Report of the Fourth Global Forum on Gender Statistics *

I.   Introduction

Background and objectives

1.   The Fourth Global Forum on Gender Statistics was held from 27-29 March 2012 at the Dead Sea, Jordan. It was organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the Department of Statistics of Jordan, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN-Women, and the World Bank. The Forum was attended by over 70 representatives of 10 international agencies, 4 regional commissions and 32 countries (see Annex 1 for the List of Participants).

2.   The focus of the 2012 Global Forum was on Women's Empowerment, including: economic empowerment, autonomy and physical empowerment, and knowledge empowerment. It also reviewed progress in measuring youth-related issues such as child marriage and its consequences on the girl child. Representatives of national statistical systems presented national experiences and best practices on how to collect women's empowerment statistics and their uses in policy making. International agencies presented initiatives to assist countries in the production and analysis of gender statistics. The Forum was an important opportunity for statisticians and policy makers to share experiences and devise strategies to accelerate the process of mainstreaming gender into national statistical systems.

Opening session

3.   Ms. Francesca Perucci delivered the opening statement on behalf of Mr. Paul Cheung, Director of the UNSD. In his statement, Mr. Cheung emphasized that gender statistics are keys for evidence-based policy making, and for monitoring trends in reducing gender inequality and progress in women's empowerment. However, the lack of adequate data has been a serious impediment to informed and effective policy making on gender issues. Assessing development progress through a gender lens and understanding the structural causes of gender-based inequalities often require data that are not regularly produced by national statistical systems. Therefore, he stressed the need to improve statistical systems and ensure the full mainstreaming of gender into data production, analysis and dissemination.

4.   Dr. Juraj Riecan, Director of the UNESCWA Statistics Division, expressed his appreciation to the Department of Statistics of Jordan and UNSD for organizing this important event in the Western Asia region. Dr. Riecan stressed the importance of mainstreaming gender perspective into national statistical systems and acknowledged the progress made on engendering official statistics in many areas. However, he emphasized that numerous challenges exist in this complex area and there is still a long way to go. UNESCWA, working with partner UN agencies and regional organizations, will continue to provide substantive support to member countries in this area.

5.   Mr. Fathi Al-Nsour, Director General of the Department of Statistics of Jordan, welcomed the participants to the Global Forum on behalf of the government of Jordan. Mr. Al-Nsour stated that gender equality and empowerment of women have become a priority in the development agenda. The availability of high quality gender statistics is essential for policy formulation, planning, and measuring the progress in policy implementation and impact. He listed the several initiatives adopted by the Jordanian government to increase the economic participation of women.   He expressed his hope for the meeting to come out successfully with constructive recommendations to raise the level of gender statistics in general and women's empowerment in particular.

6.   After the opening session, UNESCWA launched a survey module and toolkit on Violence against Women to help national statistical offices in Arab countries measure violence against women. Dr. Juraj Riecan stated that the project sought to strengthen the capacity of countries all over the world to measure violence against women regularly and appropriately and to monitor and evaluate the effect of legislation, policies and programmes to eradicate this kind of violence.

Organization of the meeting

7.   The Forum was organized as a high level panel and five sessions, as follows:

    a. High-level panel on mainstreaming gender into the national statistical system
    b. Session 1: Measuring economic empowerment of women
        Panel 1.a: Measurement of poverty, women's participation in the labour force, and access to economic and financial resource
        Panel 1.b: Women in rural areas, women's employment in informal sector and informal employment, and unpaid work
    c. Session 2: Measuring women's autonomy and physical empowerment
        Panel 2.a: Gender based violence and women in vulnerable situations
        Panel 2.b: Political empowerment of women and women's autonomy
    d. Session 3: Measuring empowerment of young women and adolescent girls
    e. Session 4: Measuring knowledge and information empowerment of women
    f. Session 5: Emerging issues and international work on gender statistics
        Panel 5.a: Emerging issues on gender statistics
        Panel 5.b: International work on gender statistics

All papers and presentations were made available at the website of the Global Forum on Gender Statistics:
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/Jordan_Mar2012/Default_Jordan_2012.html

II.   Summary of presentations and discussions

a. High-level panel on mainstreaming gender into the national statistical system

8.   Ms. Francesca Perucci (UNSD) chaired the high level panel. The panelists were:
- Dr. Donya Ahmed, Acting General Director of Policies & Development, Bahrain Supreme Council for Women
- Ms. Linda Laura Sabbadini, Director of Social and Environment Statistics, Italian National Institute of Statistics
- Ms. Lina Castro, Assistant Secretary General, Philippines National Statistical Coordination Board

9.   Dr. Ahmed presented Bahrain Supreme Council for Women (SCW)'s experience in mainstreaming women's needs in statistics for formulating, implementing and monitoring polices for women empowerment. The SCW uses statistics to mainstream women's needs in the four stages of implementation of the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women: formulating a national action plan; evaluating a national action plan, adjusting, and formulating a new national action plan. The SCW also works on improving gender sensitive data and indicators through the whole process described above by including more sensitive indicators of women's needs in the database they maintain.

10.   A presentation on how the production and dissemination of official gender statistics can help support policy makers was presented by Ms. Sabbadini. She gave four examples to show the importance of statistics for policies and gender mainstreaming. The first example focused on using survey results to inform a violence against women campaign and facilitate the adoption of the law against stalking. The second example pointed out how gender statistics had been used to push the Italian government to establish a law against forced resignation from jobs for pregnant women. The third example showed how the analysis from a health survey helped decision makers to choose the target population for a campaign on prevention of female cancers. The last example focused on the importance of statistics to provide evidence to policy makers on the contribution of women to the economy, looking at their labour force participation as well as their unpaid work (housework and caring).

11.   Ms. Lina Castro introduced the efforts of the Philippine Statistical System (PSS) in advancing gender statistics. The PSS has institutionalized many initiatives towards improving the generation, dissemination and utilization of gender statistics in support of gender-sensitive development, including policies on gender statistics, coordination mechanisms, and gender statistical products and services. Gender statistics are used to raise public awareness of governance issues and in enacted laws and proposed bills. Ms. Castro also mentioned that the major challenge in this area is the lack of resources allocated for gender statistics.

12.   In the discussion, participants highlighted the importance of bringing data producers and data users closely together to improve the dialogue between them. This dialogue

provides the policy makers with better access to gender statistical products and services and makes gender statistics meaningful on the ground.

13.   From Bahrain's experience, it was agreed that using both quantitative and qualitative analysis leads to better information for gender programmes implementation and evaluation. Integrating quantitative and qualitative analysis can provide a more complete picture of the gender issue being addressed and the effectiveness of the programme.

14.   It was stressed that institutionalizing gender mainstreaming is the key to promoting gender equality and empowerment of women.

15.   It was also pointed out that although lacking resources allocated to gender statistics is very common in most countries, national statistical offices can mobilize the resources in other line ministries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In many cases, the involvement of these additional stakeholders can push the government to improve gender statistics.

b. Session 1: Measuring economic empowerment of women

Panel 1.a Measurement of poverty, women's participation in the labour force, and access to economic and financial resources

16.   Panel 1.a was chaired by Ms. Sulekha Patel from the World Bank. The panelists and discussant included:
- Ms. Kauthar Hammed AL-Farsi, Oman
- Ms. Marcella Jones-Puthoff, United States
- Ms. Hang Lina, Cambodia
- Ms. Shizuka Takamura, Japan
- Discussant: Mr. Papa Seck, UN-Women

17.   Ms. AL-Farsi presented on the situation of Omani women in the labour market. Based on the data from the Census 2012 and Manpower survey 2008, she pointed out the main characteristics of Omani women in the labour force, including the educational level of working women, main economic activities and occupations of working women, and their wages. An interesting fact was that the majority of working Omani women are in the public sector. Ms. AL-Farsi also discussed some of the challenges Omani women face in the labour market, such as early withdrawal of Omani women from the labour market and the increasing number of Omani females searching for jobs.

18.   Poverty and labour force statistics in the United States were presented by Ms. Jones-Puthoff. She introduced the main four sources that provide poverty and labour force statistics: Current Population Survey (CPS), CPS - Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC), Supplemental Poverty Measure, and Women in America Report. Her presentation showed that: the participation of women in the workforce rose dramatically through the mid-1990s; despite their gains in labor market experience and in

education, women still earn less than men; and the percentage of female householders (no husband present) with children under 18 years living in poverty is still very high.

19. Ms. Lina's presentation focused on measuring women's status and gender statistics in Cambodia through surveys and census. The National Institute of Statistics (NIS) of Cambodia has carried out many initiatives to improve the data availability, access, and quality in gender statistics, which include: close cooperation with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the production of publications on gender, the development of a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan, and capacity building on Gender Mainstreaming in Planning. She also mentioned some challenges faced by the NIS in improving gender statistics.

20. The presentation made by Ms. Takamura focused on economic empowerment of women in Japan. According to studies, Japan lags behind many countries in term of women's economic participation and work opportunities. Women's total wages are less than 40% of men's. Ms. Takamura used statistics from different sources to show that women hold the greatest potential to reinvigorate Japanese economy and there are many potential areas the government can explore. Gender statistics also showed that there are still some barriers preventing women from active participation in the economic field. The presentation concluded with a set of recommendations to ministries including disseminating more evidence based gender statistics and good practices, increasing the representation of women in managerial positions, and developing social conditions to motivate women to fulfill their potential.

21. Mr. Papa Seck summarized the presentations of the panelists. He highlighted the importance of addressing gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment together and the need of disaggregated data at a lower geographical level to measure gender inequality. He also mentioned that women's access to financial/productive resources – credit – was not covered in any of the presentations, which may indicate the need to develop better measurements on this issue.

22. Mr. Seck and other participants pointed out the difficulty of measuring poverty from a gender perspective. There is a need to identify innovative ways to measure poverty for women and for men at the individual level.

23. The discussion highlighted the importance of integration of data from different sources to provide useful information to policy makers, and the need to find effective ways to communicate data/findings to policymakers, civil society and other stakeholders.

24. It was noted that the underlying causes of women's lack of employment opportunities varies from country to country, including structural factors and cultural factors such as social norms. High quality gender statistics will help policy makers to understand these underlying causes for better addressing women's lack of employment opportunities.

Panel 1.b Women in rural areas, women's employment in informal sector and informal employment, and unpaid work

25.   The chair of Panel 1.b was Ms. Lara Cavalcanti from Brazil and the panelists and discussant were:
- Ms. Valentina Stoevska, Internatioal Labour Organization (ILO)
- Dr. Dipankar Roy, Bangladesh
- Ms. Manal Sweidan, Jordan
- Mr. Jose Antonio Mejia Guerra, Mexico
- Ms. Bernice Serwah Ofosu-Baadu, Ghana
- Discussant: Ms. Gulnara Febres, World Bank

26.   Ms.Stoevska presented employment and gender differences in the informal economy. She introduced the conceptual framework and international standard definition for informal economy, composed of jobs in the informal sector (focus is on the type/characteristics of the establishment or production unit) and informal employment (focus is on the characteristics of the job itself). Ms. Stoevska presented some statistics on gender differences in the informal economy. Her presentation showed that statistics need to be detailed enough to show the different conditions of employment of women and men. However, adequate measurement of the informal sector is often lacking. There is a need for further data disaggregation.

27.   Based on the last three rounds of the Labour Force Survey, three rounds of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey, and the Bangladesh Informal Sector Survey 2010, Dr. Roy presented the male and female labour force participation in economy, poverty, and consumption in Bangladesh. The statistics showed that the informal sector is a primary source of livelihood for many women and females dominate in unpaid contributing family workers. The presentation also showed that female-headed households experience lower level of poverty, and enjoy more welfare than male-headed households, but they experience higher inequality in consumption.

28.   Ms, Sweidan showed how to use data to understand the reasons behind the persistence of very low female labor force participation rate in Middle East and North African (MENA) countries. The study used the data gathered from selected MENA cities – Amman, Cairo, and Sana'a, to test hypotheses and find out which are the most important constraints women face. The study highlighted that: (a) there are not enough opportunities for middle class women. Job creation efforts are too focused on the micro/poor/uneducated and the educated/upper class. Middle class married women with secondary education are left behind; (b) a major barrier to women's work inside or outside the home are social norms and conservative attitudes. A high share of men is still opposed to women's work. Being married is a higher barrier to women's work than child and elderly care; (c) the assumption was that if women don't work in formal jobs, they are economically active from home or in the informal sector. However, the study showed that home-based and informal work are far less prevalent than expected. There is no

substitute for formal opportunities. This study was crucial to design specific interventions aiming at increasing women's economic opportunities.

29.   Mr. Mejia Guerra presented the results of analysis on gender inequalities in Mexico, based on different surveys. He presented the National Survey of Occupation and Employment and the national Time Use Survey (TUS), and how the results from these surveys were used to study gender inequities. TUS provided clear evidence of the roles played by women and men in family and social life, and highlighted gender inequalities in time use. He also presented the results of the analysis of Mexico Satellite Account of Unpaid Household Work to study gender inequities. The gross economic value of unpaid household work was estimated at 23% of GDP, with women contributing to the 80% of this additional unpaid production.

30.   Ms. Ofosu-Baadu's presentation focused on using gender statistics in policy making for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Rural Ghana. Statistics showed that rural women in Ghana play a critical role in agricultural production and in the rural economy. Rural women are still facing violations of rights, discrimination and marginalization because of behaviors and attitudes within the cultural settings.   The presentation highlighted the need for gender statistics and sex disaggregated data for gender analysis to inform evidence based decision making in favour of rural women, and setting gendered targets and providing gender indicators to monitor and evaluate progress of rural women.

31.   The discussant, Ms. Febres, gave a summary of the presentations in the panel. She pointed out that despite significant progress in female labour force participantion (FLFP) over the last 20 years, pervasive, persistent, and consistent gender differences remain. Understanding the reasons of low FLFP is vital for designing specific policies and interventions to increase opportunities for women. She stressed the need to ensure that data collection follows internationally recommended standards, definitions and methodologies given that countries still use different sources of data and different instruments. Ms. Febres also highlighted the importance of advocacy for the production of gender statistics and importance of training and capacity building.

32.   The discussion noted the lack of sex disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators for gender analysis to inform policy makers in most countries. It was stressed the need for advocacy for evidence-based decision making.

33.   The participantes also pointed out the challenges countries face in understanding and implementing the international standards on informal employment/sector/ economy. This highlighted the need for further development of standards to measure the informal/formal employment continuum.

34.   Some participants expressed their interest in the best practices of other countries on how to measure women's employment in the informal economy and unpaid work. For example, Mexico' experiences on TUS and Satellite Account of Unpaid Household Work could be shared with and benefit other countries.

c. Session 2: Measuring women's autonomy and physical empowerment

Panel 2.a Gender based violence and women in vulnerable situations

35.   Ms. Lina Castro (Philippines) chaired the panel. The panelists and the discussant included:

- Ms. Francescs Grum, UNSD
- Ms. Stella Nassolo, Uganda Bureau of Statistics
- Mr. Khalid Abukhalid, Palestine
- Ms. Weam Al-Madi, United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)
- Discussant: Dr. Dipankar Roy, Bangladesh

36.   Ms. Francesca Grum (UNSD) presented the Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Woman (VAW), prepared by UNSD and based on a core minimum set of indicators endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission. The aim of the Guidelines is to standardize VAW measures and methodology across countries. The Guidelines provide detailed methodological advice on what to measure, how to measure, special features of surveys on VAW, and all other relevant issues for National Statistics Organizations to conduct statistical surveys on VAW. Ms. Grum stressed the special features of VAW surveys such as: (a) the importance of appropriate sampling design (not to systematically exclude important population sub-groups); (b) the special training of interviewers; and (c) the ethical considerations (confidentiality, safety of respondents and interviewers, support to victims). Ms. Grum also pointed out that the Guidelines will be finalized in 2012 and submitted to the Statistical Commission at its next session for endorsement. Training workshops will be held to improve countries' capacity in collecting, analysing, disseminating and using statistics on VAW.

37.   Ms. Nassolo shared the experience of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics on how to collect data on Gender Based Violence (GBV). The main data sources on GBV are administrative records on crime and violence and data from specialized surveys. She also presented the detailed levels of data collected, the questionnaire used in the survey, data analysis and data presentation.   Many challenges still exist in measuring GBV, such as narrow scope, economic violence not captured, double counting, and non-reporting.

38.   The experience of the 2011 Violence Survey in the Palestinian Territory was presented by Mr. Abukhalid. The main objectives of the survey were: to examine political and domestic violence in the Palestinian society, to identify the demography of individuals exposed to violence, to provide evidence-based recommendations for policy makers to reduce violence, and to evaluate services offered to victims of violence. Five groups of population were included in the study and one module was designed for each targeted group. Both locally developed questionnaires and United Nation core indicators on VAW were used in the survey. The major findings on occupation/political violence, violence in public space, and domestic violence were presented.

39.   The presentation by Ms. Al-Madi provided an overview of UNRWA's work on empowerment of Palestine refugee women. She introduced the major tasks of UNRWA and its commitment toward gender equality as a strategy to advance development, peace, and security for Palestinian refugees. She presented the measurement of Palestinian refugee women's autonomy in UNRWA programmes, surveys and projects, and Microfinance Programme Poverty Level Assessment surveys in Gaza. At the end of her presentation, Ms. Al-Madi also briefly introduced the UNRWA Gender referral System Project.

40.   Dr. Roy summarized the presentations in the panel and emphasized the importance of using international standards for measuring VAW for international comparability. He also briefly shared Bangladesh's experience on conducting the VAW survey in 2011.

41.   In the discussion, it was pointed out that not every country can compile all the indicators recommended by the UNSD guidelines on VAW and culture and social norms differ from country to country. Ms. Grum provided additional information on how the core indicators were selected by a group of experts (called Friends of the Chair on indicators on VAW) established by the UN Statistical Commission. She also stressed that the guidelines are an international framework providing standard definitions and concepts to ensure international comparability of statistics on violence against women (on the core set of indicators). Countries should adapt the guidelines to their own needs by taking into account regional or national context. UNSD will work with countries to adapt the guidelines to their needs and facilitate countries' implementation.

42.   It was noted the importance of measuring where the victims go for help and assessing the quality of the help the institutions provide.

Panel 2.b. Political empowerment of women and women's autonomy

43.   The panel was chaired by Ms. Neda Jafar from UNESCWA. The panelists and the discussant included:
- Ms. Sara Demofonti, Italy
- Mr. Dhrijesh K. Tiwari, India
- Ms. Lina Castro, Philippines
- Ms. Lara Cavalcanti, Brazil
- Mr. Kanobana Dominique Muchochori, Rwanda
- Discussant: Ms. Manal Sweidan, Jordan

44.   Ms. Demofonti's presentation used experience from Italy to show the criteria of choosing the right indicators to measure political empowerment of women.   The dimensions that she considered were: the different levels of political positions, disaggregated data by territorial levels, specific indicators that go beyond the mere presence of women in the highest positions, and comparison over time. She also pointed out that at global level a set of indicators should be identified for all countries to use and to ensure standardization. Thanks to a proper disaggregation of data, Ms. Demofonti

showed that while political participation of women and men in local government positions (as represented by the number of city mayors by sex) did not show any significant difference, when the additional information on the size of the city was added, women appeared to be more often assigned to very small municipalities and in rural areas.

45. Political empowerment and autonomy of women in India was presented by Mr. Tiwari. Although the law has granted many constitutional rights for women and the government started special initiatives for women, women's presence in the National Parliament and the Council of Ministers was still low. Women's participation in decision-making depends on certain background characteristics like age-group and educational level. One of the issues in measurement he highlighted was the difficulty of obtaining gender sensitive sub-national data. He also stressed that more cross sectional analysis – effect of education, asset holding, age-distribution, rural/urban background – will be helpful for targeted policy interventions.

46. Ms. Lina Castro presented how the 2008 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) conducted by the Philippines National Statistics Office (NSO) was used to measure women's empowerment and women's autonomy in the Philippines. The NDHS collected information on women's empowerment in terms of employment, type of earnings, control over cash and earnings, women's roles in making household decisions, women's acceptance of wife beating, and freedom of movement. She presented the main findings of the analysis of the survey.

47. The presentation of Ms. Cavalcanti focused on the participation of women in politics and in higher managerial positions in the labour market in Brazil. Statistics show that in spite of recent government efforts in improving women's autonomy, Brazilian women are still underrepresented in all spheres of political power. In the labour market, higher hierarchical positions are also not evenly distributed among men and women. Positive changes are observed but occur very slowly.

48. An example of using gender statistics to show the positive evidence of how to translate political will to women's political empowerment and women's autonomy was presented by Mr. Muchochori from Rwanda. The Government of Rwanda embarked on a nation-wide program to mainstream gender in all national development programs and established the Gender Monitoring Office and a National Women's Council. Women's political participation has significantly increased. He also shared the best practice of mainstreaming Rwanda gender statistics – through the Gender Statistics Framework and related actions.

49. Ms. Sweidan gave a quick review of the presentations in the panel. She also presented the situation in political empowerment of women and women's autonomy in Jordan.

50. Participants agreed that although gender parity targets were achieved at a national level in some countries, large gender disparities still exist when looking at the disaggregated data at the sub-national level. It was stressed that data on political

empowerment at all levels (national, sub-national) should be produced including disaggregating data in ways that can capture gender disparities.

51.   A few countries were very interested in the best practices in mainstreaming gender statistics in Rwanda and asked if they have produced gender statistics training manuals. Mr. Muchochori informed all participants that the Gender Statistics Framework of Rwanda will be launched on 3rd April, 2012.   The framework will be useful in gatherings gender relevant information and indicators in Rwanda. The related documents will be published on the website of the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda and countries were encouraged to look at the website to benefit from the Rwandan experience.

52.   Participants also discussed how the interview on women's roles in household decision making was conducted and suggested that efforts should be made to reconcile the difference in responses from husbands and wives. It was agreed that a dynamic analysis of decision-making within the household should be carried out.

d. Session 3: Measuring empowerment of young women and adolescent girls

53.   Ms. Mylen Mahobe from Malawi chaired this panel. The panelists and the discussant were:
- Mr. Dhyaa Kadhum, Iraq
- Mr. Khaled Al-Madani, Yemen
- Ms. Larisa Illibezova , Kyrgyzstan and Ms. Nurgul Kinderbaeva, UNFPA-Kyrgyzstan
- Mr. Jorge Segura, Costa Rica
- Ms. Nadia Bashary, Sudan
- Dr. Nafisa M. Bedri, Sudan
- Discussant: Mr. Edilberto Loaiza, UNFPA

54.   An innovative approach on data collection through househoulds surveys in Iraq and the results and analysis on adolescent girls were presented by Mr Kadhum. The Iraq Women Integrated Social and Health Survey (I-WISH) conducted in 2011 used the life cycle approach to identify/address women issues, including woman's empowerment, reproductive health, family planning, VAW, and other relevant social and health dimensions. The survey covered both perception and factual data indicators using multi-dimensional thematic design. Mr Kadhum used the module on adolescent girls 10-14 years as an example to describe how the survey was conducted. The results of the surveys were intended to be translated into specific policies, actions or programmes.

55.   Mr. Al-Madani and Ms. Bashary presented the basic facts on early marriage in Yemen and Sudan. Both presentations used censuses data for disaggregation of data at lower administrative levels (i.e. urban/rural and governorates). Statistics showed that early marriage rates are still very high in both countries. Yemen's presentation also linked high adolescent pregnancy rates to low educational attainment and pointed out that education is key to preventing early pregnancy.

56.   The development of a National Gender Statistics System on Domestic Violence in Kyrgyz Republic was presented by Ms. Kinderbaeva.   Domestic Violence has been institutionalized in the national statistical system in Kyrgyzstan. The multi-sectoral data collection system on Domestic Violence has been set up and there is a clear data collection structure. Ms. Kinderbaeva presented the main findings in early marriage, adolescent pregnancy, health and access to services, and related challenges. She stressed that to improve gender mainstreaming in the national statistical system, there is a need to improve accessibility of gender statistics and build gender sensitivity within NSO staff, as well as the staff of other agencies responsible for gender analysis and mainstreaming at their workplace.

57.   Mr. Segura shared the Costa Rican experience on the use of data for the design and implementation of policies on youth, specifically, on the implementation of tools and topics concerning adolescent and young women. The main work carried out by Costa Rica focused around the development of a national statistical system for adolescent and young people.   The information and data collected from different tools were used in the design and development of policies, programmes, and services, such as the National Policy of Sexuality (2010 - 2021), mass media campaigns and educational materials. He also pointed out that some of these tasks are specific to a locality or age group. Mr. Segura stressed the importance of: political will, government actions, support from international agencies, and training in the diagnosis and use of statistics about women and youth.

58.   Dr. Bedri presented Ending Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) through evidence based advocacy in Sudan. FGM/C is a world wide problem and its prevalence is particularly high in Sudan. Ms. Bredi's presentation focused on how advocacy efforts in Sudan by different players have made use of existing statistics to examine differentials and trends in prevalence, and highlighted patterns within the data that can strategically inform policy and laws pertaining to FGM/C at different levels. Dr. Bedri also described how national surveys in Sudan have evolved to respond to the need of the campaign and how national and states mechanisms in Sudan have employed existing evidence to influence laws at national and states level.

59.   Mr. Loaiza gave a summary of the panel and pointed out the variation among the presentations may indicate countries are at different stages in the development of data, policies, programmes, and interventions. Besides the best practices shared in this panel, he also highlighted the need for adequate monitoring and evaluation frameworks that will eventually allow us to identify evidence based interventions, the importance of proper planning and perhaps management based on results and documentation of experiences as lessons learned, and establishing communities of practice for cross-fertilization and better use of resources (including south-to-south cooperation).

60.   The shocking facts presented on domestic violence, high FGM/C prevalence, and high child marriage rates highlighted the importace of linking data findings with policy making and developing and implementing advocacy, interventions, and programmes.

61.   Participants were interested in how the Kyrgyzstan government has done in tackling the high bride kidnapping rate, especially in rural area. The Kyrgyz Criminal Code has explicitly stated that forced marriage and kidnapping is a crime and guilty offenders receive up to three years in jail. The meeting was informed that 2012 is the year of prevention of bride kidnapping and that the government has launched a campaign to stop bride kidnapping.

e. Session 4: Measuring knowledge and information empowerment of women

62.   Panel 4 was chaired by Ms. Rawia ElBatrawi from Egypt, the panelists and discussant were:
- Ms. Rosario Garcia Calderon, The Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-UIS)
- Ms. Aerina Kim, Republic of Korea
- Ms. Wei Liu, China
- Ms. Neda Jafar, UNESCWA
- Discussant: Ms. Patricia Eweama, Nigeria

63.   Ms. Calderon discussed the importance of statistics for evidence based policy and decision making in the field of science, technology and gender statistics (STG) and presented the general issues of STG information, statistics and indicators. She presented the UIS's World Atlas on Gender Equality in Education, which allows readers to visualize the educational pathways of girls and boys and track changes in gender disparities over time. She also introduced the UIS Global R&D Surveys. Ms. Calderon also reported that in mainstreaming STG, considerable progress has been made in data collection, research, capacity building and reporting. However, information is still insufficient and provides only a partial picture. A better measurement of STG requires an important effort from the various stakeholders in order to produce quality statistics that respond to the demands of policy makers and at the same time allow better cross-national comparability.

64.   The presentation of Ms. Kim focused on Korea's experience on how to enhance Women's Empowerment through education. The paper introduced a gender sensitive policy in Korea: the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) and its legal framework. GIA promotes the contribution of government policies to gender equality. The results of GIA are reflected in Gender Sensitive Budgeting (GSB). The production of gender statistics and national and local gender equality index provide a basis for effective implementation of Gender Sensitive Policies. Ms. Kim provided statistics on women's status in the country and highlighted the educational support for women's competence development as well as measures aimed at unlocking the potential of women. She also presented the measures to enhance knowledge of women, including customised support for women's empowerment by utilizing gender statistics.

65.   Ms. Liu presented gender differences in education and science in China. The presentation identified gender equality mechanisms in China and listed data sources of

gender statistics in education, science and technology. Ms. Liu used statistics to show that the women's situation has improved significantly in education, science, and technology fields, while the gender gaps still exist. The presentation concluded by stressing that gender equality in higher education will be the fundamental solution.

66. The presentation made by Ms. Jafar discussed the importance of the gender dimension in science, the importance of science and technology in promoting economic growth, and the need to compile data on the key indicators on women and men which are of the basis for the mainstreaming approach to equal opportunities. Ms. Jafar's presentation analysed the participation of women in various fields in science and technology across selected Arab countries and concluded that there is gender inequality in the field of science. She highlighted the need for regular collection and monitoring of gender relevant data on science, using harmonized statistics to facilitate cross-national comparisons and monitoring..

67. After the four presentations, Ms. Eweama summarized each contribution and gave her personal opinions and comments. She highlighted that statistics are vital for policy and programme planning, monitoring, evaluation, impact analysis, and assessment. Therefore, statistics must be credible, comprehensive, timely, user friendly, in understandable formats and produced according to standardised methodologies.

68. Participants noted the difficulty of a systematic data collection at the tertiary level of education and asked if UIS has developed methodological guidelines on data collection mechanisms.

69. From the statistics presented in the ESCWA's presentation, Tunisia seemed to outperform other countries in the region in term of gender equality in many fields in science and technology. Participants expressed interest in knowing the lessons learned from Tunisia and would like to benefit from Tunisia best practices.

70. Participants also stressed the need of good information and data for policy making, the importance of bridging the gaps between policy makers and data producers, and the importance of translating statistics into policy implementation.

f. Session 5: Emerging issues and international work on gender statistics

Panel 5a: Emerging issues on gender statistics

71. Mr. Jose Antonio Mejia Guerra from Mexico and Ms. Lina Castro from the Philippines, the co-chairs of the advisory group on emerging issues of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), chaired the panel. The panelists included:
- Mr. Jose Antonio Mejia Guerra, Mexico
- Mr. Papa Seck, UN-Women
- Ms. Luisa Cremonese, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

72.   Mr. Mejia Guerra , one of the co-chairs of the advisory group, presented the proposed Terms of Reference of the advisory group on emerging issues. The main objective of the advisory group is to examine emerging and unaddressed existing key gender issues, identify data gaps and measurement problems, and develop strategies to address these issues in the development of gender statistics. He presented the main tasks to be undertaken by the group, some of the emerging issues identified, the current list of members, and the proposed activities of the advisory group.

73.   Mr. Papa Seck presented the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) initiative. The EDGE initiative is a new initiative led by UN-Women and UNSD, in collaboration with OECD and the World Bank. The project will contribute to existing efforts to have comparable gender indicators on health, education, employment, entrepreneurship and asset ownership. The EDGE activities include: developing a database for international data and metadata compilation covering basic health, education and employment indicators; methodological development of standards and guidelines for entrepreneurship and asset ownership indicators and pilot data collection in 10 countries; and presenting results of methodological work to the UN Statistical Commission for its consideration. Mr. Seck also presented the process, country pilot selection, and cost and financing of the initiative.

74.   Ms. Cremonese presented evidence based protection initiatives for refugee and displaced women and girls. UNHCR is engaging with refugees and displaced persons for a life free of violence, for earning a living in dignity, for the right to education, health, and adequate shelter. UNHCR has established the Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) strategy to protect and empower disenfranchised groups. In order to transit to a results-based management of protection for women and girls, through regional dialogues, UNHCR defined four areas of protection and identified a set of 13 relevant indicators. UNHCR also published a handbook for the Protection of Women and Girls**.**

Panel 5b: International work on gender statistics

75.   Panel 5.b was chaired by Ms. Valentina Stoevska from ILO. The panelists included:
- Ms. Yongyi Min, UNSD
- Mr. Andres Vikat, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Mr. Raj Gautam Mitra, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- Ms. Sharita Serrao, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
- Ms. Neda Jafar, UNESCWA

76.   Ms. Yongyi Min presented the minimum set of gender indicators developed by a sub-group of the IAEG-GS. The minimum set of indicators is meant to provide a basis from which to promote the production and compilation of gender statistics at the national

level. The choice of indicators for the list was guided by three criteria. Indicator should: (a) address relevant issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment; (b) be conceptually clear, easy to interpret, and have an agreed international definition; (c) have been regularly produced by countries, with sufficient coverage to allow regional or national comparisons and tracking of progress over time. Based on the criteria, the proposed indicators can be categorized into three tiers: Tier 1, including indicators that meet all three criteria above; Tier 2, including indicators that meet criteria 1 and 2; and Tier 3, includes indicators that meet criterion 1 only. The next steps on the work of the minimum set are: initiating international data compilation of indicators in tier 1; promoting capacity-building activities to expand the data coverage of indicators in tier 2; discussing with IAEG partners possible modalities and resources to prepare guidelines/handbook on the compilation of the indicators; and undertaking methodological work on indicators in tier 3 and emerging issues.

77.   Ms. Min also presented the revised draft of the Gender Statistics Manual. The main focus of the manual is gender mainstreaming in national statistics. The manual will help statisticians to: identify gaps in gender statistics and develop a coherent and comprehensive plan for the production of gender statistics; ensure that survey instruments and censuses take into account gender issues and avoid gender-biases in measurement; improve data analysis and data presentation and deliver gender statistics in a format that is easy to use by policymakers and planners. She presented the table of contents of the manual, the current status of the manual and the next steps. It was mentioned the first draft will be finalized by June 2012. As part of its work programme and with financial contribution by the World Bank, UNSD will develop a eeb-based application for an interactive version of the manual and will field test the manual at a training workshop to be held in the sub-Saharan African region.

78.   Preliminary results of the global programme review of gender statistics were presented by Mr. Andres Vikat from the UNECE, Ms. Sharita Serrao from the UNESCAP, Ms. Neda Jafar from UNESCAW, and Mr. Raj Gautam Mitra from UNECA. The objectives of the survey are: to conduct a review of gender statistics in national statistical systems; to obtain information on how gender perspectives are mainstreamed into national statistical systems including all traditional areas of statistical production as well as new emerging areas; and to gather information to help identify good practices and challenges to integrate gender into the production and use of statistics.

79.   From the preliminary results, it was noted that the response rates vary by region and there are wide variations among countries, which reflect their different levels of progress in gender statistics. The importance of gender statistics has been recognized by the majority of the countries and many countries have carried out regular data production in key areas.

80.   It was pointed out that gaps and inconsistencies exist in the responses to the survey, which will require the Regional Commissions to follow up and engage with countries to improve the responses. It was also noted that the same response from different countries to one question may have different interpretation. Therefore, the results should be

interpreted with caution. The open end answers in the questionnaire also provided important information.

III.   Summary discussions and recommendations

81.   In the final session, Ms. Francesca Perucci presented the conclusions and recommendations that emanated from the presentations, discussions and participants' interventions over the three days.

82.   The high-level panel highlighted the need for:
- using both gender quantitative and qualitative analysis;
- institutionalizing gender mainstreaming in statistics;
- improving dialogues between data producers and users;
- linking indicators to monitoring programme effectiveness (results based monitoring)

83.   The panels on women's economic empowerment stressed the need to:
- identify the underlying causes of women's lack of employment opportunities, including structural factors such as social norms, culture, etc;
- identify innovative ways to measure poverty from a gender perspective;
- find effective ways to communicate data/findings to policymakers, civil society and other stakeholders.
 It also stressed the importance of:
- promoting the development of standards to measure the informal/formal employment continuum,
- understanding the links between unpaid family work in agriculture and poverty, including considering household structure,
- promoting the implementation of Time Use Surveys to better understand gender roles, derive measures of progress of society, and produce satellite accounts on unpaid work.

84.   In the area of physical empowerment, the meeting agreed on the need to:
- promote the use of the new UNSD guidelines for the measurement of VAW, including their adaptations to national circumstances and the specific needs of conflict and post conflict countries;
- promote harmonized gender sensitive data collection on refugees and internally displaced persons;
- Promote innovative approaches (life cycle analysis) to identify/address women's issues and translate them into policy and programmes;
- Stress the importance to design and develop mass media campaigns, educational materials, and attention models among others based on existing data;
- Develop adequate monitoring and evaluation frameworks that allow the identification of evidence based interventions to eradicate FGM/C and other harmful practices.

85.   In the area of women's political empowerment, the meeting highlighted the following: the need to present data on political empowerment at all levels (national, sub-national) including disaggregating data in ways that can capture gender disparities; and the need to improve the analysis of decision making dynamics in the household.

86.   In the area of knowledge empowerment, the meeting addressed the importance of measuring not just education, but also women's role in science and access to information, media and technology, and how to best translate statistics into policy making and implementation to improve knowledge empowerment of women.

87.   Finally, the forum agreed on the way forward. The IAEG on Gender Statistics is chaired by Jordan, assisted by the UNSD Secretariat, until 2014. It was agreed that the 5th forum will be held in the Latin America and Caribbean region in 2014 and the possible location is Mexico.   The main focus of 5th Global Forum on Gender Statistics can be: Gender Analysis on Women's Empowerment and Use of Gender Data and Indicators. It will include:

- Improving use of data for <u>monitoring effectiveness</u> of gender equality and women's empowerment policies and programmes, designing campaigns using gender-based data and indicators, and strengthening the users-producers dialogue.

- <u>Economic empowerment</u>: understanding the underlying causes of employment patterns, innovative ways of measuring women's and men's poverty, formal and informal employment, links between unpaid family work in agriculture and poverty, and time use.

- <u>Political empowerment:</u> understanding women's political participation at all levels, national, sub-national, including characteristics of positions, and decision making in the household.

- <u>Physical autonomy and empowerment</u>: understanding causes and ways to eradicate VAW and other harmful practices (FGM/C, early marriage), and understanding women and men's situation in conflict and post-conflict countries, among refugees and IDP.

- <u>Knowledge empowerment</u>: understanding educational patterns and choices, including women's access to specific fields of study.

Annex 1: Work Programme

Day 1:   Tuesday, 27 March

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.   **Registration**

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Opening Session**

Opening remarks	Dr. Paul Cheung, Director United Nations Statistics Divisions
	Dr. Juraj Riecan, Director, Statistics Division United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)
Keynote address	Mr. Fathi Al-Nsour, Director General Department of Statistics of Jordan

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Tea Break**

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.   **High-level panel on mainstreaming gender into the national statistical system,** Chair: Ms. Francesca Perucci, UNSD

Panelists:
Dr. Donya Ahmed, Acting General Director of Policies & Development, Bahrain Supreme Council for Women
Ms. Linda Laura Sabbadini, Director of Social and Environment Statistics, Italian National Institute of Statistics
Ms. Lina Castro, Assistant Secretary General, Philippines National Statistical Coordination Board
Discussion

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

Session 1: Measuring economic empowerment of women

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Panel 1.a. Measurement of poverty, women's participation in the labour force, and access to economic and financial resources,** Chair: Ms. Sulekha Patel, World Bank

Panellists:
Omani Women in Labor Market (Ms. Kauthar Hammed AL-Farsi, Oman)
Poverty and Labor Force Statistics in the United States (Ms. Marcella Jones-Puthoff, U.S.)
Measuring Women Status and Gender Statistics in Cambodia (Ms. Hang Lina, Cambodia)
Economic Empowerment of Women in Japan (Ms. Shizuka Takamura, Japan)
Discussant: Mr. Papa Seck, UN-Women
Discussion

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Tea Break**

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Panel 1.b Women in rural areas, women's employment in informal sector and informal employment, and unpaid work,**
Chair: Ms. Lara Cavalcanti, Brazil

Panellists:
Employment and Gender Differences in the Informal Economy (Ms. Valentina Stoevska, ILO)
Economic Empowerment of Women in Bangladesh (Dr. Dipankar Roy, Bangladesh)
Female Home-Based Work and Entrepreneurship in MENA (Ms. Manal Sweidan, Jordan)
The Analysis of Time Use Surveys in Mexico to Observe Gender Inequities (Mr. Jose Antonio Mejia Guerra, Mexico)
Women in Rural – Ghana (Ms. Bernice Serwah Ofosu-Baadu, Ghana)
Discussant: Ms. Gulnara Febres, World Bank
Discussion

Day 2: Wednesday, 28 March

Session 2: Measuring women's autonomy and physical empowerment

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Panel 2.a Gender based violence and women in vulnerable situations,** Chair: Ms. Lina Castro, Philippines

Panellists:
Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women (Ms. Francescs Grum, UNSD)
Gender Based Viloence -An experience of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (Ms. Stella Nassolo, Uganda)
Violence Survey in the Palestinian Territory, 2011 (Mr. Khalid Abukhalid, Palestine)
Empowerment of Palestine Refugee Women (Ms. Weam Al- Madi, UNRWA)
Discussant: Dr. Dipankar Roy, Bangladesh
Discussion

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Tea Break**

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m**. Panel 2.b. Political empowerment of women and women's autonomy,** Chair: Ms. Neda Jafar, UNESCWA

Panellists:
Political Empowerment of Women and Women's Autonomy in Italy （Ms. Sara Demofonti, Italy)
Political Empowerment and Autonomy of Women in India (Mr. Dhrijesh K. Tiwari, India)
Measuring Women's Empowerment and Women's Autonomy in the Philippines (Ms. Lina Castro, Philippines)
Women's Empowerment in Brazil (Ms. Lara Cavalcanti, Brazil)
Political Empowerment of Women and Women's Autonomy in Rwanda (Mr. Kanobana Dominique Muchochori, Rwanda)
Discussant: Ms. Manal Sweidan, Jordan
Discussion

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

Session 3: Measuring empowerment of young women and adolescent girls

1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Panel 3: Measuring empowerment of young and adolescent girls,**
Chair: Ms. Mylen Mahobe, Malawi

Panellists:
Innovative Approach of I-WISH Adolescent girls Iraq Country Experience (Mr. Dhyaa Kadhum, Iraq)
Early Marriage in Yemen (Mr. Khaled Al-Madani, Yemen)
Development of National Gender Statistics System on Domestic Violence in Kyrgyz Republic (Ms. Larisa Illibezova, Kyrgyzstan and and Ms. Nurgul Kinderbaeva, UNFPA-Kyrgyzstan)
An overview about the use of statistic on adolescents and young women in Costa Rica, Latin America: the experience of the National Council of Youth (Mr. Jorge Segura, Costa Rica)
Early Marriage in Sudan (Ms. Nadia Bashary, Sudan)
Ending FGM/C through Evidence Based Advocacy in Sudan (Dr. Nafisa M. Bedri, Sudan)
Discussant: Mr. Edilberto Loaiza, UNFPA
Discussion

Day 3: Thursday, 29 March

Session 4: Measuring knowledge and information empowerment of women

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Panel 4 Measuring knowledge and information empowerment of women, Chair,** Ms. Rawia ElBatrawi, Egypt

Panellists:
Women in Science (Ms. Rosario Garcia Calderon, UNESCO/UIS)
Enhancing Women's Empowerment through Education (Ms. Aerina Kim, Republic of Korea)
Society of Knowledge Economy: Gender Differences in Education and Science in China (Ms. Wei Liu, China)
Gender Equality in Science – Arab Region (Ms. Neda Jafar, UNESCWA)
Discussant: Ms. Patricia Eweama, Nigeria
Discussion

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Tea Break**

Session 5: Emerging issues and international work on gender statistics (organized by UNSD)

11:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Panel 5a: Emerging issues on gender statistics,**
Co-Chair: Mr. Jose Antonio Mejia Guerra, Mexico/Ms. Lina Castro, Philippines

Panellists:
Terms of Reference of the Advisory Group on Emerging Issues (Mr. Jose Antonio Mejia Guerra, Mexico)
EDGE Initiative (Mr. Papa Seck, UN-Women)

Measuring the Protection Space around Women and Girls (Ms. Luisa Cremonese, UNHCR)
Discussion

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Panel 5b: International work on gender statistics**
Chair: Ms. Valentina Stoevska, ILO
Minimum Set of Gender Indicators (Ms. Yongyi Min, UNSD)
Update on the Status of the Gender Statistics Manual (Ms. Yongyi Min, UNSD)
Preliminary results of the global review - Regional Commissions:
Mr. Andres Vikat, UNECE
Mr. Raj Gautam Mitra, UNECA
Ms. Sharita Serrao, UNESCAP
Ms. Neda Jafar, UNESCWA
Discussion

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **Tea Break**

3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Summary discussions and recommendations**
a) Summary of the discussion of the Forum
Ms. Francesca Perucci, UNSD
b) Recommendations and future work
Ms. Francesca Perucci, UNSD

Annex 2. List of participants

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