United Nations Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Statistics Division
17th Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics
Johannesburg, South Africa, 28 August 2023

Summary of discussion and conclusions*

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* This document was formulated without formal editing.

I. Background, objectives and organization of the meeting

1.   The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), [1] was established in 2007 and is comprised of gender statistics and policy experts representing national, regional, and international institutions. The IAEG-GS was set up to promote collaboration among key stakeholders, discuss and agree on priority areas to strengthen gender statistics and fill in gender data gaps, in a coordinated manner. As mandated by the Statistical Commission in 2012 through decision 42/102, the work of the Group was expanded to include, inter-alia, (a) developing methodological guidelines for the production and use of gender statistics; (b) serving as the coordination mechanism for the Global Gender Statistics Programme, including by convening annual meetings of the Group; and (c) biannually contributing to the Global Forum on Gender Statistics.

2.   The 17th Meeting of the IAEG-GS took place in Johannesburg, South Africa on 28 August 2023 and had the following objectives:

(a) To discuss ongoing initiatives on mainstreaming gender into select non-traditional areas of gender statistics, and agree on a way forward for the work of IAEG-GS Advisory Group to contribute to the request of the Statistical Commission on mainstreaming a gender perspective into the work of the Commission;

(b) To showcase national initiatives on closing data gaps for monitoring gender equality;

(c) To present and discuss elements to be featured in the Secretary-General report on gender statistics for the 55th session of the Statistical Commission, including the work on time-use statistics and the results from the 2022 Global Survey on gender statistics;

(d) To review progress of methodological work on technology-facilitated violence against women;

(e) To provide updates by the Regional Commissions and international agencies on their ongoing initiatives to strengthen gender statistics; and

(f) To agree on future work priorities for the IAEG-GS.

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[1] Current members of the Group include the National Statistical Offices of 21 countries, namely, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Philippines, South Africa (Co-chair), Switzerland (Co-chair), Uganda, United States, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, and the following organizations: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Office, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the International Telecommunication Union, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the United Nations Population Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Population Division, the United Nations regional commissions, the United Nations Statistics Division (Secretariat), the United Nations entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, the World Health Organization and the World Bank Group.

3.   The meeting was attended by gender statistics experts representing international, regional, and national institutions that are part of the IAEG-GS as well as experts working in the areas of trade statistics and national accounts in selected countries. Participants included 29 experts from 18 national statistical offices (Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, India, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda, United States, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe), 4 experts from Regional Commissions (ECA, ECE, ECLAC and ESCAP), 12 experts from 9 international organizations (ILO, OECD/Paris21, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO and the World Bank), and 3 experts from UNSD, the Secretariat of the IAEG-GS. See Annex I for the list of participants.

4.   The meeting was held in person and in accordance with the sequence listed on the agenda (see Annex II). It was facilitated by UNSD and the IAEG-GS' outgoing co-chair, Ms. Katja Branger from the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) of Switzerland, who also delivered opening remarks. Closing remarks were delivered by incoming co-chair, Mr. Solly Molayi from Statistics South Africa.

II.   Summary of discussions

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into the work of the Statistical Commission

5.   The United Nations Statistics Division presented the analysis done on the basis of reports discussed and decisions made at the 54th session of the UN Statistical Commission with respect to the inclusion of the gender perspective or consideration of gender issues, even though the topic of gender statistics was not in the agenda. It was noted that there are important advances and opportunities in all three pillars (social, economic and environmental) as well as in cross-cutting areas. The consideration of gender issues appears to be more frequently included in the agenda of the UN Statistical Commission (reports, decisions and side events), and a wider range of statistical domains, particularly outside the traditional topics, such as data stewardship, innovation and modernization of official statistics, or national accounts. The Group noted that this represents a valuable opportunity for action, and as such, both the secretariat and the Advisory Group on mainstreaming a gender perspective have already accompanied the production of some of the documents submitted to the Commission. Furthermore, the Group welcomed the conduction of this analytical exercise every year by the Secretariat to be brought to its attention for possible action as relevant.

6.   The Group discussed progress made by the Advisory Group on the preparation of a guidance note highlighting gender issues and rationale for mainstreaming gender in business and trade statistics, led by Italy, in the framework of decision 51/115(b) [2] of the Statistical Commission and decisions of the IAEG-GS in previous meetings. Italy presented the draft guidance note that had already been enriched by feedback from

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[2] United Nations (2020), Report on the fifty-first session (3–6 March 2020) (E/2020/24-E/CN.3/2020/37), New York, Statistical Commission.

members of the Advisory Group and Secretariat. The note emphasizes women's participation in the economy as a powerful resource to achieve gender equality and zooms into entrepreneurship and trade. The most salient conceptual frameworks are briefly discussed, making every effort to mainstream gender in all stages of the statistical production process, and also highlighting key statistical considerations and challenges related to linking data from different data sources and across statistical domains. The note is accompanied by an annex showcasing national practices that have been volunteered by country members of the Group. Members offered to contribute further feedback and inputs.

7.   The Group expressed support for the work of Italy and the Advisory Group on gender mainstreaming in regard to the field of business and trade statistics. Feedback given included an emphasis on the communicational aspect of the note, as more effective communication with users is needed to motivate demand, while details on how to operationalize the approach can be referenced to existing methodological publications on gender and trade (by UNCTAD). Thus, bearing in mind that the note is mainly being developed for communicational purposes within NSOs and other members of NSS, a short version of it will be needed. Once a revised draft is prepared, the Advisory Group is planning on sharing it with the Task Team on Business Dynamics, Demography and Entrepreneurship for comments and possible integration in their methodological manuals. The note will be presented as a background document at the 55th session of the Statistical Commission.

8.   Also, in the context of mainstreaming the gender perspective in all areas of official statistics, the Group was briefed about the work carried out on the topic of environment and climate change statistics by the Advisory Group, led by Mexico. The Group discussed the intersections of environment, climate change and disasters and their relationship to gender roles and issues, reviewed existing relevant conceptual frameworks and policy questions, as well as the myriad of data sources that could feed these frameworks.

9.   The Group expressed support for the work of Mexico and the Advisory Group on gender mainstreaming in regard to the field of environment and climate change. Feedback given included a recommendation to narrow focus to climate change as an immediate approach and to prepare a summary of work carried out thus far in order to facilitate the understanding of gender issues in statistics related to climate change. In addition, it was noted that there are gender-relevant issues that are not included in the *Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators*[3].

Methodological developments on technology-facilitated violence against women
10.   As requested by the Group at its 16th meeting in 2022, UN Women, WHO and UNFPA presented key updates of their continuing joint or coordinated efforts to measure technology-facilitated violence against women (TF-VAW). The presentation emphasized that VAW is committed, assisted, aggravated, or amplified by the use of ICTs or other

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[3] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/climatechange.cshtml

digital tools, and highlighted that the ongoing methodological work seeks to understand what is known about TF-VAW, who is currently generating this knowledge, how the evidence is being produced, and consult with experts in the statistical community and other sectors. Based on this, the three agencies aim to develop shared standards on concepts, definitions and practices and methods for collecting data on TF-VAW.

11. Key findings of three research papers were presented, which confirmed that there is a large and growing body of evidence, collected mainly by women and human rights organisations, the UN and academia, and lately by National Statistical Offices. The research also revealed significant gaps which hinder the understanding, measuring and addressing TF-VAW, as follows. First, while TF-VAW reflects and exacerbates existing forms and patterns of VAW, it also presents new forms of violence against women. Second, existing global and regional prevalence estimates of TF-VAW can differ significantly due to questions asked, forms measured and other factors. Third, there is multiplicity and complementarity of data sources. Fourth, research mainly focuses on the forms and prevalence of TF-VAW, and less on the risk factors and drivers. Fifth, much of literature and available data are focused on online spaces. Sixth, available evidence reveals who is most at risk, highlighting the importance of data disaggregation for intersectionality analysis. Seventh, denominators vary from one survey to the other. Lastly, current data is mostly biased towards the Global North.

12. Following an expert group meeting convened by UN Women and WHO, under their joint programme on violence against women data, in November 2022, a proposed common definition of TF-VAW was developed as "Any act that is committed, assisted, aggravated or amplified by the use of ICTs or other digital tools, that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological, social, political or economic harm, or other infringements of rights and freedoms". Upcoming activities towards common definitions and methodologies include further consultations, in-depth workshops and technical sessions in order to set research priorities for the next years.

13. It was added that the questionnaire of the WHO multi-country survey, in its 2017-18 update, included two initial questions on TF-VAW, which conceptualized it as a modality of existing forms of violence, and were added within the question set on controlling behaviours by a partner or husband and sexual harassment. Furthermore, in the ongoing update to the questionnaire, still in testing stages, a review of questions on TF-VAW, and expert consultations have been conducted. Key considerations for adding TF-VAW questions into existing VAW surveys relate to the structure and placement within the questionnaire, and whether TF-VAW is considered a modality or a new form of violence.

14. UNFPA highlighted that its work is focused on technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TF-GBV), whereby numerous studies have been carried out. Furthermore, a module on TF-GBV will be added to the kNOwVAWdata course.

15.   To complement and illustrate the joint presentation of UN Women, WHO and UNFPA, Morocco presented their national experience collecting TF-VAW data. There are three main sources of TF-VAW data, namely the 2019 VAW prevalence survey, administrative records from various departments dealing with women subjected to violence and administrative data obtained from online reports (help lines). A dedicated module for TF-VAW was included in the 2019 VAW survey, which collected information from women aged 15-74 who used ICTs (mobile phone, computer, tablet, landline phone). The questionnaire asked about six acts of TF-VAW, where women were considered victims of TF-VAW if they had responded positively to at least one. In addition, frequency of occurrence, information on the relationship of the victim to perpetrator was collected, as well as their sex. Morocco's presentation included the main results of the survey in relation to TF-VAW, strengths and limitations of the statistical exercise, and challenges and recommendations stemming from it.

16.   The Statistical Commission, through decision 54/104 (h), "took note of the need for methodological work to measure TF-VAW and existing efforts to address this gap, and asked for this item to be included in the agenda of the 55th session". Thus, UNSD will seek guidance from the Bureau of the Commission on the format of including the topic in the agenda of the upcoming session.

Gender statistics in the 55th session of the UN Statistical Commission

17.   UNSD presented to the Group the key elements to be contained in the report of the Secretary-General on Gender Statistics, to be submitted for discussion and decision to the UN Statistical Commission during its 55th session in 2024. The report will inform the Commission on the latest updates on the work on time-use statistics, including finalizing the revised Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use, its accompanying resource hub, and capacity development activities.

18.   The report will also convey the main results and lessons learned from the 2022 Global Survey on Gender Statistics, which was responded to by 107 countries in total. The presentation highlighted that gender statistics are more firmly established in the National Statistical Systems than a decade ago, and that resource allocation for gender statistics had increased for 25% of countries before the pandemic, and for 15% of countries since the onset of the pandemic. Other selected results were also included in the presentation.

19.   The conclusions of the 9th Global Forum on Gender Statistics, convened in Johannesburg from 29-31 August by UNSD in collaboration with Statistics South Africa, will also be covered in the report. The theme of the Forum was: "Measuring what we value - gender statistics for an informed care economy". The Forum was organized into 8 thematic sessions and 2 high-level panels to discuss issues related to gender equality and the care economy; unpaid work and time use; gender mainstreaming efforts of the National Statistics Systems; advancements in incorporating a gender lens into the production and use of climate change and trade statistics; violence against women and

girls; innovations to close gender data gaps; legal identity and gender equality; and gender statistics in Africa.

20.   The report will also contain the conclusions and decisions of the 16th and 17th meetings of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS)[4], including its work on mainstreaming the gender perspective into the work of the Statistical Commission, and the salient planned activities of UNSD under the Global Gender Statistics Programme. These include building synergies between the work of the IAEG-GS and the Friends of the Chair Group on Social and Demographic Statistics; further streamlining gender statistics publications by enhancing the UN Gender Data Hub and discontinuing the current format of World's Women; and preparations related to the 55th session of the Statistical Commission.

21.   Finally, the report may contain a section on the methodological developments on technology-facilitated violence against women, to be prepared jointly by UN Women, WHO and UNFPA, subject to guidance from the Bureau of the Statistical Commission.

National and international developments and initiatives to strengthen gender statistics and close data gaps for monitoring gender equality

22.   The meeting took note of most recent initiatives taken by Finland, Canada, India and Georgia, who shared their national perspectives on closing data gaps on gender equality.

23.   Finland shared its experience in the coordination of the statistical aspects in publications on gender equality in Finland. In particular, the publication *Gender Equality in Finland 2021* included new sections on environment and the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Group was briefed on the current discussions taking place in regard to contemporary publication formats, including electronic publications that are heavy on data visualisation and light in text, such as short articles, policy briefs and blogs. In addition, Finland briefed the Group on the latest and upcoming surveys on gender-based violence (2021), gender equality barometer (2017, and possibly 2024), time-use (2021), quality of work life with a thematic focus on ecological sustainability (2023). Plans for 2024 also include valuation of household production and also the EU survey on income and living conditions.

24.   Recently, Statistics Finland concluded a study on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on gender equality (2020–2022); and is currently working on a variety of activities to close data gaps for monitoring gender equality, which include, a project on the costs of domestic violence (2021–2022), and contributions to other initiatives such as gender equality in the Arctic, the national child strategy and child data, gender matters in the media, politics and leadership, and dismantling segregation. In an experimental exercise, Statistics Finland is looking at gender in trade by linking enterprise and employment data,

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[4] See section III. Summary of agreed activities

which is showing promising results. In regards to gender equality in environment or climate change statistics, there is no dedicated initiative; however, many surveys and selected registers include environmental issues that can be exploited. Finally, Finland shared select labour statistics obtained by combining register and survey data, showing the interaction of gender with migration.

25.   Canada shared the two-step approach used to measure sex at birth and gender, noting that both concepts are not necessarily included in all data collections. Gender is collected and analysed by default, while sex at birth is only collected in certain health and demographic exercises. Thus, when both questions are asked, it is possible to measure the population of transgender and non-binary individuals. Statistics Canada presented the classifications and definitions used by the NSO to measure sex and gender. This approach resulted from extensive consultation and tests. Potential data quality and confidentiality issues were highlighted given that transgender and non-binary population is small. Statistics Canada shared select results and publications on gender diversity, based on the 2021 population census, and introduced the newly launched *Sex, Gender and Sexual Orientation Hub*.

26.   Currently, Statistics Canada is working on a variety of activities to close gender data gaps focusing on intersectional analysis of the wage gap, labour market outcomes and low-income status, including for lone mothers and immigrants. In addition, Canada hailed the *Gender Results Framework* as a good practice to identify priority areas of action for advancing gender equality, and highlighted the role of statistical standards to provide more disaggregated information for population groups.

27.   India informed the Group about their innovative initiatives in gender statistics for improved assessment of the status of women and girls. These include national surveys on family health, time-use, labour force and other household socio-economic surveys, as well as the annual publication *Women and Men in India*. In addition, India has developed a National Indicator Framework for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and releases annual progress reports based on the latest data contained therein. As a way forward, India emphasised the contextualisation of global methodologies for SDG indicators, the increased use of administrative data for higher granularity and better periodicity, the alignment of surveys to bridge data gaps of SDG monitoring, and capacity building in gender statistics at national and sub-national level.

28.   The Group was briefed about the recent time-use survey in Georgia, conducted in 2020-2021 for the first time as one of the priorities in the *National Strategy for the Development of Statistics* and in the *Strategy for Gender Statistics*. The survey followed the *Harmonised European Time Use Surveys Guidelines*, is consistent with the *International Classification of Activities for Time-use Statistics* (ICATUS 2016), used face-to-face computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) for household and individual questionnaires, and self-administered paper interview for diaries as data collection instruments. Georgia's presentation covered other methodological issues such as

sample design, data collection flows, and adaptations or modifications to improve data quality. Challenges underlined by Georgia are related to conducting fieldwork during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to achieving an acceptable response rate.

29.   Georgia also presented dissemination products based on the result of the time-use survey, including excel tables, a survey report and accompanying database, as well as a press release. The comprehensive suite of dissemination products enabled disaggregation by ICATUS major division, age group, settlement type, employment status, education status, weekdays and weekends, among others. Finally, Georgia shared a select series of SDG 5.4.1 *Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work*, computed based on the survey.

30.   During the discussion that followed, the Group acknowledged that the measurement of gender identity, a constantly evolving concept, is still in its early stages for the purpose of official statistics. The importance of communicating well the key role of gender statistics was also highlighted, even in countries that seemingly have achieved gender equality. The Group also discussed profusely the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic had not only on women and men, and gender dynamics but also on the conduction of statistical activities; these far-fetching effects will only become clearer as time passes and subsequent waves of data collection are undertaken, e.g. population and housing censuses and time-use surveys.

31.   The Group was also briefed by the UN Regional Commissions and international organizations present in the meeting on new regional and international initiatives they have been carrying out aimed at improving gender statistics.

32.   ESCAP briefed the Group about the regional Committee on Statistics decision to advance the mainstreaming of gender in its work and corresponding objectives in the programme plan: an increased number of national statistical systems having enhanced capacity to apply gender considerations in their statistical work and an increased number of national statistical systems having mainstreamed gender considerations across their statistical work. Guided by this, ESCAP is carrying out work to assess inequalities in birth and death registration[5], and supporting the use of these data and evidence to inform gender-relevant policy outcomes. Thus far, this work has been implemented in Fiji and Bangladesh, with Lao PDR forthcoming, focusing on topics like teenage or adolescent motherhood, child marriage and population groups that exhibit delayed registration[6]. ESCAP has completed the pilot project on using big data to measure the gender-environment nexus[7]; this work supported NSOs to explore the use of alternative data sources and yielded indicators with sex disaggregation with relatively high accuracy, lower cost and shorter time frame. Outcomes of this project include guidance documents on big data models and recommendations for national strategies on using big data for

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[5] https://www.unescap.org/projects/inequality-assessments
[6] https://www.unescap.org/projects/crvs-E2A-for-gender-policy
[7] https://www.unescap.org/projects/big-data-environment-gender

official statistics on gender and environment. ESCAP has been invited by Data2X, Paris21 and Open Data Watch to support the expansion of the Gender Data Network to the region, building on the successes of the work in Africa, to facilitate knowledge sharing and advance inter-regional engagement and peer learning. In addition, a peer support network for female heads of NSOs has been initiated.

33. ECE reminded the Group about recent publications[8], and briefed the Group about its activities together with UNCTAD and ECA in the implementation of the Development Account (12th tranche) project on Data and statistics for more gender-responsive trade policies in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The project is concluding by end of 2023 with successful pilot studies in Georgia and Kazakhstan involving assessment and inventory of data sources for measuring various gender aspects of trade, as well as microdata linkage. In addition, in the framework of the Conference of European Statisticians revision of the recommendations for population and housing censuses for the 2030 round, ECE is coordinating the activities of the task force on sex and gender. For the purposes of censuses, this task force is considering the definition of sex and gender and will produce recommendations for countries that are introducing these questions in their census questionnaire, including response categories. ECE also reported on the recently held regional workshop and meeting of the regional Group of Experts on Gender Statistics, where discussion topics included: gender pay gap, violence against women, new approaches to measuring unpaid work, gender digital divide, climate and environment, measuring sex and gender, and new data sources, as well as gender and trade. Speaking about the path forward, ECE highlighted activities on gender stereotypes and discrimination, where current national practices will be collected to develop a plan for methodological work. Other plans include collecting national practices and expert inputs on technology-facilitated violence against women.

34. ECA briefed the Group about its activities under the Capacity Building for Gender Statistics and Monitoring Systems project that aims at improving gender-responsive programming and addressing inequality by providing data on the invisible and most vulnerable groups. The beneficiary countries of this project are Burundi, Mozambique, South Sudan and Zimbabwe. All four countries are working on mainstreaming gender in the national strategy for the development of statistics (NSDS); Burundi and South Sudan will start assessment of civil registration and vital statistics; Zimbabwe is developing a thematic report on gender, based on the 2022 census; and Mozambique and Zimbabwe will integrate a time-use module in a selected survey. Gender-relevant deliverables include gender fact sheets or status reports, and national gender indicator frameworks, along with corresponding baselines, building on the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators

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[8] Guidance on Measuring the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic (https://statswiki.unece.org/display/measuringcovid19impact/Measuring+the+impact+of+the+Covid-19+pandemic+on+women+and+men), Guidance for Measuring Intra-household Power and Decision-making (https://unece.org/statistics/publications/guidance-measuring-intra-household-power-and-decision-making), Guidance on Communicating Gender Statistics (https://unece.org/statistics/publications/guidance-communicating-gender-statistics), Guide on Valuing Unpaid Household Service Work (https://unece.org/statistics/publications/guide-valuing-unpaid-household-service-work) and the repository and networking platform on gender identity (https://statswiki.unece.org/display/genderidnetwork)

for Africa. In the framework of the Development Account (12th tranche) project on Data and statistics for more gender-responsive trade policies in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, jointly implemented with UNCTAD and ECE, ECA adapted the UNTACD Gender Sensitive Trade Statistics framework to the African context and developed statistical guidelines for the compilation of trade and gender statistics. In addition, assessments were conducted in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Senegal and Cameroon, with national workshops conducted to discuss the conceptual framework and identify national data available, data needs and possible actions to address gaps. Data was collected and analysed, culminating in national reports and a regional workshop to share findings.

35.   ECLAC highlighted recent and ongoing work in mainstreaming the gender perspective through a regional advisory group which guides the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA) in preparing their outputs from the first stages. At the same time, a dedicated working group[9] has developed a methodological guide for mainstreaming the gender perspective in official statistics; this working group is composed by 13 countries from the region and is coordinated by Mexico. These Guidelines are expected to be endorsed by the SCA in September this year. Other recent work involves the *Methodological Guide on Time-Use Measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean*[10], endorsed by the SCA in 2021. This Guide contains a minimum set of time-use activities prioritizing the care economy and women's autonomy, explicitly links different international standards, such as CAUTAL, ICATUS and SNA, and showcases successful cases of using information on time-use for care policy formulation. In addition, ECLAC is hosting a Community of Practice on Measuring the Care Society, which provides a space to exchange experiences and knowledge in order to strengthen statistical data for the implementation of care policies in the region. In addition, ECLAC drew the Group's attention to the publication *The care society. A horizon for sustainable recovery with gender equality*[11].

36.   UNDP reported about the new gender indices in human development, namely the Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI), the Women's Empowerment Index (WEI) and the Global Gender Parity Index (GGPI). The GSNI, composed of four dimensions - political, educational, economic and physical integrity - has shown a decade of stagnation in the number of people holding bias against women whereby close to 90% of people have at least one gender social norms bias. On the other hand, the WEI and the GGPI form a twin-index measurement framework aligned with the SDGs. The WEI is based on five dimension – life and good health, education, skill-building and knowledge, labour and financial inclusion, participation in decision-making, and freedom from violence – while the GGPI assesses the gender gaps across four dimensions – same as the WEI, except from the dimension on violence. Key findings show that women are empowered to achieve only 60% of their full potential and that higher human development does not automatically translate into women's empowerment and gender equality. UNDP

[9] https://rtc-cea.cepal.org/en/working-group/guidelines-mainstreaming-gender-perspective-statistical-production/2022-2023
[10] https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/48020-methodological-guide-time-use-measurements-latin-america-and-caribbean
[11] https://oig.cepal.org/en/documents/care-society-horizon-sustainable-recovery-gender-equality

highlighted the complimentary nature of these twin indices, as together they can shed light on complex challenges faced by women and can pave the way for targeted interventions.

37.   WHO updated the Group on the WHO-UN Women joint programme to strengthen data and measurement on violence against women (VAW), focusing on the methodological briefing notes regarding violence against older women, violence against women with disabilities, psychological partner violence and non-partner sexual violence. WHO also presented the VAW data measurement package, which is comprised by a checklist to ensure the quality of surveys that measure prevalence of VAW, and a checklist to ensure inclusion of women with disability, and the topic of disability, in research on VAW. In addition, there are updates to the WHO ethical and safety guidance on researching VAW, ongoing work on the WHO multi-country survey questionnaire long and short versions, and also ongoing updates to the *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women*. The cognitive ad pilot testing of the survey module on violence against older women is also currently being undertaken; WHO extended an invitation to countries interested in testing this module. WHO informed the Group that an expansion of the global database[12] on the prevalence of VAW (SDGs 5.2.1 and 5.2.2) is available, includes source data and estimates from 161 countries and areas, and presents data disaggregated through interactive maps. Other work entails capacity strengthening webinars and a new course on using data to end VAW has become available in the Apolitical platform[13], targeting the wide public.

38.   UNFPA briefed the Group on its ongoing work to track progress of SDG indicators 5.6.1[14], based on the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and other national surveys, and 5.6.2[15], based on official responses to the United Nations 12th and 13th Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development. UNFPA reported a significant increase in data coverage for SDG indicator 5.6.1 in the past five years through partnerships with DHS, MICS, Regional Commissions, and key national government institutions, while SDG indicator 5.6.2 was upgraded to Tier 1. Looking forward, UNFPA will facilitate national multistakeholder dialogues to operationalize and strengthen ownership of SDG 5.6 data and will conduct an expert group meeting.

39.   PARIS21 briefed the Group on its work to unlock gender data use, studying the constraints and enablers of official gender statistics use in national policymaking. PARIS21 described the approach taken in target countries (Dominican Republic, Kenya, the Maldives and Rwanda), which comprises a literature review, document analysis, inception workshops, stakeholder survey and interviews with key informants. Emerging

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[12] https://vaw-data.srhr.org/

[13] https://apolitical.co/microcourses/en/using-data-to-end-violence-against-women/

[14] Proportion of women aged 15-49 who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care.

[15] Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education.

lessons include the recognition of the value that qualitative research adds, the potential of a modular approach, the centrality of national context and circumstances and the cornerstone importance of bringing together data users and producers. As outputs of this work, PARIS21 will produce a global toolkit including the full methodology, a global report and country briefs.

40.   The World Bank briefed the Group on implementing the Strengthening Gender Statistics project, launched in 2021, to narrow gender data gaps in national statistical systems. Through tailored support to survey design and post-survey dissemination, the project is scaling up international guidelines (e.g. EDGE, LSMS+) to improved collection and production of indicators related to assets, employment and entrepreneurship in 12 countries. Thus far, the project has produced guidance materials on assessing gender data gaps, engendering household surveys and engendering data in COVID-19 response, among other products, as well as numerous blogs. It is expected that before the end of 2024, the project will continue releasing newsletters, hosting events of the Community of Practice, supporting questionnaire design and implementation, leading indicator calculation trainings, and supporting dissemination of country-level products, among other activities.

41.   UNICEF presented highlights from its work on gender data collection, analysis & dissemination. In terms of gender data collection, the MICS7 developments include new complementary modules with strong gender relevance: VAW, decision-making on reproductive health, adolescent and youth mental health, population not in employment, education or training (NEET), ICT and social media use, and children's time-use. In terms of gender data analysis, the 2023 UNICEF report highlights progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, with a special focus on gender; challenges in the digital divide; latest trends and future prospects of child marriage; and the global nutrition crisis in adolescent girls and women. In terms of gender data dissemination, UNICEF has developed country profiles featuring key indicators to monitor the status and well-being of adolescent girls.

42.   UN Women presented updates on their initiatives to strengthen gender statistics. New advancements in women's political participation data include the UN Gender Quota Portal, launched in 2023; a methodological paper on measuring women's representation in national executive positions; harmomised surveys on VAW in elected office and comparable data for five countries; and cooperation with the Praia City Group on a questionnaire for measuring political participation and guidance on administrative electoral data. UN Women introduced the "Counted and visible" toolkit of production and use of disaggregated gender statistics in English, French and Spanish; and a brief study of practices on data use in Asia-Pacific countries which identifies barriers and opportunities for evidence-informed decision-making. Upcoming products and activities include a joint report with PARIS21 on the gender data outlook; and participation in the gender-environment data conference at COP28 in Dubai, UAE.

III. Summary of agreed activities

1. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into the work of the Statistical Commission

Activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Finalise guidance note on trade and business statistics as background document for 55th session of the Statistical Commission	Italy and Advisory group (Colombia, Finland, India, Mexico, Switzerland, USA, Vietnam, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, UNCTAD, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WB, and UNSD)	End 2023
Extract key messages for SG report on gender statistics and for executive summary of guidance note	Italy and UNSD	November 2023
Prepare contribution for SG report on gender statistics on environment and climate change	Mexico and Advisory Group (Colombia, Finland, India, Italy, Switzerland, USA, Vietnam, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, UNCTAD, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WB, and UNSD)	November 2023
Prepare draft guidance note focusing on the topic of climate change, making analysis of data gaps and linking to gender-relevant SDGs.	Mexico and Advisory group (Colombia, Finland, India, Italy, Switzerland, USA, Vietnam, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, UNCTAD, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WB, and UNSD)	Next meeting of IAEG-GS
Analyse the inclusion of gender issues in Statistical Commission agenda	UNSD	Every year

2. 55th session of the Statistical Commission

Activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Prepare official SG report on gender statistics and background documents of 55th session of the Commission	UNSD	November 2023 / January 2024
Prepare contribution on TF-VAW (to take stock of joint progress and continue work) for 55th session of the Commission	UNWomen, WHO, UNFPA	November 2023
Follow up with Statistical Commission Bureau on format to report on TF-VAW	UNSD, UNWomen, WHO and UNFPA	September 2023

Continue joint efforts and report back to IAEG-GS	UNW, WHO, UNFPA	Share with IAEG methodological material when available; Report back at next meeting of IAEG-GS

3. 2022 Global Survey on Gender Statistics

Activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Prepare summary report as background document of 55th session of the Commission	UNSD	January 2024

4. Network of female chief statisticians

Activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Exchange experiences and views and discuss the possibility of forming a global network	ESCAP and ECLAC	Next IAEG-GS
Organize a side event during the 55th session of the Commission.	UNSD and regional commissions	February 2024

5. Secretariat's work

Activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Continue to streamline gender statistics publications, and discontinue current format of World's Women	UNSD	December 2023
Keep the Group appraised of opportunities to contribute to the FoC Social and Demographic statistics	UNSD	Ongoing
Prepare report and conclusions of 17th meeting	UNSD	January 2024

Annex I: List of participants

	Country	Name	Position	Organisation
1	Brazil	Ms. Cristiane dos Santos Moutinho	Coordinator of Population and Social Indicators	Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics
2	Brazil	Ms. Maria Lucia Pontes Franca Vieira	Deputy Director of Surveys	Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics
3	Canada	Ms. Patricia Houle	Time-use survey manager and Care Economy Project Leader	Statistics Canada
4	Chile	Ms. Maria Isabel Ibañez Browne	Head of the Gender Statistics Subdepartment	National Statistics Institute of Chile
5	Colombia	Ms. Diana Isabel Osorio Cuevas	Head of the Differential and Intersectional Statistics Unit	DANE
6	Colombia	Mr. Manuel Pava Guzman	Specialized professional	DANE
7	Finland	Ms. Marjut Pietiläinen	Senior Researcher	Statistics Finland
8	Georgia	Mr. Gogita Todradze	Executive Director	National Statistics Office
9	Georgia	Mr. Paata Shavishvili	Deputy Executive Director	National Statistics Office
10	Georgia	Mr. Vasil Tsakadze	Head of Social Statistics Department	National Statistics Office of Georgia
11	Ghana	Ms. Dieudonnee Ankamah	Senior Statistician	Ghana Statistical Service
12	India	Mr. Ashwani Kanaujia	Joint Director, Social Statistics Division (SSD)	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
13	Italy	Ms. Maria Clelia Romano	Research Manager	Italian National Institute of Statistics
14	Kazakhstan	Ms. Ainur Dossanova	Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Sustainable Development	Bureau of National Statistics
15	Kazakhstan	Ms. Gulmira Karaulova	Director of the Department of Services and Energy Statistics	Bureau of National Statistics
16	Mexico	Ms. Adriana Oropeza Lliteras	Director of technical coordination - VP of socialdemographic statistics	INEGI
17	Mexico	Ms. Graciela Márquez	President of the Governing Board	INEGI
18	Morocco	Ms. Sanaa Drissi El Bouzaidi	Head of the Socioeconomic Household Surveys Unit	High Commission for Planning
19	Morocco	Ms. Yattou Ait Khellou	Head of the Methodology and Studies Division, National Accounts Directorate	High Commission for Planning
20	Morocco	Mr. Zakaria El Faiz	Head of Modelling Division	High Commission for Planning

21	Philippines	Mr. Adrian Cerezo	Assistant National Statistician	Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)
22	South Africa	Ms. Desiree Manamela	Chief Director: Labour Statistics	Statistics South Africa
23	South Africa	Mr. Solly Molayi	Chief Director for Social Statistics	Statistics South Africa
24	Switzerland	Ms. Katja Branger	Senior Statistician	Swiss Federal Statistical Office
25	Uganda	Ms. Audrey Kemigisha	Senior Statistcian	Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)
26	Uganda	Ms. Diana Byanjeru	Senior Statistcian	Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)
27	United States	Ms. Amy Smith	Senior Demographer	United States Census Bureau
28	Viet Nam	Ms. Nga Nguyen Thi Viet	Principal Statistician	General Statistics Office of Viet Nam
29	Zimbabwe	Mr. Tinashe Mwadiwa	Manager, Social Statistics	ZIMSTAT
30		Ms. Samantha Watson	Labour Statistician	ILO
31		Ms. Lauren Harrison	Policy Analyst, Gender & Inclusive Ecosystems Lead	OECD/PARIS21
32		Ms. Divyanshi Wadhwa	Data Scientist	The World Bank
33		Ms. Heather Moylan		The World Bank
34		Ms. Sara Duerto Valero	Regional Advisor on Gender Statistics in Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	UN Women
35		Ms. Jessamyn Encarnacion	Inter-Regional Advisor on Gender Statistics, Women Count Programme	UN Women
36		Ms. Mariyam Raziyeva	Gender and Trade Consultant	UNCTAD
37		Ms. Yu-Chieh Hsu	Policy Specialist	UNDP
38		Ms. Fatouma Sissoko	Gender Statistics Specialist	ECA
39		Mr. Andres Vikat	Chief of Section	ECE
40		Ms. Lucia Scuro	Social Affairs Officer	ECLAC
41		Ms. Sharita Serrao	Statistician	ESCAP
42		Ms. Mengjia Liang		UNFPA
43		Ms. Priscilla Idele	Chief, Population and Development Branch	UNFPA
44		Ms. Lauren Pandolfelli	Statistics Specialist	UNICEF
45		Ms. Francesca Grum	Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch	UNSD
46		Ms. Iliana Vaca Trigo	Statistician	UNSD
47		Ms. Maria Isabel Cobos	Statistician	UNSD
48		Ms. LynnMarie Sardinha	Technical Officer, Violence Against Women Data and Research	WHO

Annex II: Meeting Agenda

Agenda item	Chair
Session 1. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into the work of the Statistical Commission The session presents the status of work of the Advisory Group on Mainstreaming Gender as well as planned activities of the Group. Presentations by: 1. UNSD on Gender in agenda items of the 54th session of the UN Statistical Commission – Ms. Iliana Vaca-Trigo, Statistician 2. Italian National Institute of Statistics on mainstreaming gender into business/trade statistics – Ms. Clelia Romano, Research Manager 3. INEGI Mexico on mainstreaming gender into environment/climate change statistics – Ms. Adriana Oropeza Director of Technical Coordination Discussion	UNSD – Francesca Grum
Session 2. Countries in focus This session presents innovative initiatives in gender statistics for improved assessment of the status of women and girls in select countries. Presentations by: 1. Statistics Finland on innovative initiatives in gender statistics – Ms. Marjut Pietiläinen, Senior Researcher 2. Statistics Canada on measuring sex, gender and sexual orientation – Ms. Patricia Houle, Time-use survey manager 3. India Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on innovative initiatives in gender statistics - Mr. Ashwani Kanaujia, Joint Director, Social Statistics Division 4. GeoStat Georgia on Time Use Survey – Mr. Vasil Tsakadze, Head of the Social Statistics Department Discussion	Switzerland – Katja Branger
Session 3. Gender statistics in the 55th session of the UN Statistical Commission This session presents and discusses elements, including the work on time-use statistics and the Global Survey, to be featured in the SG report on gender statistics for the upcoming session of the Statistical Commission (March 2024). Presentation by:: 1. UNSD – Ms. María Isabel Cobos, Statistician Discussion	Switzerland – Katja Branger
Session 4. Technology-facilitated violence against women	UNSD – Francesca Grum

This session informs members of the IAEG-GS on progress made on methodological work on technology-facilitated violence against women and existing efforts to address this gap.
 	
Presentations by:
1. UN Women (on behalf of WHO, UNFPA and UN Women) – Ms. Jessamyn Encarnacion, Inter-Regional Advisor on Gender Statistics
   WHO – Ms. LynnMarie Sardinha, Technical Officer
   UNFPA – Ms. Priscilla Idele, Chief of the Population and Development Branch
2. HCP Morocco – Mrs. Sanaa Drissi El Bouzidi, Head of Household Socio-Economic Surveys
 	
Discussion	

Session 5: Initiatives to strengthen gender statistics - updates from Regional Commissions and custodian agencies This session will highlight, for IAEG-GS, members initiatives in gender statistics by regional commissions and international agencies (5 min. each). Presentations by: 1. Regional Commissions a. ESCAP's initiatives on gender data and statistics – Ms. Sharita Serrao, Statistician b. ECE on Gender statistics in the UNECE region: new topics and new approaches – Mr. Andres Vikat, Chief of Section c. ECA on Initiatives to strengthen gender statistics in Africa – Ms. Fatouma Sissoko, Statistician d. ECLAC on initiatives and advancements from Latin America and the Caribbean – Ms. Lucía Scuro, Social Affairs Officer 2. UNDP on New Gender Indices in Human Development– Ms. Yu-Chieh Hsu, Policy Specialist 3. WHO on violence against women – Ms. LynnMarie Sardinha, Technical Officer 4. UNFPA on reproductive agency – Ms. Mengjia Liang, Technical Specialist 5. Paris 21 on novel research methodology on gender data use for policymaking – Ms. Lauren Harrison, Policy Analyst 6. World Bank on the Strengthening Gender Statistics project – Ms. Heather G. Moylan, Survey Specialist 7. UNICEF on MICS module on time-use measurement in children – Ms. Lauren Pandolfelli, Statistics Specialist 8. UNWomen on new advancements on women's political participation data – Ms. Jessamyn Encarnación, Inter-regional Advisor Discussion	South Africa – Solly Molayi
Session 6: Conclusions of the 17th meeting and way forward Concluding remarks by – Ms. Francesca Grum, Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, UNSD	

| – Mr. Solly Molayi, Chief Director, Social Statistics, Statistics South Africa | |