that the concept of violence against women should be expanded to include all forms of gender-based violence. Gender-based violence (GBV) is a complex concept; it is difficult to report and hard to measure. This makes the challenge of collecting information and disseminating the statistics needed for policy and advocacy extremely difficult. Yet many countries have already started collecting data on GBV, and many others are eager to start. There is a need to build, from the commonalities found among existing activities, a set of regional and global standards for measuring GBV as part of official statistics. There is also a need to develop a basic core set of indicators on GBV that could be used initially while measurement approaches are refined. In addition, a manual on collecting and disseminating data on GBV is in demand. It would be essential to review current activities and national surveys worldwide to create a useful manual. Finally, there is a need to involve the media and to plan information campaigns to promote the dissemination of the information and its proper use.

### **Engendering household surveys: measuring poverty and access to resources**

29. The session was chaired by Lucía Fort, Senior Gender Specialist, World Bank. Jessamyn O. Encarnacion from the National Statistical Coordination Board, Philippines presented on the Philippine experience of measuring women in poverty and access to resources. One innovative technique used in the Philippines was to calculate an adjusted GDP considering women's unpaid work. The adjusted GDP reflects an 8 per cent increase in women's share to GDP. Dragana Djokovic – Papic of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia shared the findings of the recent ICT survey conducted in Serbia. It was recognized that the digital divide is an emerging cleavage of inequality between men and women as noted at the follow-up to Beijing meetings. Kim Robertson, of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Pacific Women's Bureau discussed the concept of

head of household, and how it can be quite misleading in the Pacific Community context. Elena Bardasi of the World Bank Gender and Development Unit described the Living Standards Measurement Study Surveys designed to provide country specific information on welfare. The World Bank has expanded their study of poverty to include those at risk of poverty. These studies of vulnerability broaden the definition of poverty to include risk of poverty: the probability of becoming poor in the future.

30. The chair concluded that we must improve existing tools for the measurement of women's access to assets and develop methods for the measurement of women and men's poverty levels. More so, there is a need to expand the concept of poverty to include risk of poverty. An expanded concept would serve to capture women's increased vulnerability to poverty as compared to men. It was also suggested that in the interest of international comparability, guidelines be established for the valuation of unpaid work. There is also a need to rethink the use of the concept of head of household to measure access to resources. It is important to bear in mind that the concept of head of household was originally developed for other purposes (i.e. to reconstruct family relations within the context of an interview) and that ownership of resources does not necessarily imply access to and use of resources.

### **Engendering household surveys: measuring work**

31. The session was chaired by Sophia Lawrence, International Labour Organization. Cristiane Soares of IBGE/ DPE Brazil discussed the activities of IBGE in the area of gender statistics, their relationships with users of gender statistics in Brazil and future activities in the area. Maria Clelia Romano of ISTAT presented findings from a study that integrated information from a time use survey and labor force survey to show the situation of women in Italy in work and the household; Cyril Parirenyatwa, Central Statistical Office, Zimbabwe described the gender machinery and international agreements that are the driving force behind gender statistics in Zimbabwe. He also described the activities that contribute to engendering statistics: gender training for trainers and field staff, gender interests represented in planning, and dissemination of gender specific reports and gender sensitive statistics. S.K. Nath of the India CSO described the experience of engendering the labor force survey in India. He described some of the problems of engendering such as the lack of understanding of gender statistics and avoidance. These barriers can be overcome with evidence, advocacy, marketing, and outside assistance. For India, it became apparent that missing home based workers in the traditional labour force survey was a major problem. Now India has conducted a time use survey and an informal sector survey. It took political will and new strategies to change the traditional methods. Deniz Uyanik of Turkey provided an overview of the work in Turkey in gender statistics.

32. The chair concluded that engendered labour statistics requires accounting for different work realities at each stage of statistical production. Methods of data collection and dissemination must incorporate awareness of the different ways in which men and women view, perform, control, and benefit from their "work" activities. The conventional focus is male-oriented. Engendering household surveys on work requires coverage of all

topics & types of activity. Work must be conceptualized in the widest sense including working time, job-seeking behaviour, multiple/combined activities, casual work, subsistence/informal employment, etc.

33. Engendered household surveys on work also requires adequate detail about work activities including decision-making / executing posts, entrepreneurs / home, gang workers, income components (benefits, overtime), place of work, small production units, etc. Relevant disaggregation is also essential. Data must be disaggregated by personal characteristics, job characteristics, and family context/personal circumstances. To ensure gender integration in measurement of work we must coordinate the institutional framework of gender specific bodies/programs, statistical agencies, civil society and others. We should also harmonize the household survey program to ensure engendered coverage of all topics and at all stages of production and collect data in adequate detail to permit meaningful analysis of men and women's different situations – the improved information is worth the extra costs.

### **Social institutions and gender equality: indicators and measurement tools**

34. Denis Drechsler of the OECD Development Centre, presented the Gender, Institutions and Development Database (GID-DB). The GID-DB is a new tool that brings together a range of indicators on gender discrimination. Among the indicators are basic measures of women's socio-economic status as well as innovative institutional measures that attempt to capture selected aspects of women's social contexts, such as informal laws, customs and traditions. He noted that these institutional or contextual factors are crucial in shaping women's participation in the economy yet statistical measures have seldom been developed. He also informed participants that the OECD Development Centre is developing a more interactive tool to engage users of the database or of gender statistics and indicators in a dynamic dialogue. This tool will be based on a Wiki approach and is expected to be launched in conjunction with the 2008 International Woman's Day. (see: [http://www.oecd.org/document/16/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_33935\\_39323280\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/16/0,3343,en_2649_33935_39323280_1_1_1_1,00.html))

### **Engendering population censuses**

35. Grace Bediako of Ghana Statistical Service chaired this session which included presentations from Radegunda H. Maro, Director of Statistical Operations, National Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania; Manal Sweidan, Head of Gender Statistics/ Division Department of Statistics Jordan and Mira Todorova, Head of Sector, State Statistical Office, TFYR Macedonia. Ms. Maro pointed out that administrative sources of data are generally problematic in developing countries so the census is usually the primary source of data. There are some areas that present difficulties for fully engendering censuses. Specifically, employment, education, and housing. The main barrier to dissemination of gender statistics is budget limitations. Ms. Sweidan discussed the recent census in Jordan. In efforts to engender the census, women were recruited as enumerators and targeted with a publicity campaign. She pointed out that the lack of prior consultation with women's groups was a major missed opportunity but the establishment of a Gender Unit in the

Department of Statistics bodes well for the future. Ms. Todorova shared the experience of Macedonia and highlighted the importance of including a gender perspective in all areas, not just the traditional areas associated with women such as fertility.

36. The chair concluded based on the presentations that there is work to be done to fully engender population censuses. Based on experiences shared at the Forum it is clear that there has been a gender bias in questions on economic characteristics. This bias has been corrected in some countries but in many countries the biased questions, which exclude the work of women in many cases, continue to be used. In this regard, pilot censuses are very important for they can serve as a tool to detect gender biased questions and to make the necessary changes to ensure accurate representation of gender concerns in the final census.

37. Technical assistance is also essential for assisting countries to sensitize their census operations. Along these lines, international recommendations and guidelines should promote engendering censuses. For example, the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses is being used in many countries and should be explicitly gender sensitized.

38. Access to microdata is important for conducting gender analysis. It is encouraging that microdata is becoming more readily available than in the past. Further release of census microdata by countries is encouraged. It is essential to ensure anonymity when releasing micro data.

39. Failure to disseminate sex-disaggregated data due to lack of resources or expertise was noted as a major missed-opportunity. More resources are needed to ensure that the information collected in censuses is disseminated by sex.

### **Producing gender statistics through population censuses: perspectives from the regional commissions**

40. This session was organized by UNFPA and chaired by S.K. Nath, Director-General Central Statistical Organisation India (CSO). Panelists from the regional commissions included Dimitri Sanga, ECA; Linda Hooper, ECE; Andres Montes, ESCAP and Neda Jafar, ESCWA. Though she was unable to attend, María Nieves Rico of ECLAC submitted a presentation that was given on her behalf. The panelists provided overviews of the work being done at the regional level to support engendering population censuses. It was noted that in some regions there are few gender units in NSO's (ECA and ESCWA); and that there is a need for gender mainstreaming and advocacy. All regional commissions are engaged in technical support for gender statistics with activities ranging from producing and disseminating guidelines and handbooks to conducting workshops. Regional gender indicators are collected in several regions. ECLAC and ESCWA are engaged in activities to engender the MDG's at the regional level. Robert McCaa from the Minnesota Population Center also briefly spoke about the activities of the Center in collecting and disseminating microdata from national census throughout the world. The IPUMS international project converts census microdata for multiple countries

into a consistent format, supplies comprehensive documentation, and making the data and documentation available through a web-based data dissemination system.

### **Gender statistics from administrative sources: civil registration and vital statistics**

41. The session on gender statistics from administrative sources was chaired by Francesca Perucci of UNSD. Panelists included Tilaye Geressu Birru, Team Leader, Central Statistical Agency, Ethiopia; Medhat ElSayed, Ministry of Health, Oman; Zulma Sosa, Director of Statistics, Paraguay; and Wahyu Retno Mahanani (Annet), Technical Officer, Health Metrics Network Secretariat, WHO. The country representatives each spoke about their national experiences in developing a national civil registration system. In Ethiopia, there is currently no functioning civil registration and vital statistics system. Despite legal precedence repeated attempts have failed. Some of the reasons given for the lack of success include lack of resources, both financial and expertise, and a lack of political will. In Oman in less than 10 years a civil registration system has been established. The success is attributed to strong political will and resources. At the same time he noted that gender differences exist in the extent of death registration, and especially, in the declaration of cause of death, which tends to be omitted to a larger extent for deaths among women. Ms. Sosa emphasized the importance of civil registration as a right for individuals. In Paraguay, some of the key challenges are a large rural population and a large percentage of late registration of births although no gender disparities were apparent. Ms. Mahanani from the Health Metrics Network (HMN) spoke briefly about the work HMN is doing to improve data on health needed to monitor improvements. She pointed out that civil registration is important not just as a right, but also as a source of information to monitor improvements in the health status of the population. She pointed out that there are some indirect methods of obtaining vital statistics through various survey programmes, but also noted that they lack country ownership and the rights associated with civil registration.

42. The chair concluded based on the presentations and discussion that it is clear that for the development of an effective civil registration system with the capacity to produce vital statistics, supportive legislation is essential. Financial resources are essential: a good civil registration system is very expensive. The extensive cost, and the degree of collaboration among government organizations required means that a strong national government commitment is essential to establish and maintain a civil registration and vital statistics system. Birth registration, while continuing to be a major challenge, tends to be better than death registration which is more complex especially when cause of death is considered. Cause of death information must be improved: it is essential for monitoring key development indicators, yet it is lacking in many countries throughout the world.

### **Engendering economic statistics**

43. The final panel addressed the topic of engendering economic statistics and was organized by ECE and Canada. The session was chaired by Angela Me, ECE. The panelists were Heather Dryburgh, Statistics Canada; Gerry Brady, Central Statistical Office, Ireland; and Cristina Freguja, Head of Section of Household Economic

Conditions, ISTAT. The panelists recognized that economics have been a traditionally male dominated field and that there are significant gaps in data availability and analysis. Important data gaps include men's and women's contribution to household income, women's participation in enterprises and self-employment, women's representation in decision making, the value of unpaid work, and barriers to women's full participation in the economy.

44. The chair in her conclusion noted that extensive data exists in the area of economic statistics that needs to be tabulated and analyzed. There was also a call for macroeconomic gender analysis. Specific themes where improvements are particularly needed include the informal economy and entrepreneurship. In addition, there is a need to draw on expanded sources of data especially business registers to improve the availability of economic statistics for addressing gender concerns.

### **III. Conclusions**

#### **Next steps**

45. The Forum identified a clear need to engender data collection programmes. Population censuses are an important source of gender statistics and efforts are needed to improve the measurement of women's work, maternal mortality and other important indicators through censuses. In the area of engendering household surveys, we must improve the measurement of work and the informal sector, access to assets and resources, as well as health and poverty indicators. We should continue work on time use surveys and improve vital statistics as a key source of data by sex.

#### **Data Gaps**

46. The Forum recognized that it is important to address key data gaps. There is a need to develop standards and tools for the measurement of gender based violence as well as improve existing tools for the measurement of women's work, in particular in the informal economy, the reconciliation between work and family and quality of work, as well as women's access to assets. Finally, there is a need to develop methods for the measurement of women and men's risk of poverty.

#### **Training**

47. International agencies should provide training to countries particularly in the specific topics identified above (gender-based violence, informal work, access to assets, and poverty). To ensure that training is continuous there was a call to institutionalize gender statistics training at the regional and/or sub-regional levels. Finally, UNSD and Sweden have agreed to work together to issue the second version of Engendering Statistics as a UN publication.

48. UNSD was called upon to continue efforts to improve data dissemination and access to information on gender statistics and other information by: 1) committing to continuous and regular updating of the gender statistics and indicators database; 2) issuing Gender Info at regular intervals (one or two years); 3) creating a website on gender statistics and other information, including the database and develop a portal at a later stage, as well as 3) producing the World's Women 2010. Capacity building programmes and initiatives to improve the financing for the development of statistics should also include a gender perspective. UNSD should also develop standards and guidelines through the formal intergovernmental process (UN Statistical Commission) to ensure full involvement and commitment by national statistical systems and full mainstreaming of gender in the production and use of statistics.

## Annex 1: List of Participants

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10-12 December 2007

Rome, Italy

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## **Annex 2: Organization of Work**

**GLOBAL FORUM ON GENDER STATISTICS**  
**10-12 December 2007**  
**Rome, Italy**

**10 December 2007**  
**Morning Session**  
**10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

### **Formal opening remarks**

**Luigi Biggeri**, President of Istat

**Paul Cheung**, Director of UNSD

**Donatella Linguiti**, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Rights and Equal Opportunities, Italy

**Kouroum Nacro**, UNFPA

**Bianca Maria Pomeranzi**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy

**Barbara Pettine**, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Italy

### **High level user-producer dialogue on gender statistics**

*Chair*

**Luigi Biggeri**, President of Istat

*Panelists*

**Caroline Hannan**, Director of DAW

**Franca Bimbi**, Member of Parliament, Italy

**Lucia Fort**, Sr. Gender Specialist, PREM Gender and Development, World Bank

**Heinrich Brünger**, Director of Statistics Division, UNECE

**Michel Glaude**, Director of Eurostat

**Carmen Alcaide Guindo**, President of National Statistics Institute of Spain

**Grace Bediako**, Director of Statistical Office of Ghana

**10 December 2007**  
**Afternoon Session**  
**2:30 pm – 6:30 pm**

**Launch of GENDERInfo**

Presented by UNSD, UNFPA and DEVInfo Group

**New challenges in gender statistics**

*Chair*

**Irena Krizman**, Head of Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

*Panelist*

**Francesca Perucci**, UNSD *Engendering official statistics for monitoring development*

**Linda Laura Sabbadini**, Istat *Violence, discrimination, economic statistics: new measurement challenges*

**Joann Vanek**, WEIGO *Beyond the traditional approach: looking at the quality of work*

**Angela Me**, UNECE *Gender and minorities*

**Antonella Picchio**, University of Modena *A new frontier: gender budgeting*

**10 December 2007**  
**Afternoon Session (continued)**  
**2:30 pm – 6:30 pm**

**Round table with high-level users on emerging demand for gender statistics in Italy**

*(Organized by Istat)*

*Chair*

**Silvia Della Monica**, Head of Department for Rights and Equal Opportunities

*Panelists*

**Isabella Rauti**, National Equality Councillor

**Aitanga Giraldi**, CGIL

**Anna Maria Furlan**, CISL

**Nirvana Nisi**, UIL

**Renata Polverini**, UGL

Representative Confindustria

**Rosa Gentile**, Confartigianato

**Marilù Galdieri**, Confcommercio

**Vanda Giuliano**, Lega Cooperative

**Tuesday, 11 December 2007**  
**Morning Session**  
**10.00am – 1:00pm**

**1. Measuring Violence against Women: indicators and measurement tools**  
*(Organized by ECE and Italy)*

*Chair*

**Angela Me**, Chief, Social and Demographic Statistics Section, UNECE

*Panelists*

**Maria Giuseppina Muratore**, First Researcher, ISTAT

**Eva Gisela Ramirez Rodriguez**, Jefe del Departamento de Desarrollo de Estadísticas de Género, INEGI

**Heather Dryburgh**, Statistics Canada

**Saleh Alkafri**, Assistant of President for Statistical Affairs, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

**Tuesday, 11 December 2007**  
**Afternoon Session**  
**2:30pm – 5:30pm**

**2. Engendering Households Surveys: measuring poverty and access to resources**

*(Organized by Mexico and the World Bank)*

*Chair*

**Lucia Fort**, Senior Gender Specialist, World Bank

*Panelists*

**Jessamyn O. Encarnacion**, Head, Poverty, Gender, labor and Employment Human Development Division, National Statistical Coordination Board, Philippines

**Dragana Djokovic – Papic**, Head of Division, Division for Social Standards and Indicators, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia

**Kim Robertson**, Consultant, Gender Statistics Secretariat of the Pacific Community Pacific Women's Bureau

**Elena Bardasi**, Senior Economist World Bank Gender and Development Unit

**3. Engendering Household Surveys: measuring work** *(Organized by ILO)*

*Chair*

**Sophia Lawrence**, International Labour Organization

*Panelists*

**Cristiane Soares**, Analyst in Social Indicators IBGE/ DPE Brazil

**Maria Clelia Romano** and **Rita Ranaldi**, ISTAT

**Cyril Parirenyatwa**, Deputy Director, Central Statistical Office, Zimbabwe

**S.K. Nath**, Director-General Central Statistical Organisation India (CSO)

**Deniz Uyanik** Statistician/Team Manager, Turkey

**Wednesday, 12 December 2007**

**Morning Session**

**10.00am – 1:00pm**

**4. Engendering Population Censuses** (*Organized by UNSD and Ghana*)

*Chair*

**Grace Bediako**, Government Statistician, Ghana Statistical Service

*Panelists*

**Radegunda H. Maro**, Director of Statistical Operations, National Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania

**Manal Sweidan**, Head of Gender Statistics/ Division Department of Statistics Jordan

**Mira Todorova**, Head of Sector, State Statistical Office, TFYR Macedonia

**5. Producing gender statistics through population censuses: perspectives from the regional commissions** (*Organized by UNFPA*)

*Chair*

**S.K. Nath**, Director-General Central Statistical Organisation India (CSO)

*Panelists*

**Dimitri Sanga**, African Centre for Statistics (ACS) UNECA

**Linda Hooper**, Statistician, Statistical Division UNECE

**Andres Montes**, Statistician, Statistical Development Section, UN-ESCAP Statistics Division, UNESCAP

**Neda Jafar**, Statistician, UNESCWA

**Robert McCaa**, Professor, Minnesota Population Center

**Wednesday, 12 December 2007**

**Afternoon Session**

**2:30pm – 5:30pm**

**6. Gender statistics from administrative sources: Civil registration and vital statistics** (*Organized by UNDESA and WHO Health Metrics Network*)

*Chair*

**Francesca Perucci**, Chief Statistical Planning and Development Section, UNSD

*Panelists*

**Tilaye Geressu Birru**, Team Leader, Central Statistical Agency, Ethiopia

**Medhat ElSayed**, Ministry of Health, Oman

**Zulma Sosa**, Director of Statistics, Paraguay

**Wahyu Retno Mahanani (Annet)**, Technical Officer, Health Metrics Network Secretariat, WHO

**7. Engendering economic statistics**  
*(Organized by ECE and Canada)*

*Chair*

**Angela Me,** Chief, Social and Demographic Statistics Section, UNECE

*Panelists*

**Heather Dryburgh,** Statistics Canada

**Gerry Brady,** Central Statistical Office, Ireland

**Cristina Freguja,** Head of Section of Household Economic Conditions,  
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**8. Conclusions and recommendations**