Teleconference 26 May 2011
Report of the conference call
Sub-group on minimum set of indicators for gender statistics
UNSD, 13 June 2011

Attendance:
In-person: Erlinda Go, UNSD
               Linda Hooper, UNSD
               Francesca Perucci, UNSD
               Papa Seck, Policy Specialist, UN Women
               Karen Judd, UN Women
               Tina Nebe, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA
               Sulekha Patel, World Bank
               Masako Hirago, World Bank

Teleconference: Josée Savoie, Statistics Canada
               Grace Bediako, Ghana Statistical Service
               Marcella Jones-Puthoff, US Census Bureau
               Andres Vikat, Statistics Division, ECE
               Neda Jafar, Statistics Division, ESCWA
               Sharita Sherrao, Statistics Division, ESCAP
               Anvi Amin, Gender, Women and Health Branch, WHO

Comments on circulated indictor list received from:
               Lina Castro, Philippine National Statistical Coordination Board (also
               comment on Tier 3)
               Fatouma Sissoko, ACS - ECA

Follow up
UNSD:
- Revise concept note
- Further develop list of indicators (include definitions and counts)
- Next meeting – Tuesday 12 July ~~Wedn, 29 June 2011~~ 8:30-10:30AM

Summary of the call

Concept note
Initial discussions focused on the concept note. The sub-group asked for further clarification on the tier structure and levels. It was suggested to add more information about the domains selected and reasons for their selection. Also, it was recommended to ensure that the definitions used for the indicators be consistent with the definitions already in use in existing internationally agreed lists of indicators.

Regarding the criteria on data coverage and how coverage is being defined, the meeting agreed that it needs to be explicitly defined in the concept note (ie, what are the cut-offs for number of countries/coverage). The threshold should be around 50%, especially, since

for some newer topics, just introduced, there might only be one data point. If we require two data points, then we might exclude some indicators. In preparing the list of indicators with the criteria, the following information should be included:

- Number of data points: 1 point, 2+ points
- Number of countries in regions
- Availability: Years, latest year

Framework
UNSD presented an overview of the framework and reminded the meeting that this exercise is meant exclusively—at least at this stage—for comparison at the international level. The group was also reminded that the minimum set will consist of indicators that fall under Tier 1 and 2.

Analysis: The group agreed that this exercise is not to suggest cross-tabulations for gender analysis. It will not therefore be necessary to indicate the breakdowns by various characteristics that are currently listed (such as geographical location or ethnic group).

General suggestion: Ghana suggested that UNSD should provide an update to the IAEG-GS on the outcomes of the Statistical Commission and the implementation of the SC recommendations.

Discussion on conventions and ratifications
There was a discussion on the whether or not the ratifications of conventions should be included in the minimum set. It was agreed that, while important, indicators on the ratifications of conventions should be placed in a separate section. Concerns were expressed that the ratifications and policy issues are descriptive of policy actions and do not necessarily indicate progress in the specific policy areas.

Besides ratifications, several indicators in the list also relate to policy actions or to existence of national laws (for example, legal age at marriage and length of maternity leave) and should be placed in the same group as the ratifications. There was a suggestion to add to this group the existence of laws on domestic violence and marital rape.

OUTCOME: The meeting agreed that the list will be presented at the next session of the UN Statistical Commission as a minimum set of indicators to be used as reference by national statistical agencies. Thus, to satisfy users and provide context, ratifications/policy indicators should be kept as a set of background info, but not as statistical indicators in the minimum set. These indicators will be listed under a separate category.