

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Statistical Planning and Development Section
Statistics Division

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The 6th Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics Meeting
Dead Sea, 25-26 March 2012

Final Report

I. Opening

1. The sixth Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) meeting was held from 25-26 March 2012, at the Dead Sea, Jordan. The meeting was attended by 35 representatives of 10 international agencies, 4 regional commissions and 14 national statistical offices (see Annex for the list of participants).
2. Ms. Francesca Perucci gave the opening statement on behalf of Mr. Paul Cheung, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). In his statement, Mr. Cheung praised the IAEG-GS for its many activities that have greatly contributed to the development of gender statistics worldwide. The statement reviewed the work done by the IAEG-GS on the four main areas: the preparation of manuals and guidelines, the survey on gender mainstreaming in national statistical systems, the minimum set of gender indicators, and the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) initiative launched by UN-Women and UNSD. The statement emphasised that UNSD will work with partner agencies to strength its leadership roles in the development of gender statistics globally, and to assist countries in the mainstreaming of gender into national statistical system.
3. Ms. Manal Sweidan, head of Gender Statistics Division of Jordanian Department of Statistics and chair of the meeting, welcomed the IAEG members to the meeting. She highlighted the importance of improving the quality and quantity of gender statistics for effective decision making.
4. Ms Francesca Perucci presented briefly the main objectives of the meeting: to review the work done by its advisory groups over the last few months to implement the recommendations by the United Nation Statistics Commission (UNSC) and the decisions made at the IAEG-GS meeting of October 2011; and to agree on a work plan for the year ahead.

II. Review of the work by the advisory group on gender statistics training activities and curricula

5. Ms. Yongyi Min (UNSD) presented the revised draft of the Gender Statistics Manual and reported that many helpful comments and inputs had been provided by international agencies and countries. UNSD has incorporated most of the comments and inputs and will continue to do so and finalize the draft by June 2012. As part of its work programme, in collaboration with and financial contribution by the World Bank, UNSD will develop Web-based applications for an interactive version of the manual and will field test the manual at a training workshop to be held in the sub-Saharan African region.
6. The group discussed the content of the manual, the timetable for its completion, and the plan to introduce and field test the manual, and how to align and integrate the work on the manual with regional commissions' work programme. The summary of the discussion is presented in section VIII of this report.

7. Ms. Francesca Grum (UNSD) presented the Violence against Woman (VAW) Guidelines, being prepared by UNSD. The aim of the Guidelines is to standardize VAW measures and methodology across countries. The Guidelines provide detailed methodological advice on what to measure, how to measure, special features of surveys on VAW, and all other relevant issues for National Statistics Organizations to conduct statistical surveys on VAW. Ms. Grum informed the group that the Guidelines will be finalized in 2012 and submitted to the Statistical Commission at its next session for endorsement. Training workshops will be held to improve countries' capacity in collecting, analysing, disseminating and using statistics on VAW.
8. The survey instrument on VAW was discussed. In particular, issues such as how to add question to the standard survey module and the difficulty of having a stand alone survey were reviewed. It was suggested to prepare a two-page advocacy document to be used at the regional and country level to push this work forward.
9. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) informed the group that the ESCWA toolkit on VAW would be launched at the upcoming Global Forum on Gender Statistics. Bangladesh informed the group that a VAW survey was conducted in the country in 2011 and they will share the results of the survey with the group.
10. Ms. Neda Jafar (UNESCWA) presented UNESCWA Handbook on Gender Statistics. The handbook is a guiding tool for data producers to compile comparable data for the Arab Gender Issues and Indicators (GIsIn) Framework. The Handbook provides metadata for each indicator in the GIsIn Framework. ESCWA has developed a web-based framework. The next steps by UNESCWA in this area are: compiling the core set of indicators on a regular basis; providing capacity building to compute the remaining subsets of indicators; and mainstreaming gender in remaining sectors. UNESCWA would like to share their training manual and web-based framework with other Regional Commissions to avoid duplication of work.
11. The difference between the UNESCWA handbook and the UNSD Gender Statistics Manual was clarified. The UNSD Gender Statistics Manual will provide guidance to national statisticians on how to mainstream gender in the production of all official statistics. ESCWA handbook on the other hand provides metadata for all indicators in the GIsIN framework and will be a useful methodological handbook for data producers.
12. Ms. Jafar also presented the catalogue on gender statistics activities in the Arab countries. The catalogue is a compendium of national gender activities such as publications, surveys, databases etc. The objective is to catalogue gender-related information in each country to promote best practices from a wide range of experiences. It also provides useful information for planning future capacity building activities needed at the regional level.

13. At the end of the session, the group also discussed how to roll out these initiatives to improve policy making. UN-Women informed the group that the theme of the 2013 Commission on the Status of Women will be elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. It will be a good opportunity to talk to policy makers and to reduce the gaps between data producers and users.

III. New initiative: the advisory group on emerging issues

14. Mr. Jose Antonio Mejia Guerra (Mexico), one of the co-chairs of the advisory group, presented the proposed Terms of Reference of the advisory group on emerging issues. The main objective of the advisory group is to examine emerging and unaddressed existing key gender issues, identify data gaps and measurement problems, and develop strategies to address these issues in the development of gender statistics. He presented the main tasks to be undertaken by the group, some of the emerging issues identified, the current list of members, and the proposed activities of the advisory group.
15. The definition of emerging issues was also discussed and some experts suggested some new issues that can be considered. Representatives of the Regional Commissions suggested that using the information obtained from the global programme review of gender statistics would help to identify additional and important issues. It was also suggested to review the membership of group and bring in some specialized agencies into the group.

IV. EDGE initiative

16. Mr. Papa Seck (UN-Women) presented the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) initiative. The EDGE initiative is a 3-year project that will push existing efforts to have comparable gender indicators on education, employment, entrepreneurship and asset ownership. The EDGE activities include: developing a database for international data and metadata compilation covering basic education and employment indicators; methodological development of standards and guidelines for entrepreneurship and asset ownership indicators and pilot data collection in 10 countries; and presenting results of methodological work to UN Statistical Commission in 2015 for its consideration. Mr. Seck also presented the process, country selection, and cost and financing of the initiative.
17. In the discussion, agencies informed the group of their activities related to this initiative. The Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-UIS) reported that they collect education data annually and the data are released three times per year. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) informed the group of their project of identifying 13 indicators in 4 areas of protection of women and girls, including education and participation. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reported that they have developed an interactive data browser on gender statistics compiling 16 key gender statistics on education, employment and entrepreneurship for OECD countries and the enhanced

- engagement partners. The Regional Commissions recommended that this initiative should be integrated into their work on gender statistics in their respective regions. It was agreed that IAEG-GS will coordinate the related activities to ensure no duplication of work
18. The criteria for the selection of the pilot countries to be included in the project were also discussed. Countries should express their wish to strengthen their capacity to produce gender statistics. Regional Commissions and other regional institutions should be consulted when identifying the pilot countries for the EDEG initiative.
 19. It was clarified that international agencies are the data providers for the data and metadata compilation. The potential of using SDMX for data and metadata submission will be explored.

V. Update on the Global Programme Review of gender statistics

20. Followed by Ms. Yongyi Min's brief overview of the global programme review of gender statistics, Mr. Andres Vikat from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Ms. Sharita Serrao from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Ms. Neda Jafar from UNESCAW, and Mr. Raj Gautam Mitra from United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) presented the preliminary results of the global review survey for their regions respectively.
21. From the preliminary results, it was noted that the response rates vary by region and there are wide variations among countries, which reflect their different levels of progress in gender statistics. The importance of gender statistics has been recognized by the majority of the countries and many countries have carried out regular data production in key areas. There still exist great challenges in institutional, coordination and technical areas in many countries. It was emphasized that institutionalization, legal framework, and high level commitment are the keys to the success of mainstreaming gender statistics in the long run.
22. It was pointed out that gaps and inconsistencies exist in the responses to the survey, which will require the Regional Commissions to follow up and engage with countries to improve the responses. It was also noted that the same response from different countries to one question may have different interpretation. Therefore, the results should be interpreted with caution. For example, a country that already integrated gender statistics into national statistical system and has no need for a separate gender section, is different from a country that has not developed gender statistics and has no separate section. The descriptive answers in the responses also provided important information.
23. The group also discussed the importance of translating the survey results into implementation programmes. UNECA will use the results of the survey as the baseline and will review the national gender statistics programme after five years. UNECA aims to increase the response rate to 80-90 per cent. UNESCAW will use

the responses to identify additional needs and add them to the existing gender statistics programme. The results of the global review will be useful for UNESCAP in the development of the regional programme on gender statistics - in particular for the development of the implementation plan for the 8th tranche Development Account project on gender statistics (2012-14). The World Bank will work with Paris 21 to develop a guideline on mainstreaming gender statistics.

VI. Review of the work by the Advisory group on gender statistics database and indicators

24. Ms. Yongyi Min presented the minimum set of gender indicator developed by a sub-group of the IAEG. The minimum set of indicators is meant to provide a basis from which to promote the production and compilation of gender statistics at the national level. The choice of indicators for the list was guided by three criteria. Based on the criteria, the proposed indicators can be categorized into three tiers.
25. The members of IAEG-GS reviewed the list of the minimum set and decided the tier level for each indicator based on the three guiding criteria. The group also identified the leading agencies for each indicator (see Annex for the list of indicators categorized into three tiers with the leading agencies). It was agreed that:
 - a. For Tier 1 indicators, a mechanism will be established for the international agencies to regularly provide data and metadata to UNSD.
 - b. Efforts will be made to promote capacity-building activities to expand the data coverage of indicators in Tier 2.
 - c. Small groups will be established to undertake methodological work on indicators in Tier 3 and emerging issues (including through EDGE).
26. The group also discussed the modification of indicator names in the minimum set to align them with the indicators used by the leading agencies or with the indicators promoted in the international guidelines (such as the VAW guidelines prepared by UNSD). The suggested changes were:
 - a. Indicator 17: change to “Proportion of individuals using the Internet, by sex”
 - b. Indicator 18: change to “Proportion of individuals using mobile/cellular telephones, by sex”
 - c. Indicator 19: change to “Proportion of households with access to mass media (radio, TV, Internet), by sex of household head”
 - d. Indicator 48: change to “Total and age specific rate of ever-partnered women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by intimate partner in the last 12 months (frequency)
 - e. Indicator 49: change to “Total and age specific rate of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by non-intimate partner in the last 12 months (severity/perpetrator/frequency)

VII. Updates by regional and international entities on activities in the area of gender statistics and future activities of the IAEG-GS 2012-2013

27. The Africa Programme on Gender Statistics (APGS) was presented by Mr. Raj Gautam Mitra (UNECA). The APGS brings all project based, ad-hoc initiatives of development of gender statistics by regional and international agencies and other organizations under one umbrella programme. A set of strategies have been identified for achieving the objective of the APGS, including regional partnership and coordination mechanism, capacity building programme and research, efficient reporting, storage and dissemination, monitoring and evaluation framework, and advocacy. A five year plan was prepared starting in 2012.
28. Ms. Rosario Garcia Calderon (UNESCO-UIS) presented the UIS's World Atlas on Gender Equality in Education, which comprises more than 120 maps, charts and tables featuring a wide range of sex-disaggregated indicators. The Atlas allows readers to visualize the educational pathways of girls and boys and track changes in gender disparities over time. Ms. Calderon also summarized UIS's work on Gender and Education, including gender web page, fact sheets, 2012 publication focusing on girls education, atlas on gender and education, Wikigender project, and an interactive website – The Guardian.
29. Other regional and international agencies also briefly presented their activities in the area of gender statistics. UNESCWA has carried out a series of activities related to gender statistics, including producing handbook, compiling a compendium of national activities, publishing Gender in Figures in the ESCWA region, carrying out capacity building activities, and developing a virtual library and an e-learning tool.
30. UNESCAP provided the updates on the plans of the regional programme on gender statistics, assessments and consultations carried out, and future activities.
31. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has developed the Agri-Gender Statistics Toolkit in support of enhanced production and use of sex-disaggregated agricultural data. FAO also plan to produce gender statistics for food security.
32. UNECE updated the group of their activities in gender statistics, which include a task force on indicators looking at ECE countries' needs and data availability, harmonization of time use survey, and capacity building using the training material developed.
33. UNECA also announced that theme of the 2012 African Statistics Day will be gender statistics.
34. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) updated the group on its work on the manual on gender analysis of census data, including its current status, the timeline for its production, the development of training modules, and the plan to work with UNESCWA on a training workshop. The UNFPA representative also

informed the group that promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women is one of the country implementation priorities for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)'s 20-year programme.

35. UN-Women informed the group that the theme of the 2013-2014 Progress of the World's Women is economic empowerment of women. UN-Women will finish to set-up a research unit soon. Senior officials will continue to convince policy makers through advocacy campaigns. UN-Women has also been working with UNICEF on gender equality issues.
36. Ms. Francesca Perucci (UNSD) briefed the group on the work of the UN System Task Team on the post-2015 UN development agenda. The issue on how to better incorporate gender perspective into the new development agenda was discussed.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

37. In the last session, UNSD presented a summary of the main decisions and action points reached at the meeting.
38. On the gender statistics manual, it was agreed that :
 - a. The deadline for comments and additional inputs by agencies and countries is the end of April.
 - b. Regional Commissions will assist in contacting countries to provide examples for the manual.
 - c. UNSD will contact specialized agencies for examples.
 - d. UNSD will finalize the draft and include all comments by the end of June.
 - e. UNSD/WB will use the manual to develop training modules, and will organize a workshop to field test the manual in the second half of 2012 in the sub-Saharan Africa region, in collaboration with UNECA, with participation of some IAEG member countries.
 - f. Emerging issues and other topics not currently covered in the manual will be covered in the web-based application version of the manual.
 - g. The next IAEG meeting will review a proposal on the development of metadata and the possibility of producing a handbook on the compilation of the minimum set of indicators.
 - h. UNSD will follow up with Regional Commissions on ways to integrate this work into their Development Account activities and other regional projects, including developing regional adaptations of the manual.
 - i. Regional Commissions can translate the regional adaptations or the UNSD manual depending on their own needs
39. On the Guidelines on Violence against Women, it was agreed that:
 - a. The Guidelines produced by UNSD and Friends of the Chair of the UNSC will be finalized in 2012 and presented to the UNSC in 2013.
 - b. Regions and countries can adapt the classifications to their social and culture needs and cover indicators that are relevant.
 - c. UNSD will prepare an advocacy document.
 - d. IAEG-GS will integrate the guidelines into its training activities.

40. On the advisory group on emerging issues, it was agreed that:
 - a. The membership of the advisory group will add UN WOMEN, FAO, ILO, and other interested members, based on their expertise in specialized areas.
 - b. UNSD will organize the first teleconference during the 2nd week of April to review and circulate the revised TOR, discuss the list of issues to be covered, and propose future work

41. On the EDGE initiative, it was agreed that:
 - a. UNSD/UN-Women will follow up with Regional Commissions and other regional institutions on integrating EDGE activities into their projects and identifying countries to be covered by the EDGE initiative.
 - b. UNSD/UN-Women will follow up with data provider agencies on using SDMX for international data compilation on EDGE indicators by establishing a SDMX sub-group working on the Data Structure

42. On the global review on gender statistics programme, the timeframe was agreed as follows:
 - a. Regional Commissions will follow up with countries to improve the inconsistencies in the responses and obtain information from remaining countries till the end of May.
 - b. Regional Commissions will submit the information based on the common template to UNSD by the end of August.
 - c. UNSD will prepare in consultation with IAEG-GS a preliminary report to be submitted to the UNSC by the end of November.
 - d. UNSD will prepare a more extensive report as a background document for the UNSC in Feb 2013.

43. On the minimum set of gender indicators, it was agreed that:
 - a. UNSD will establish a database platform by the end of 2012.
 - b. International agencies will regularly provide data and metadata to UNSD for indicators in Tier 1.
 - c. IAEG-GS will establish small groups on methodology work for each of the Tier 3 indicators.
 - d. Regional Commissions (such as ECA and ESCAP) will promote production of data on the minimum set in the countries.

Annex 1: Minimum set of indicators for gender statistics

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>BPFA and MDG references</i>	<i>Tier</i>	<i>Leading Agencies</i>	
I. Economic structures, participation in productive activities and access to resources				
1	Average number of hours spent on unpaid domestic work by sex Note: Separate housework and child care if possible	C.2, F.1, H.3	2	ILO
2	Average number of hours spent on paid and unpaid work combined (total work burden), by sex	F.1, H.3	2	ILO
3	Labour force participation rates for 15-24 and 15+, by sex	F.1, H.3	1	ILO
4	Proportion of employed who are own-account workers, by sex	F.2, MDG.1B	1	ILO
5	Proportion of employed who are working as contributing family workers, by sex	H.3, MDG.1B	1	ILO
6	Proportion of employed who are employer, by sex	F.1	1	ILO
7	Percentage of firms owned by women, by size	F.1, F.2	3	ILO
8	Percentage distribution of employed population by sector, each sex	F.5, H.3	1	ILO
9	Informal employment as a percentage of total non-agricultural employment, by sex	F.2, H.3	2	ILO
10	Youth unemployment by sex	F.1	1	ILO
11	Proportion of population with access to credit, by sex	F.1, F.2	3	WB/FAO/OECD
12	Proportion of adult population owning land, by sex	A.1, A.2	3	WB/FAO/OECD
13	Gender gap in wages	F.1, F.5	1	ILO
14	Proportion of employed working part-time, by sex	F.5	1	ILO
15	Employment rate of persons aged 25-49 with a child under age 3 living in a household and with no children living in the household, by sex	F.6	3	ILO
16	Proportion of children under age 3 in formal care	F.6	3	OECD
17	Proportion of population using the Internet, by sex	F.3, MDG.8F	1	ITU
18	Proportion of population using mobile/cellular telephones, by sex	F.3, MDG.8F	1	ITU
19	Access to mass media (radio, TV, newspaper), by sex	F.3	1	ITU
II. Education				
20	Literacy rate of persons aged 15-24 years old, by sex	B.2, L.4, MDG.2	1	UIS
21	Adjusted net enrolment ratio in primary education by sex	B.1, L.4, MDG.2	1	UIS
22	Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education, by sex	B.1, MDG.3	1	UIS
23	Gross enrolment ratios in tertiary education, by sex	B.1	1	UIS
24	Gender parity index in enrolment at primary, secondary and tertiary levels	B.1, L.4, MDG.3	1	UIS
25	Share of female science, engineering, manufacturing and construction graduates at tertiary level	B.3, B.4, L.4	2	UIS
26	Proportion of females among tertiary education teachers or professors	B.4, L.4	2	UIS
27	Net intake in first grade of primary education, by sex	B.1	1	UIS
28	Primary education completion rate, by sex	B.1	1	UIS
29	Graduation from lower secondary education, by sex	B.1	1	UIS
30	Transition rate to secondary education, by sex	B.1	1	UIS
31	Education attainment of population aged 25 and over, by sex	B.1	1	UIS

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>BPFA and MDG references</i>	<i>Tier</i>	<i>Leading Agencies</i>
III. Health and related services			
32	Contraceptive prevalence among women who are married or in a union, aged 15-49	C.1, C.2, MDG.5.B	1 UNPD
33	Under-five mortality rate, by sex	C.1, MDG.4	1 UNICEF UNPD/ /WHO
34	Maternal mortality ratio	C.1, MDG.5.A	1 WHO/UNICEF/ UNFPA
35	Antenatal care coverage	C.1, MDG.5.B	1 UNICEF
36	Proportion of births attended by skilled health professional	C.1, MDG.5.A	1 UNICEF
37	Smoking prevalence among persons aged 15 and over, by sex	C.2	1 WHO
38	Proportion of adults who are obese, by sex	C.1, C.2	1 WHO
39	Women's share of population aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	C.3, MDG.6.A	1 UNAIDS
40	Access to anti-retroviral drug, by sex	C.3, MDG.6.B, MDG 8.E	1 WHO
41	Life expectancy at age 60, by sex	C.1, C.2	1 UNPD
42	Adult mortality by cause and age groups	C.1, C.2	3 WHO
IV. Public life and decision-making			
43	Women's share of government ministerial positions	G.1	1 IPU
44	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	G.1, MDG.3	1 IPU
45	Women's share of managerial positions	F.1, F.5, G.1	1 ILO
46	Percentage of female police officers	I.2	2 UNODC
47	Percentage of female judges	I.2	2 UNODC
V. Human rights of women and girl children			
48	Proportion of women aged 15-49 subjected to physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months by an intimate partner	D.1, D.2	2 UNICEF
49	Proportion of women aged 15-49 subjected to physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months by persons other than an intimate partner	D.1, D.2	2 UNICEF
50	Prevalence of female genital mutilation/cutting (for relevant countries only)	I.2	1 UNICEF
51	Percentage of women aged 20-24 years old who were married or in a union before age 18	L.1, L.2	1 UNICEF
52	Adolescent fertility rate	L.1, L.2, MDG 5B	1 UNPD

Annex 2. List of participants

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