

**MEETING OF THE INTERAGENCY AND EXPERT GROUP ON GENDER
STATISTICS
29 January 2009
Accra, Ghana**

Final Report *

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Opening

1. Ghana, the chair of the Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), opened the meeting presenting an overview of the history of the IAEG-GS since its establishment in 2006, and the two advisory groups established at the last meeting of the IAEG-GS in Rome in 2007. The two advisory groups are: 1) Advisory Group on Gender Statistics Training Activities and Curricula; and 2) Advisory Group on Global Gender Statistics and Indicators Database. The chair also presented the work modalities for the two groups.

2. The opening was followed by separate sessions of the two advisory groups. Deliberations of each group are summarized in the two individual reports attached (see Annex 1 for the report of the Advisory Group on Training and Annex 2 for the report of the Advisory Group on Databases).

Summary of discussions

3. The IAEG-GS reconvened in plenary, following the separate morning meetings of the two advisory groups. The chairs of the advisory groups reported on the outcome of the discussion and the progress made by their groups. The floor was then opened for discussion on the proposals made by the two advisory groups. The summary of the discussion follows.

Work of the Advisory Group on Training:

4. On the subject of the dissemination of training materials, the group considered the initiatives of the regional commissions (ECE, ECA, ESCWA) in the forms of virtual libraries or knowledge bases. It was suggested that these available resources and experiences should be used in the development of a global website.

5. The OECD-Development Group informed the meeting of their WIKI Gender platform, on which users can post information. Their site requires registration to help OECD ensure that the information is accurate.

6. On a global portal for gender statistics, UNSD informed the group that the plan to implement the portal, based on the recommendations of the 2007 Rome meeting had not progressed further. The meeting agreed that it would be necessary to try again to proceed with the development of the portal concept at UNSD. The group also noted that funding for the development and maintenance of the portal is an issue. The question was raised on who would provide funding for the portal. DESA-DAW sees a need for the portal and suggested the group should learn from the experiences of Womenwatch. IAEG members suggested that UNSD, World Bank and the regional commissions should form a small task force to revisit the idea of a portal and the World Bank's suggestion of a virtual portal.

Work of the Advisory Group on Databases:

7. The chair of the Advisory Group on Databases presented the idea raised by her group of the development of a small core set of indicators.

8. ECA raised the issue of whether the whole core set of indicators would be relevant to all countries. ECA also indicated that this topic mandates further discussion. Ghana

mentioned that some of the indicators might be less important for some countries, but all would be relevant from a gender perspective.

9. ECA stated that the subgroup on core gender indicators should start working on the core set of indicators and then bring it to the larger group, including some users, for reaction.

10. The World Bank mentioned the work of the MDG's IAEG subgroup on gender, which identified a list of core indicators, and indicated that this list might be a good starting point for the development of the list of gender-based indicators. There was general consensus that there is no need to reinvent the wheel, but that the work could build on existing lists of gender indicators. One suggestion was to compare available lists of gender indicators and look for convergence, which would indicate that they are essential to a large number of users.

11. ESCWA's Arab Gender Issues and Indicators framework can be taken into consideration in the development of list of gender-based indicators.

12. UNIFEM stated that having no data should not prevent the group from selecting an indicator as being part of the core set, if the indicator is deemed important from a substantive point of view.

13. UNSD mentioned that the Databases Advisory Group also discussed the global database, which would link into other databases. The survey on gender statistics programmes in national statistical offices, conducted by UNSD in 2008, would be used to identify available sources. South Africa proposed a paper reviewing the production of data for gender statistics.

14. The African Development Bank mentioned that it is important to not only focus on indicators but also discuss ways in which existing data can be analysed.

Conclusion

15. The IAEG, after discussing the proposals of the two advisory groups, agreed on the activities and working modalities proposed for the year ahead. A subgroup of the advisory group on databases would be formed to develop the proposed core set of gender indicators. This subgroup will be composed of Mexico, South Africa, World Bank, OECD, Canada, UNIFEM and UNSD (see Annex 2 for detailed report).

16. The IAEG also established a third advisory group, the Advisory Group on Statistical Legislation, which will be chaired by Italy. Membership of this advisory group consists of the Philippines, Italy, DAW, African Development Bank, ESCWA, and UNSD.

17. The IAEG recommended that a paper be prepared about gender statistics and its importance, to be submitted for consideration at the Statistical Commission.

18. A few countries and agencies requested to become member of the IAEG-GS. The following have been accepted as new members: Italy, South Africa, UNHCR, UNECA, African Development Bank, and ILO.

19. The chairmanship of the IAEG-GS, currently held by Ghana, will be passed on to the Philippines at the next IAEG meeting. The Philippines has offered to host the next Global Gender Statistics Forum and IAEG-GS meeting in 2010.

Annex 1:

Report of the Second Meeting of the Advisory Group on Gender Statistics Training Activities and Curricula, Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics Accra, Ghana 29 January 2009

Chair: India

1. The second meeting of the Advisory Group on Gender Statistics Training Activities and Curricula took place in the morning of 29 January and was chaired by Mr. Das of India. Other group members in attendance were representatives from India, Ghana, the USA, ECOWAS, World Bank, World Bank Institute, UNDP, UNIFEM, UN-DAW, UNECE and UNSD. A considerable number of observers representing countries and international as well as regional and local organizations were also present (See table 1 for list of attending members and observers).

2. UNSD made two presentations. The first was entitled, *Findings related to training needs and activities from the 2008 UNSD survey on gender statistics programs in national statistical offices*. The main conclusions drawn from the survey included: a need for capacity building on how to incorporate gender concerns into the production, dissemination, analysis, and/or use of statistics (86 countries out of 122 respondents indicated such need); gender analysis as one of the main substantive areas where training is needed; and short term training courses as the most often requested type of training activity.

3. The second presentation was of the annotated outline for a revision of the 1995 publication, *Engendering statistics*. The manual is intended for a global audience.

4. India presented components of a global gender statistics training programme for discussion. In their presentation, they emphasized the need for a “code of conduct” as mentioned in the Terms of Reference of the advisory group.

5. A summary of the discussion follows.

Summary of the discussion

6. The Advisory Group welcomed the presentation by UNSD of the findings related to training needs and activities, based on the 2008 survey on gender statistics programmes in national statistical offices. Members suggested that the results of the UNSD survey on gender statistics training and activities be used to plan national and regional level training. The United Nations Regional Commissions requested the countries’ original questionnaire responses be distributed.

7. UNSD agreed to explore the possibility of disseminating the findings of the 2008 survey relating to training institutions/facilities and training materials to the Regional Commissions and members of the IAEG, to assist them in the implementation of regional training programmes and in further defining the training needs of their Member States.

8. The meeting identified the need for a global website for training materials on gender statistics. As ECE has experience in this area, they offered to work with UNSD on the development of a mechanism to compile and disseminate training materials.

9. Members emphasized the need to develop regional cooperation to ensure that gender statistics training programmes are implemented in a coordinated and timely fashion.
10. A clear need was expressed for the revision of the training manual, *Engendering Statistics*. The group welcomed the annotated outline.
11. There was discussion on the need to supplement the training manual on gender statistics with a manual for users and other stakeholders of statistics on how to use the gender statistics. Members noted this would be considered as a future task of the advisory group, and that the focus in the next year should be on the training manual for producers of gender statistics.
12. The group recognized that communication among members is essential to successfully carry out the work of the advisory group. A suggestion was to develop an online community to help facilitate communication among members of the advisory group. The moderator will be rotated to ensure full participation. (The US has agreed to be the first moderator.)
13. The advisory group agreed there is a strong need for a web portal for gender statistics. It was recommended that UNSD should further explore the possibilities for the establishment of a web portal.

Conclusion:

14. In 2009 and leading into the next meeting of the IAEG-GS, the Advisory Group on Gender Statistics Training agreed to:
- Review the revised version of “Engendering Statistics” that will be developed based on the outline presented at the meeting, and develop a mechanism for the dissemination of training materials.
 - Review and propose content for a global web portal for gender statistics.

Next steps:

15. On the training manual:
- a. Members to send comments on the annotated outline to UNSD (genderstat@un.org) by 27 February 2009.
 - b. UNSD to continue to work to further develop the manual also taking regional efforts into consideration.
 - c. In close collaboration with regional commissions and other partners, UNSD to carry out training workshops based on the manual after it is completed.
16. On the common repository system for training materials:
- a. UNSD will consider a proposal for the development of a common repository system of all existing training material on gender statistics.

- b. A small working group, composed of the WB, UNSD and regional commissions, will work on the proposal (by 30 June 2009).

Table 1: Attendance List of the Meeting of the Advisory Group on Gender Statistics Training Activities and Curricula

29th January 2009, Accra, Ghana

	Country/Organization	Represented by
Members		
1.	Ghana, GSS	Grace Bediako Nicholas N. N. Nsowah-Nuamah Nkansah Marfo Emmanuel A. Cobbinah Opoku Manu Asare Francis K. Yankey
2.	India (Chair), CSO	S. K. Das S. Chakrabarti
3.	USA, US Census Bureau	Marcella Jones
4.	African Development Bank	Michel Mouyelo-Katoula Stephen Bahemuka
5.	DESA/DAW	Sylvia Cohen
6.	UNDP	Daniela Gregr
7.	UNECE	Jessica Gardner
8.	World Bank Institute	Gulnara Febres
9.	UNSD	Francesca Perucci Linda Hooper
Observers		
10.	Cote d'Ivoire, UNESA	Mosso Rosine Addy
11.	Ghana Inst. of Management & Public Administration (Gimpa)	Charity Binka
12.	Ghana, RIPS, University Of Ghana	Philomena Nyarko
13.	Italy, ISTAT	Sara Demofonti
14.	Kenya, NBS	Rosemary Uside Kongani
15.	Nigeria, NBS	Patricia Eweama
16.	Pakistan, PCO	Khizarhayat Khan
17.	Palestinian Occupied Territory, CBS	Enaia Zidan
18.	Philippines, NSCB	Lina V. Castro
19.	Senegal, ANSD	Mamadou Falou Mbengue
20.	Uganda, ISAE	Yeko Mwanga Jonathan Odwee
21.	UNECA	Souleymane Abdallah
22.	UNIFEM - Cote d'Ivoire	Malenin Coulibaly

Annex 2:

Report of the Second Meeting Advisory Group on Global Gender Statistics and Indicators Databases, Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics Accra, Ghana 29 January 2009

Chair: Mexico

1. The second meeting of the Advisory Group on Global Gender Statistics and Indicators Databases took place in the morning of 29 January and was chaired by Ms Maria Eugenia Gomez Luna of Mexico. Other group members in attendance were representatives from Canada, Malawi, the Philippines, Zimbabwe, OECD Development Center, UN-ESCWA, UNSD, UNIFEM and the World Bank. A considerable number of observers representing countries and international as well as regional and local organizations were also present (See table 2 for list of attending members and observers).

2. A presentation reviewing global databases of gender statistics and indicators was made by UNSD on behalf of Ms Eva Ramirez of Mexico. The presentation included an introduction on the uses and desirable characteristics of a gender statistics database, a brief overview and critique of UNSD's gender indicators database GenderInfo 2007, a comparison of GenderInfo with five global (or regional) gender information systems as well as with MDG Indicators requirements and the ECLAC database for monitoring Beijing Platform for Action, and ended with a list of issues for discussion.

3. A summary of the discussion follows.

Summary of the discussion:

4. The need for a strategic thrust to guide the development of the global database was emphasized, so as to avert the risk of powerful agencies forwarding their own interests in the database.

5. A concern was expressed regarding the tension between nationally produced statistics versus international estimates, as estimates produced by international agencies can differ considerably from nationally produced figures. However, some experts acknowledged the value added by recasting nationally reported statistics into internationally comparable statistics on the basis of a common definition and time frame. If national data were to be used without adjustments, the group agreed that the differences in data quality and in the concepts and standards used would make the comparison impossible. The recommendation was that whenever estimates are produced, the methods have to be transparent and clearly reported in the metadata.

6. It was agreed that the advisory group identify important data gaps, with a view to expanding the list of thematic areas and data sources. Some of the topics where data gaps are most evident were mentioned, including: migration, unpaid work, internationally displaced persons, violence against women, etc.

7. The group agreed that the development of the global gender statistics database would benefit from a review of the existing gender databases. If a portal is developed, it should include links to the other existing databases, for example those maintained by ECE and ECLAC.

8. A proposal to devise a core set of indicators relevant to gender concerns received broad support from the group. Discussion on this proposal included:

- the importance of a mandate to promote the adoption and use of the core set of indicators;
- the need to prioritize the indicators;
- the need to assess the different levels of development of gender statistics around the world, as a basis for the discussion on what indicators would be suitable to the majority of countries;
- the need to review existing lists of indicators as a basis for the work (e.g., IAEG on MDG gender sub-group's list; frameworks like CEDAW);
- the need to have early agreement on the thematic areas to be covered and subsequently the indicators within each theme;
- a caution to not overload the core set;
- the use of the core set as advocacy for capacity building.

9. While a mandate is important for ensuring that priority is given to the production of the core set of gender indicators, experts noted that acquiring such mandate can take time and agreed that national statistical systems need not wait for the mandate to proceed with this work.

Conclusion:

10. In 2009 and leading into the next meeting of the IAEG-GS, the Advisory Group on global databases agreed to:

- review and propose content and plans for the development of a global gender statistics and indicators database
- develop a core set of gender indicators to be promoted for adoption by member states.

11. Ghana, South Africa, UN-ECA and UNHCR were added as new members of the Advisory Group on Databases.

Next steps:

12. On the global gender statistics database:

- a. Members will carefully review the paper by Mexico and suggest themes (topics) and subtopics to be added to GenderInfo, taking into account the content of the other databases reviewed (by 31 March 2009).
- b. The Chair of the Advisory group will consolidate members' suggestions and prepare a document proposing the content of a global statistics database and the sources to be used. In addition, some issues will be put forward for discussion, for example data exchange protocols, periodicity and mode of dissemination (by 31 May 2009).

- c. UNSD will summarize the information on data and database development reported by countries and agencies in the 2008 UNSD Survey on Gender Statistics (by 31 May 2009).

14. On the core set of gender indicators:

- a. A sub-group composed of Mexico, South Africa, World Bank, OECD, Canada, UNIFEM and UNSD will develop and propose the initial set of core gender indicators and circulate it to all members of the Advisory Group (by 31 March 2009).
- b. Members of the Advisory Group will provide feedback to Chair (by 31 May 2009).
- c. The chair will incorporate comments from the Advisory Group and prepare a final version of the document including the final core set of indicators to be distributed to all members of the Advisory Group for final review (by 31 July 2009). The proposed core set of gender indicators will be presented at the next meeting of the IAEG.
- d. The chair will prepare, in collaboration with UNSD, a background paper reviewing the current state of national statistical systems with respect to gender statistics, based on existing compilations and reviews, and incorporating the results of the survey on gender statistics conducted by UNSD in 2008 (to be completed three months before the next meeting of the IAEG-GS).

Table 2: Attendance List of the Meeting of the Advisory Group on Global Gender Statistics and Indicators Databases

29th January 2009, Accra, Ghana

	Country/Organization	Represented by
Members		
1.	Canada, Statistics Canada	Heather Dryburgh
2.	Jordan, DOS	Ahmed Al-Budirate
3.	Malawi, NSO	Mylen Mahobe
4.	Mexico (Chair), INEG	Maria Eugenia Gomez
5.	Philippines, NSCB	Jessamyn Encarnacion
6.	Zimbabwe, CSO	Lindiwe Ngwenya
7.	ESCWA	Neda Jafar
8.	OECD – Development Centre	Espen Beer Prydz
9.	UNECA	Dimitri Sanga
10.	UNHCR	Khassoum Diallo
11.	UNIFEM	Hanny Cueva Beteta
12.	World Bank	Sulekha Patel
13.	UNSD	Francesca Perucci Erlinda Go Margaret Mbogoni
Observers		
14.	Cote d'Ivoire, INS	Nouhoun Coulibaly
15.	Ghana, GSS	Anthony Krakah
16.	Ghana, RIPS, University of Ghana	Philomena Nyarko
17.	Niger, Ministere de la Promotion de la	Soumalia Boubacar

	Femme et de la Protection de l'Enfant	
18.	Nigeria, NBS	Asuzu Michael Chukwuma
19.	Norway, Statistics Norway	Gunnor Iversen Moyo
20.	South Africa, Statistics South Africa	Pali Lehohla
21.	Sweden, SIDA	Thomas Kjellson
22.	Uganda, UBS	Norah Madaya Grace Bulenzi- Gulere
23.	ECOWAS	Baber H. Tandina
24.	UNIFEM	Afua Ansre
25.	UNESCO, UIS	Said Belkachla