



## ADVISORY GROUP ON EMERGING ISSUES

### Terms of Reference

#### I. Background

In 2006, the first Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) was convened by the United Nations in New York to review and identify key initiatives and programmes that support and enhance national statistical offices' capacity to identify, produce and disseminate relevant gender statistics. Since its establishment, the IAEG-GS has helped foster the development of gender statistics in countries and globally, by developing technical guidelines, documenting the best practices and encouraging their use, promoting training activities, data compilation and dissemination, and by improving international coordination and a dialogue with countries in all activities related to gender statistics, including those related to the minimum set of gender statistics.

Over the years, several new gender issues have gained increasing importance for public policy. Consequently, the demand for monitoring emerging and unaddressed gender or women's empowerment issues has increased. In order to address these new and upcoming issues, and to develop guidance on new conceptual and measurement frameworks, at the 2011 meeting, the IAEG-GS agreed to establish a new Advisory Group on emerging issues.

#### II. Objectives and Tasks

The primary objective of the Advisory Group is to examine emerging and unaddressed gender issues, identify data gaps and measurement problems, and develop strategies to address these issues in the development of gender statistics. Tasks will include:

1. Identify key emerging issues and unaddressed existing key gender and women's empowerment issues, establish priorities and suggest the way forward;
2. Propose strategies for the undertaking of methodological work on indicators in tiers 2 and 3<sup>1</sup> of the minimum set of indicators, including for the development of metadata and data collection mechanisms;
3. Review experiences and document best practices in data production on emerging issues.

#### Initial list of Emerging Issues:

(a) Issues for which there are already international guidelines and identified indicators but further work is needed to improve data availability and data comparability:

- Violence against women (Tier 2 – indicators 48 and 49)
- Time use (Tier 2 – indicators 1 and 2)

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<sup>1</sup> Indicators in the minimum set have been classified into 3 tiers: Tier 1: Indicators conceptually clear, with an agreed international definition and regularly produced by countries; Tier 2: Indicators conceptually clear, with an agreed international definition, but not yet regularly produced by countries; Tier 3: Indicators for which international standards need still to be developed and not regularly produced by countries.



- Tertiary education in specific fields (Tier 2 – indicators 25 and 26)
- Informal employment (Tier 2 – indicator 9)
- Percentages of female police officers and female judges (Tier 2 – indicator 46 and 47)

(b) Issues and related suggested indicators for which methodological work is needed to establish clear recommendations with respect to concepts and definitions as well as metadata and data collection mechanisms:

- Access/ownership of assets
  - Access to credit (Tier 3 – indicator 11)
  - Ownership of land (Tier 3 – indicator 12)
- Entrepreneurship
  - Firms owned by women (Tier 3 – indicator 7)
- Differences in wages
  - Gender gap in wages (Tier 3 – indicator 13)
- Employment and parenting responsibilities (Tier 3 – indicator 15 and 16)
- Access to mass media (Tier 3 – indicator 19)

(c) Emerging issues not yet covered under the minimum set of gender indicators:

- Ageing and social security
- Crime and victimization
- Decision making and the role of women (particularly political participation at lower levels of public life)
- Environment and climate change
- Impact of ICT on women's empowerment
- Poverty and indigenous populations
- Social norms and attitudes
- Migration
- Institutional mechanisms
- Women and armed conflict
- Food Security and intra-household resources allocation

### III. Membership

- Chair: Mexico/Philippines
- Secretariat: UNSD
- Members:
  - Egypt
  - Jordan
  - India
  - Czech Republic
  - Brazil
  - World Bank
  - OECD



- UNWOMEN
- FAO
- ILO
- UIS
- UN-ECLAC
- UN-ESCAP
- UNODC
- The Advisory Group may invite other experts to contribute to its work programme, when needed.

#### **IV. Organization of Work**

The Advisory Group will work through electronic exchanges, using e-mail correspondence or teleconferencing, and regular face-to-face meetings.

Where feasible, face-to-face meetings will be conducted in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics. Other meetings will be convened on the basis of need, specific tasks to be accomplished and available resources.

The Advisory Group will report its activities and work accomplished to IAEG-GS regularly.

The chairperson(s) will work closely with UNSD, the Programme Secretariat, and report on work progress, problems identified, solutions recommended and decisions to be made.

#### **V. Expected duration**

The Advisory Group is established to provide IAEG-GS with technical advice on emerging issues. Although initially planned to complete its work between February 2012 and February 2014), an extension to November 2016 is recommended by the IAEG-GS (as per decision taken at the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IAEG-GS, New York 12-13 September 2013).

#### **VI. Proposed activities**

1. Identify priorities of work among the emerging issues and propose the way forward.
2. Analyse the results of the global survey of national gender statistics programmes (activity done in 2013)
3. Review best practices and country experiences on selected issues, starting with the “initial list of emerging issues” point (a) above.
4. Propose strategies to undertake methodological work to produce data for selected indicators, as per “initial list of emerging issues” point (b) above.