

# **Conference call with the chairs of the Advisory Group on Emerging Issues**

**10 September 2012**

## **Participants:**

UNSD: Francesca Grum, Maria Martinho, Yongyi Min

Mexico: Jose Antonio Mejia Guerra

Philippines: Lina Castro

UN Women: Papa Seck

## **Topics discussed:**

1. Review of work done so far
2. Priority emerging issues: Violence Against Women and Time Use
3. Other emerging issues identified so far
4. Next steps

### **1. Review of work done so far**

Three items were reviewed: the terms of reference (TOR) of the group, the list of emerging issues and the Global Survey. The chairs agreed no changes were needed on the TOR and confirmed that: (1) the indicator on “gender gap on wages” should be considered as part of tier 3 (i.e. indicators for which there is no agreed international standards); and (2) the indicators on violence against women (VAW) should be rephrased to be in line with the UNSD Guidelines on the topic. These modifications will change the information presented at the UN Statistical Commission in February 2012 on the minimum set of gender indicators. As a result, a footnote clarifying these changes will be added to future papers/reports referring to the minimum set of gender indicators, including in the table of issues and indicators of the Advisory Group on Emerging Issues.

Ms. Martinho, UNSD, informed on the status of the Global Survey. ECE, ESCAP and ESCWA already submitted the raw data and reports to UNSD. ECA submitted the report but not yet the raw data. ECLAC data and report are still missing. Mr. Mejia Guerra from Mexico indicated he would assist in alerting his ECLAC colleagues.

### **2. Priority emerging issues: Violence Against Women and Time Use**

The parties agreed to first focus on the two priority issues for which it appears (based on the results of the Global Survey) that countries have already some capacity: Violence Against Women (VAW) – 43 countries replied they collect data on this topic – and Time Use (TU) – 44 countries stated they have TU data.

Ms. Grum, UNSD, informed that the UNSD guidelines on VAW will be presented as a background document to the UN Statistical Commission in 2013. However, there is not yet any established international data compilation on this topic. UNSD is planning to organize workshops in 2013 on VAW, according to requests of countries.

Regarding TU, ILO is also involved in this topic (particularly on work activities) but, again, no international data compilation is yet in place. The UN guidelines on TU from 2005 are the most recent publication on the different aspects of time use surveys. An expert meeting was organized by UNSD in June 2012 to review the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS). Some issues remain to be solved and the revision of ICATUS should still be considered a work in progress.

The classification proposed by UNSD (under revision) follows the SNA framework and classifies activities into: productive within SNA boundary, productive outside SNA (housework, caring, volunteering), personal activities. An alternative approach to classify productive activities within SNA based on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) has been proposed by a Research Institute in India. UNSD has been consulting TU experts and NSOs on the feasibility of this proposal, but has received some negative feedback, including from INEGI-Mexico.

ILO is also considering a new definition of labour force, which will be submitted to the next International Conference of Labour Statisticians in October 2013. In case this new definition is adopted, it will have an impact on ICATUS and will further delay its revision.

UNSD had initially planned to organize a workshop on TU statistics in 2013, but due to these delays, this plan may be postponed to a later date.

Ms. Grum, UNSD, elucidated however that the UN guidelines of TU statistics provide definitions of paid and unpaid work as well as examples. She further explained that the new revision may reduce the current six digit ICATUS classification of activities – which countries found too complex – to a three digit classification made of big blocks of activities to fit the varied activities found in countries with different circumstances. The primary aim of this classification is to become a dissemination framework for time use statistics, allowing international dissemination and comparison of data.

### **3. Other emerging issues identified so far**

Mr. Seck, UN-Women, reported that the EDGE project document had been recently finalized. The first meeting of the steering committee is now being planned for 18 October 2012. Remind-the-date emails will be sent out this week and formal invitations will follow. Apart from the steering committee a technical working group will be formed to deal with concepts, definitions and methods, and count with the participation of agencies like the World Bank and OECD. Two consultants with expertise on entrepreneurship and asset ownership statistics will be employed to assist this project.

The outcomes of the EDGE project will be very valuable for the work of the Advisory Group on Emerging Issues, in terms of methods and data compilation for some of the indicators covered by this Group.

### **4. Next steps**

The chairs of the Group decided to focus first on VAW and TU and to also work on entrepreneurship and asset ownership through the EDGE project. In order to involve other Group members, copies of the minutes of this conference call will be distributed

to all members who will be invited to provide comments. If needed, a conference call with the whole group may be convened in the near future.

UNSD will draft a timeline with the steps of the methodological work for VAW and TU.

As the discussions on the UN post-2015 development agenda are intensifying in the UNHQ, it was suggested that the Group should promote the inclusion of appropriate indicators on gender issues in the post-2015 agenda, in line with the minimum set of gender indicators.

Ms. Grum informed the Group that the draft of the Gender Statistics Manual is about to be finalized and will be tested in Uganda in December 2012.