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13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics

New York, NY, USA 7-8 November 2019

**Meeting Report\***

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\* This document was formulated without formal editing.

## Acronyms and abbreviations

AGGS	African Programme on Gender Statistics
ARQ	Annual Report Questionnaire
DA10	Development Account, 10 <sup>th</sup> Tranche
DoS	Department of Statistics of Jordan
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EDGE	Evidence and Data for Gender Equality
EG-TUS	Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAOSTAT	Food and Agriculture Organization Corporate Statistical Database
GEOSTAT	National Statistics Office of Georgia
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLOTIP	Global Report on Trafficking in Persons
IAEG-GS	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
IAG-EII	Inter-Agency Group on Education Inequality Indicators
ICATUS	International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics
ICCS	International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
INEGI	National Statistical and Geographical Institute of Mexico
ISCO-08	International Standard Classification of Occupations
ISWGHs	Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys
IUCN	The International Union for Conservation of Nature
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Study
MSE	Multiple System Estimation
NSOs	National Statistics Organizations
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
RuLIS	Rural Livelihoods Information System
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
Sendai	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
SIGI	Social Institutions and Gender Index
TUS	Time Use Survey
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO UIS	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNPD	United Nations Population Division
UNSC	United Nations Statistical Commission
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UN-CTS	UN Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems
VAW	Violence against Women
VS	Victimization Surveys
WHO	World Health Organization
WIDE	World Inequality Database on Education

## SDGs referenced in this report

- SDG 1** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- SDG 2** Zero hunger
- SDG 3** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- SDG 4** Quality education
- SDG 5** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- SDG 9** Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- SDG 11** Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- SDG 16** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



## SDG indicators referenced in this report

- 1.4.2** Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure
- 2.1.2** Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)
- 3.5.1** Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders
- 5.2.1** Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age
- 5.2.2** Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence
- 5.4.1** Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by sex, age and location
- 5.5.1** Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments
- 5.6.1** Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care
- 5.6.2** 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
- 5.a.1** (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure
- 9.5.2** Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants
- 11.7.2** Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months

## Background, objectives and organization of the meeting

Established in 2006, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) is composed of subject-matter experts from national, regional and international statistical offices, gender policy experts and other stakeholders. Mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) to guide and coordinate the Global Gender Statistics Programme, the IAEG-GS holds annual meetings to take stock of international methodological developments to fill in gender data gaps; assess data availability and progress towards gender equality in countries; harmonize/align existing international gender statistics programmes; and improve coherence among ongoing and planned initiatives to avoid duplication of efforts geared at advancing gender statistics through international coordination.

The IAEG-GS members convened for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in New York, NY, USA on 7-8 November 2019. The meeting was organized by the Social and Gender Statistics Section of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). The specific objectives of the meeting were to:

- a. Inform about the progress hitherto achieved by UNSD and the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics;
- b. Provide an update on the methodological work undertaken in the field of gender statistics by the IAEG-GS members, in particular in the context of measuring/monitoring Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators;
- c. Update on the work undertaken by the IAEG-GS Advisory Group on strengthening administrative systems to close gender data gaps;
- d. Review country practices on the implementation and monitoring of gender-relevant SDG indicators;
- e. Inform about the key outcomes and updates on the 2020 comprehensive review and data disaggregation of (gender-relevant) SDG indicators;
- f. Assess progress towards gender equality in the context of celebrating Beijing+25 and identify partnerships for *The World's Women 2020*;
- g. Review ongoing initiatives implemented by regional and international organizations and plans for future work relevant to the Global Gender Statistics Programme to enhance coordination; and
- h. Agree on the IAEG-GS' annual work plan for 2020.

The meeting brought together 59 national, regional and international experts working in the area of gender statistics. Participants included 23 experts from 20 national statistical offices (Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Philippines, South Africa, Uganda, United States, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe), five experts from five Regional Commissions (ECA, ECE (virtual), ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA), 19 experts from 14 international organizations (FAO, ILO, OECD Development Centre, OECD/Paris21, UNCTAD (virtual), UNDP, UNESCO UIS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UNPD, UN Women, WHO and the World Bank), one expert from ISWGHS, and one expert from Data2X/UN Foundation. In addition, 10 experts from UNSD, the Secretariat of the IAEG-GS, participated in the meeting. See Annex 1 for the full list of participants.

The meeting was held in accordance with the sequence listed on the agenda (see Annex 2), and it was facilitated by the IAEG-GS' co-chairs, Ms. Marjut Pietiläinen from Statistics Finland and Mr. Akira Tsumura from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of the Government of Japan.

## I. Featured Session: Time-Use Statistics

1. Ms. Harumi Shibata Salazar (UNSD) presented the work of the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics (EG-TUS) on the modernization of time-use statistics in line with international standards and using the latest technologies. She emphasized that time-use data are highly gender-relevant and critical for the comprehensive measurement of all forms of work including unpaid work and non-market production, more recently for monitoring of SDG indicator 5.4.1 and in general for development of household satellite accounts. In addition, she underlined that time-use data are fundamental to guide policies and research related to many areas apart from gender equality, including but not limited to environment, health, quality of life and well-being, commuting and transportation, education and sports.
2. Ms. Shibata Salazar provided an overview of UNSD's programme on time-use statistics since the 1990s, including its latest efforts towards updating *The Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use*, which UNSD published in 2005. She added that as a follow-up on its work on the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS 2016), which was adopted by the Statistical Commission in 2017, UNSD has been maintaining a time-use portal and working with countries to improve their capacity to produce and use time-use statistics as the co-custodian of SDG indicator 5.4.1. Moreover, she acknowledged that time-use data collection could prove very costly, given the restrictions with human and monetary resources on one hand and the need to produce high-quality data granular enough for policy formation and analysis and suitable for cross-country comparisons on the other, leaving national statistical offices with complex decisions to make in terms of instruments and modes of collection to balance challenges and priorities.
3. Ms. Shibata Salazar informed that against this backdrop, EG-TUS met several times with the objective to develop a draft conceptual framework with a basket of options comprising multiple instruments and modes of collection, outlining their advantages and disadvantages. She stated that EG-TUS has been working in workstreams, the outputs of which would be brought to the attention of the Statistical Commission in March 2020. Ms. Shibata Salazar added that the draft conceptual framework would be tested by countries and refined by UNSD to eventually form the basis of the guidelines to be updated and presented to the Statistical Commission in the medium-term.
4. The workstreams of EG-TUS are as follows:
  - a. Policy relevance - making the case for time-use surveys in support of SDGs monitoring
  - b. Concepts and definitions
  - c. Modernizing time-use surveys
  - d. Minimum harmonized instrument
  - e. Quality in the context of time-use surveys and statistics
5. Ms. Francesca Grum (UNSD) highlighted that the group of experts had full understanding that modernization could mean different things in different settings, and countries would be presented options to apply the latest methods in cost-effective ways without sacrificing data quality and while responding to specific policy needs.
6. Ms. Marjut Pietiläinen (Finland) announced that a new time-use survey is being planned to take place in Finland in 2021 and that funds from external sponsors could be secured owing to the effective communication of relevance of time-use data for policy.

7. The IAEG-GS countries were invited to contribute to the work of the EG-TUS, in particular those that are in the process of conducting or having recently conducted time-use surveys, including those supported by UN Women.

## II. Review of methodological developments to measure and monitor gender indicators

8. Ms. Andrea Oterova (UNODC) presented how UNODC mainstreamed gender in its data collection and dissemination efforts, including in the UN Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS), Questionnaire for the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (GLOTIP), Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ). She explained that *The Global Study on Homicide*, drawing on the results from UN-CTS, had a booklet dedicated to gender-related killings, which were measured according to the definitions adopted in the ICCS for intentional homicide and the disaggregation guidelines provided in the ICCS for the following: sex of the victim and of the perpetrator, the victim-perpetrator relationship, the situational context and the motive of the killing, which features a definition for a gender motive. She highlighted that one of the challenges UNODC faced with publishing figures in *The Global Study on Homicide* was underreporting due to difficulties in identifying the circumstances of the crime, the perpetrators or the contextual aspect of the crime, which would lead to gender-related killings' being accounted under the broader category of intentional homicide. She added that there is persisting heterogeneity in the definitions of femicide and/or feminicide in countries' criminal codes, leading to discrepancies in reporting. Ms. Oterova underlined the need to operationalize the definition of gender-related killings through the ICCS to improve data availability and international comparability.
9. Ms. Oterova stated that retrieved data on trafficking in persons from GLOTIP was just the tip of the iceberg and that UNODC has partnered with several countries to implement a new method of multiple system estimation (MSE) methodology to overcome barriers linked to underreporting. She noted that there are two requirements for MSE methodology: (i) a minimum of three sources or registry lists for countries to measure in a robust manner and (ii) a minimum of 80 victims detected per year. Ms. Oterova added that according to a research brief conducted in cooperation with the national statistical office of the Netherlands, UNODC found that the number of presumed victims would be four to five times higher than the number of reported ones, and that UNODC plans to produce guidelines for countries to cover a more realistic picture of trafficked persons.
10. Ms. Oterova informed that UNODC piloted the updated version of ARQ in 60 countries to be able to produce internationally comparable data on drug supply and demand, with data on treatment, mortality figures and drug-related crimes disaggregated by sex. She mentioned that a dedicated booklet dedicated to gender findings revealed that the prevalence of non-medical use of opioids and tranquilizers among women were comparable to that among men, with women that inject drugs having higher exposure to infectious diseases. In addition, Ms. Oterova informed that UNODC is working with the national statistical office of Nigeria on a second wave of a corruption survey, looking more in depth at the gender dimension and planning to produce more gender-related insights. Moreover, she announced that UNODC presented a metadata file and proposals for SDG indicators 3.5.1 and 11.7.2 to be reclassified as tier II (from tier III) and proposed new SDG indicators to close data gaps related to drugs and crime.
11. Ms. Rosalinda Bautista (Philippines) inquired about the contact persons for the data being collected on drug demand and supply. Ms. Oterova mentioned ministries of health, justice system institutions, the police force, noting that the contact persons could differ in different countries.
12. Ms. Aurelia Spataru (Moldova) remarked that various actors involved in providing relevant data may not be fully compliant with the ICCS.

13. Ms. Juncal Plazaola-Castaño (UN Women) presented ongoing methodological work on developing guidelines on the collection and use of administrative data on available services and other governments' responses to violence against women. She informed that the impetus stemmed from the fact that while there are several normative frameworks recommending member states collect data from sectors providing services to female survivors of violence to improve policies and programmes, there is a lack of clarity on how administrative data on violence against women could be utilized: namely, (i) there is a misunderstanding that administrative data could be used as a proxy for prevalence and magnitude in the absence of data from surveys and (ii) there is a lack of multisectoral guidance on how to collect and use administrative data on use of services by female survivors of violence. Furthermore, Ms. Plazaola-Castaño pointed out that several member states requested standards and recommendations on confidentiality, safety and ethical issues around collection and reporting of these data.
14. Ms. Plazaola-Castaño stated that the objectives of ongoing methodological work and related guidelines have a threefold structure: (i) increase understanding of administrative data on violence against women; (ii) propose a minimum dataset to be collected across sectors; and (iii) make recommendations on how to collect and use these data with a survivor-centered approach. To this end, a technical advisory group of experts from different sectors and countries guided a global background paper developed based on a desk review, and an expert group meeting was held in the previous year, bringing together experts from national statistical offices, women's machineries, the police force, health and humanitarian sectors. Ms. Plazaola-Castaño informed that next steps would include regional and thematic consultations and pilots in a selected number of countries to inform the guidelines. She expressed that the scope of the guidelines is constrained to intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence experienced by adult women based on data available in the following sectors: justice, police force, health and social services.
15. Ms. Plazaola-Castaño mentioned that the guidelines would try to address different issues, e.g. a minimum dataset to be standardized across sectors, globally agreed definitions for different forms of violence against women to be standardized across sectors, counting cases as the measurement unit and the criteria to be established for dataset selection. Furthermore, the guidelines would propose minimum requirements with the understanding that different countries would be standing at different stages of maturity, and they would hence provide tiered recommendations for countries with more advanced administrative systems. In addition, Ms. Plazaola-Castaño framed this work within the UN Women/WHO global joint programme on violence against women data. She also announced that WHO recently produced national, regional and global estimates on the prevalence of intimate partner violence and on non-intimate partner sexual violence to report on SDG indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2, due to lack of comparability across existing data. She informed that these estimates would be shared with countries in January 2020 for validation, along with a methodological note including information about the estimation framework, data sources and covariates used for estimation as well as the adjustment model.
16. Ms. Linda Laura Sabbadini (Italy) commented that it is critical that administrative systems collect data on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator as well and pointed out that experiences of the national statistical offices that had solved this problem could inform the guidelines' recommendations.
17. Ms. Adriana Oropeza Lliteras (Mexico) commented that INEGI prioritized the location of occurrence in addition to the prevalence of violence against women for policy and programming purposes.
18. The IAEG-GS members were invited in advance to review the guidelines once they would be finalized in 2020 and to provide feedback.



19. Ms. Sharita Serrao (ESCAP) and Ms. Sara Duerto Valero (UN Women Asia and the Pacific) co-presented ongoing methodological work in the Asia and the Pacific region to mainstream gender into environment statistics. Ms. Serrao informed that this work aiming to measure the nexus between gender and the environment while meeting regional needs and priorities used as a starting point the framework put forward by UNEP and IUCN with a set of 19 indicators and four priority areas as presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> IAEG-GS Meeting in Tokyo, Japan in 2018. Ms. Serrao informed that while UN Women has led the development of a roadmap on gender statistics in Pacific island countries, which identified environment as a priority thematic area, ESCAP has led the development of a disaster-related statistics framework in the region, which was recently endorsed by the ESCAP committee on statistics. She added that ESCAP and UN Women co-conducted consultations in 2019 on gender and the environment and were requested to advance their work on measuring this nexus by countries in Asia and the Pacific where 60 per cent of economically active women are in the agriculture sector and 75 per cent of the world's population affected by disasters reside.
20. Ms. Serrao informed that the initial work involved looking at the existing landscape of indicators to avoid creating new frameworks or indicators. Building on the framework developed by UNEP and IUCN, ESCAP and UN Women identified six priority areas and 35 indicators to capture additional range of issues specific to the region including food security, productive assets, access to resources, informal sector, urbanization, education, disasters/climate change, sustainable consumption and sustainable production. Ms. Serrao underlined that the scope was limited to SDG indicators to the extent possible to minimize national statistical offices' burden and also drew from additional internationally agreed frameworks such as Sendai. Moreover, she mentioned additional context indicators, which were identified as indicators on either gender or the environment and deemed as helpful for environment-related gender analysis.
21. Ms. Duerto Valero stressed that the selection of indicators was not driven by data availability but rather by their relevance, adding that UN Women and ESCAP conducted a data availability analysis and found out that only very few of the proposed indicators had available data. She informed that next steps would include, following the guidance received from 57 experts from 18 countries that attended an expert group meeting in Bangkok in September 2019, activities centered around capacity building for data collection, advocacy and fund-raising. Ms. Duerto Valero noted that additional areas currently not covered by their proposed indicators include exposure to disasters, environment-related conflicts, migration and displacement, gender-based violence in the context of environment, women in environment conservation roles, rural women's leadership on environmental issues, small-scale industries and environment-related employment and livelihoods, organic farming and waste management. She welcomed the IAEG-GS members' possible ideas and experiences in populating indicators in these gap areas and invited them to comment on the recently published working paper<sup>1</sup> co-authored by UN Women and ESCAP. She informed that the initiative in the Asia and the Pacific region also aims at making the links with existing initiatives already in place beyond the region.
22. Ms. Neda Jafar (ESCWA) noted that environment-related policies were found to be one of the weak areas when ESCWA aligned its gender indicators with SDGs and updated its old framework. She mentioned that the Western Asia region had two sets of countries with climate change- and agriculture-related indicators with available data, respectively, and voiced her willingness to work with ESCAP and UN Women on their framework and exchange experiences.

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<sup>1</sup> Mainstreaming gender in environment statistics for the SDGs and beyond: Identifying priorities in Asia and the Pacific. [https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/SD\\_Working\\_Paper\\_no.10\\_Oct2019\\_gender\\_in\\_environment\\_1.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/SD_Working_Paper_no.10_Oct2019_gender_in_environment_1.pdf)

23. The IAEG-GS members took note of this regional exercise led by ESCAP and UN Women. Several national statistical offices including Moldova, Morocco and Jordan pointed out that their offices are not responsible for collecting and/or compiling the underlying data for many of the environment/gender indicators proposed. The IAEG-GS members acknowledged the merits of this emerging work at the regional level, yet felt it could mature further before being expanded into a global priority, especially given that the minimum set of indicators proposed by UNEP and IUCN on the nexus between gender and the environment has been piloted in a limited set of countries.
24. Ms. Divyanshi Wadhwa (The World Bank) and Mr. Daniel Halim (The World Bank) co-presented the World Bank's methodological research involving gender data, namely the gender dimension of poverty, measurement of individual consumption and a case study in Jordan in the context of forced displacement. Ms. Wadhwa informed that studies measuring monetary poverty gaps usually focus on the household level and that lack of disaggregation within a household would conceal individual deprivations and individuals' experiences in the household despite an existence of unequal resource allocation within the household. She added that in order to unpack the gender dimension of poverty, female-headed households had been compared with male-headed ones in the past. She noted, however, that such comparisons can be misleading since female-headed households are systematically different from male-headed households, mainly due to social norms, and proposed two alternative options, namely the life-cycle approach and the household composition approach, to circumvent the biases associated with using female-headship as a tool to look at the gender dimension.
25. Ms. Wadhwa explained that the life-cycle approach would examine different periods of lives of women and men and could unpack hidden gender dimensions. She noted that the poverty rates at the global level for women and men looked similar overall yet diverged considerably around the reproductive ages for women, with poverty rates being higher for women in this age group across almost all countries, demonstrating a clear link between reproductive and caring ages and economically productive ages and thus making poverty data disaggregated by age, marital status and parenthood compelling. In addition, Ms. Wadhwa described the demographic composition and the economic/earner composition within the household as viable alternative ways to look at the gender dimension in poverty. She informed that the demographic composition within the household would look at categories of individuals present in the household (e.g. children, dependents, women, men) and compare them to better understand whether women are systematically members of poorer households (e.g. households with children are more likely to be poorer than households without children). She informed further that the economic/earner composition within the household would look at the number of earners by categories of individuals in the household (e.g. irrespective of sex, households with dependents on a single earner are more likely to be the poorest).
26. Mr. Halim explained that while these two alternative options would help identify poor individuals based on whether they live in poor households, the individual consumption approach, though more expensive and difficult in terms of data collection, could address the problem of unequal share of resources within a household more directly. He noted that data from China revealed large intra-household differences in consumption over the life-cycle with huge gender gaps observed in extended food consumption including the consumption of coffee, tea, tobacco and alcohol. He explained that ongoing research using structural models to estimate intra-household shares of food and non-food consumption could give more information on the entire consumption basket by (i) assigning >1 item(s) (e.g. a clothing or food item) to specific individuals in a household consumption survey, (ii) estimating intra-household resource shares and (iii) applying these resource shares to the entire consumption basket with some assumptions. Mr. Halim added that the World Bank, in cooperation with the Institute for Fiscal Studies, would produce a step-by-step guide on how to operationalize the individual consumption approach. Initial results for estimated

individual poverty rates indicate that children are more likely to be poor in Malawi and no significant gender gaps are observed in Bangladesh.

27. Mr. Halim underlined that a forced displacement context adds additional challenges to the gender dimension of poverty as vulnerabilities faced by women, men and children tend to differ. He informed that the authors of a case study in Jordan analyzing the poverty rates among Syrian refugees with a gender lens overcame the problems associated with the traditional definition of household headship and social norms by using a definition for a principal applicant as the receiver of UNHCR assistance on behalf of a family. Mr. Halim elaborated that the authors categorized households into eight typologies and looked at poverty incidences across these typologies of households divided by the sex of principal applicants, finding some resilient gender gaps in poverty incidences even after the cash assistance.
28. Ms. Francesca Grum (UNSD) welcomed the individual consumption approach's potential for a more comprehensive analysis of poverty from the gender perspective, noting that statisticians are comfortable with working with assumptions as they are pushed to additional intersectionality dimensions within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
29. Ms. Lauren Pandolfelli (UNICEF) mentioned an individual-level, child-specific multi-dimensional poverty measure being developed by UNICEF to discern potential differences between boys and girls as complementary methodological work. In addition, Ms. Wadhwa referenced that the World Bank's *Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report 2018* dedicates its Chapter 5 to also unmasking potential differences in poverty between girl and boy children.
30. Mr. Shri Asit Kumar Sadhu (India) inquired about the applicability of models used in Malawi and Bangladesh in middle-income or high-income economies. Ms. Wadhwa explained that there are trade-offs between using the per capita measure and the equivalent scale measure for estimating poverty rates for low- and middle-income economies and high-income economies, respectively, noting that overestimating the poverty rates of children by using the per capita measure as the more conservative method would be almost better than coming up with an underestimated measure of poverty, as children's core consumption might include non-food items such as school books.
31. The IAEG-GS members welcomed the World Bank's efforts and requested an update on its methodological research.
32. Ms. Hyeshin Park (OECD Development Centre) presented the methodology OECD adopted for the fourth edition of Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) published in 2019. She explained that SIGI addresses discriminatory social institutions, i.e. formal and informal laws, social norms and practices that help explain various gender inequality outcomes at the national, regional and global levels. SIGI is a composite index covering four dimensions, with each dimension having different indicators and each indicator composed of three variables based on laws, norms and practices. Ms. Park elaborated that while legal experts from 180 countries fill out the questionnaires sent out by the OECD to report on qualitative data on legal frameworks, which are then validated by countries, data for variables on norms and practices are derived from secondary data sources. Ms. Park reported data availability only for 14 legal variables, 3 norm variables and 10 practice variables covering 120 countries given SIGI's 16 indicators in total.
33. Ms. Park explained that the 27 variables are aggregated into 16 indicators once the values collected for the variables are rescaled between 0-1, with 0 denoting no discrimination and 1 denoting absolute discrimination, and that the 16 indicators are then grouped to build the four dimensions yielding the composite index, after using the same method and formula at each stage of aggregation. She noted that

each variable carries the same weight in calculations as the OECD considers all variables and indicators equally crucial for women and girls' rights as well as their access to empowerment opportunities and resources throughout their whole life-cycle. In addition, she informed that 120 countries with available data are ranked in five different categories and that 60 countries without data are not ranked. Ms. Park announced that as the OECD is working towards its fifth edition of SIGI to be released in 2023, SIGI's conceptual and methodological data frameworks would be revised following an expert group meeting to be conducted in March 2020 to discuss any potential dimensions outstanding.

34. Ms. Spataru commented that the international organizations producing composite indices should stress for the policy makers and other data users who are weakly involved in the production process that the computed rankings are just a snapshot at a given time providing merely comparisons with other countries and do not construct an account revealing the evolution of the measured phenomenon over the years for a given country. Ms. Park added that the OECD aims at providing capacity building initiatives to guide countries on key measurements through targeted country studies to improve ownership among NSOs and to increase policy makers' understanding, including through a simulator that would help them test possible outcomes of various policy reforms.
35. Ms. Mengjia Liang (UNFPA) commented that UNFPA, as the custodian agency of SDG indicators 5.6.1 and 5.6.2, retains potentially useful information that could feed into some of SIGI's legal and norm variables. The two IAEG-GS entities agreed to work together in connecting the missing relevant dots.
36. Ms. Sweidan described potential drawbacks of composite indices as the data discrepancy between national and international sources and the lack of up-to-date information disseminated by the latter. Ms. Grum responded that the United Nations Statistical Commission is working diligently to resolve issues around discrepancy and time lags between nationally and internationally produced data, and she confirmed her expectation to see further progress owing to advancements in technology.
37. Ms. Anu Peltola (UNCTAD) presented virtually the ongoing work recently launched by UNCTAD on gender and trade statistics, highlighting the lack of regular comparable statistics on the gender dimensions of international trade as obstacles to countries' achieving their commitment to more gender-responsive policies. She cited that the link between trade and gender is supported in several frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development and the 2017 Buenos Aires Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment. Ms. Peltola underlined that UNCTAD conducted a literature review on the gender focus in trade statistics, a number of meetings with trade policy makers and discussions with statisticians on gender data gaps and reviewed available data, statistical frameworks, such as the EDGE<sup>2</sup> framework on measuring entrepreneurship from a gender perspective, and existing capacities. Furthermore, Ms. Peltola explained that UNCTAD built on the EDGE framework by integrating into the framework relevant policy elements such as women's and men's participation in trade, resources and constraints, motivations and aspirations, wealth and empowerment, labor and trade performance and identified possible data needed to inform trade policy. She added that in addition to sex disaggregation in trade statistics, linking information from different data sources would be essential.
38. Ms. Peltola informed that UNCTAD is pilot testing the measurement of gender and trade by reviewing data availability and compiling initial indicators with interested countries such as Finland; launching a new project with the European Union Commission for better data on gender and trade in the EU; working

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<sup>2</sup> The Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project is a joint initiative of the United Nations Statistics Division and UN Women with an objective to improve the integration of gender issues into the regular production of official statistics for better, evidence-based policies.

with UN Women to analyze the gender impact of trade agreements; and initiating a project in 2020 to be jointly implemented with ECE and ECA to improve gender and trade statistics in Eastern Europe and Africa. She extended an invitation to interested IAEG-GS countries and partners to work with UNCTAD for reliable statistics on women's empowerment through trade.

39. The IAEG-GS members took note of UNCTAD's work and requested UNCTAD to update the IAEG-GS on its methodological work on gender and trade.

### **III. IAEG-GS Advisory Group on strengthening administrative systems to close gender data gaps**

40. Ms. Lauren Pandolfelli (UNICEF) provided a refresher on the definition and characteristics of administrative data, noting that data generated by administrative systems do not always serve statistical purposes and may suffer from heterogeneity within and across countries. She stated the objectives of establishing the Advisory Group on Strengthening Administrative Systems to Close Gender Data Gaps, which is chaired by UNICEF, are to understand the extent (i) of gender data that could be derived from administrative systems and (ii) that these data could be aligned with international and sub-national reporting needs, namely in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for long-term policy implementation in countries. She informed that the Advisory Group conducted a desk review and sent out a short statistical query to its seven member countries to take a snapshot of the challenges faced with generating statistics for 21 gender-relevant SDG indicators that can be sourced from administrative data. The results demonstrated that some of the challenges lie in completeness, data access, unit of observation, lack of metadata, coordination bottlenecks and potential under-coverage by sex.
41. Ms. Pandolfelli added that in-depth interviews would be conducted with the national statistical offices and line ministries of three to-be-identified member countries of the Advisory Group. She informed that next steps would include draft recommendations on targeted investments in administrative systems to maximize gender equality outcomes and on prioritization of cross-tabulations by multiple dimensions to complement data from household surveys for intersectional analysis. Going forward, the Advisory Group plans to further explore how national statistical offices could be involved in the development of best practice guidelines on sectoral administrative data to standardize the minimum amount of information needed from a gender perspective and co-author an evidence-based paper to contribute to a robust conversation in the broader administrative data landscape.
42. Ms. Manal Sweidan (Jordan) reported that only 25 per cent of Jordan's official statistics was produced via administrative records, not only pinpointing differences between women and men but also highlighting social, cultural and economic factors leading to gender inequality. She informed that two out of 17 sectors in Jordan relies completely on administrative records to produce gender statistics: higher education and women in decision-making positions. She added that key areas of improvement could address the absence of a comprehensive framework for data producers including clear metadata for data collected at the individual level, the absence of a supervisory role for the national statistical office through a legal framework outlining data sharing policies and the establishment of an administrative data management system in the country.
43. Ms. Bouchra Bouziani (Morocco) reported that 20 per cent of Morocco's official statistics was produced via administrative records. She informed that Morocco is in the process of digitalizing its collection of administrative data and has assessed the quality of data sourced from administrative records to make them more gender-responsive. She added that a platform populating data from various sources and accessible to all data users by domain, sector and indicators would be set up in the country in the future.

44. Ms. Francesca Grum (UNSD) commended the work of the Advisory Group in the context of modernizing national statistical systems and highlighted that the Advisory Group's efforts would help ensure that the gender dimension would be taken into account as member states take future decisions on administrative data processing and coordination mechanisms.
45. Mr. Papa Seck (UN Women) informed that use of administrative data for gender-relevant indicators was found to be challenging in Uganda due to inconsistencies in methodology and contradictory data across data sources obtained from different branches of the government, even when a single sector was examined- e.g. records from the prison system, judiciary and police force.
46. Ms. Ainur Dossanova (Kazakhstan) highlighted that administrative data could prove very useful, given their frequency and detail, in alleviating national statistical offices' burden in the context of SDG monitoring, and she announced that Kazakhstan managed to integrate records from 26 administrative sources from different governmental bodies as a result of a 10-year process that involved alignment of classifications and other technical work. Ms. Dossanova added that a separate division created to work on administrative sources has helped with issues related to data access and that the methodological materials of institutions that produce administrative records should be required to agree with those of the national statistical office to improve the quality of administrative data.
47. Ms. Lisa Moutzouris (Australia) noted that Australia invests heavily in the use of administrative data as producing statistics with statistical surveys is quite expensive, and she added that the national statistical office supports ministries in data collection to tackle issues with data quality. She mentioned potential risks such as decisions that could be taken unilaterally by institutions that produce administrative data to change definitions or to cease data collection efforts. Therefore, Ms. Moutzouris advised partnering with those institutions to help them understand that their data collection efforts also hold national value to inform policies in the country.
48. Ms. Linda Laura Sabbadini (Italy) underlined the importance of establishing linkages between administrative and household survey data and referenced Istat's study linking administrative data on entrepreneurship with time-use data to analyze possible effects of unpaid work undertaken by women on enterprise outcomes.
49. Mr. Richard Cibulskis (WHO) stressed the lack of sex disaggregation in death registration as well as the underreporting of women's deaths.
50. Ms. Yonca Gurbuzer (FAO) voiced FAO's willingness to support the work of the Advisory Group as the custodian agency of SDG indicator 5.a.1.
51. The IAEG-GS members agreed that the Advisory Group provide an update at the 14<sup>th</sup> IAEG-GS Meeting in 2020, open up to additional IAEG-GS countries to enrich its analysis on the potential of administrative systems for gender statistics and administer the short statistical query with all IAEG-GS members.

#### **IV. Review of country practices in measuring and monitoring gender equality**

52. Ms. Ainur Dossanova (Kazakhstan) informed about the existing mechanisms for gender equality in Kazakhstan, the precursor of which was the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) signed by the country in 1998. She stated that though Kazakhstan does not have a specific law pertaining to gender statistics, certain obligations were noted in other various regulations. Ms. Dossanova explained that a separate division that oversees both gender

statistics and SDG monitoring was created within the national statistical office following a transformative process. This division finalized in 2017 its methodology on system of gender statistics indicators, which was based on the UN Minimum Set of Gender Indicators and features 74 indicators in the following ten areas: overcoming poverty, decent employment, reconciliation of professional and family responsibilities, education, health care, social life and participation in decision making process, rights of women and girls, social protection, environment protection and access to ICT.

53. Ms. Dossanova stated that Kazakhstan conducted time-use surveys three times in 2006, 2012 and 2018, a quality of life survey for people with disabilities from a gender perspective in 2014 –the final report of which was published in Braille and via audio recording–, its first survey on violence against women in 2015, three rounds of multi-indicator cluster survey in 2006, 2010-2011 and 2015 and a survey on public confidence in the law enforcement authorities in 2016. In addition, she added that a generations and gender survey, which was conducted in 2018, provided information on demographic issues, reproductive health and gender stereotypes in the country and that there are plans to pilot a survey on women entrepreneurship in 2020. Ms. Dossanova informed that dissemination of gender statistics takes place via the publication *Women and Men in Kazakhstan*, which has been published in three languages since 1999, as well as through annual booklets, brochures, press releases, special articles on gender issues and a webpage dedicated to gender statistics. She added that dialogue between data users and producers is exercised through working groups, meetings, special events and capacity building activities such as trainings to increase statistical literacy of users. Furthermore, Ms. Dossanova acknowledged the fruitful cooperation between the national statistical office and several UN agencies and shared the following future plans: implementation of non-traditional data sources such as geospatial data and big data to fill gender gaps, preparatory work for the survey on gender entrepreneurship, a new survey on violence against women – and perhaps against men– to be conducted in 2021, analysis of the results elicited from previous waves of time-use survey and further improvement of the statistical literacy of data users.
54. Mr. Shri Asit Kumar Sadhu (India) elaborated on many challenges India faced when it piloted a time-use survey in 2019, particularly as respondents became skeptical about filling out activities for every ten minutes. He inquired about Kazakhstan’s strategies to overcome similar challenges as India is preparing to conduct a multi-indicator cluster survey in 2020. Ms. Dossanova informed that Kazakhstan used monetary incentives in small amounts to increase response rates.
55. Ms. Juncal Plazaola-Castaño (UN Women) provided a word of caution, explaining that there are no set recommendations nor standards of measuring violence against men. She stressed that interviewing men at the same time as interviewing women could pose ethical safety issues and using the same set of questions would require additional standards as well as validation of the right measures of violence experienced by men.
56. Mr. Gogita Todradze (Georgia) informed that production of gender statistics commenced as a separate field in end-1990s in close cooperation with Statistics Sweden and the first steps in dissemination of gender statistics began with a booklet titled *Women and Men in Georgia* with ten editions since 1999, attracting attention towards gender data in a simple but effective way. He explained that following GEOSTAT’s formation as an independent statistical agency, strategies that aimed at improving gender statistics focused on increasing the number of available gender-disaggregated indicators, improving gender data dissemination and strengthening dialogue between data users and producers. Mr. Todradze informed that a council including experts from various line ministries led Georgia’s nationalization of SDG indicators and assessed that 35 per cent of the baseline indicators had partial or no data availability, namely due to lack of data disaggregation by age, sex and economic sectors. Moreover, he pointed out

that the UN Minimum Set of Gender Indicators indicated that gender data gaps in the country mostly pertained to the indicators that are derived from time-use and violence against women surveys.

57. Mr. Todradze informed that Georgia's first survey on violence against women was conducted in 2017 in close cooperation with UN Women. The survey provided additional data on public attitude towards violence-related issues in addition to prevalence estimates of physical and sexual violence. He announced that the results of a recently conducted multi-indicator cluster survey, which generated data for half of the SDG indicators derived from household surveys, would be available in November 2019. He informed that Georgia's first survey on measuring individual asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective was undertaken in close cooperation with UNSD and ADB, and the analysis of the results was finalized with a report published in 2018 under the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project. A time-use survey is expected to take place in Georgia in 2020. Mr. Todradze emphasized GEOSTAT's new website<sup>3</sup> as an innovative data dissemination tool that communicates statistical data in a more understandable and visually attractive manner through infographics, videos, gif animations and other communication tools and via various accessible, user-friendly platforms including mobile apps for iOS and Android. He showcased, in addition, GEOSTAT's gender statistics portal, which is updated on a regular basis, featuring the latest gender statistics, gender-related publications, legal texts and useful links for various domains. Moreover, he mentioned that Georgia hosted in July 2019 a regional conference on gender statistics, held in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of producing statistics in Georgia and 20 years of collecting gender data and attended by more than 400 participants from numerous countries and institutions.
58. Mr. Todradze pointed out that as traditional data collection methods might not prove sufficient to address the great and growing demand for statistical data, GEOSTAT has been drafting priorities and testing out new data sources, including big data and web scraping, to meet the needs of the government as well as the wider range of other data users. He added that as GEOSTAT looks for new data sources, which can be also used for gender statistics, it values strengthening the capacity of national statistical systems in data collection and inter-agency and international cooperation to improve data quality and ensure full compliance with the international standards and requirements.
59. Ms. Manal Sweidan (Jordan) asserted that Jordan made equality for women and girls a state priority and a separate division for gender statistics within Jordan's Department of Statistics (DoS) maintained a wealth of social, economic, geographic and demographic data disaggregated by sex. She underlined, however, the urgent need for the national statistical system to keep pace with the country's changing demographics and to reflect the expansion and diversity of Jordan's dynamic society. In addition, she emphasized three different online databases available in Arabic and/or English that help data users in Jordan access an inventory of information providing reliable comparisons between women and men in the country, with advanced options for customized queries, dynamic reports and enhanced visualizations.
60. Ms. Sweidan pointed out that the transformative work achieved during Jordan's journey with the IAEG-GS in gender statistics witnessed noteworthy efforts towards improved gender data collection and policy formation. She informed that the division for gender statistics published geographically disaggregated datasets on DoS-GIS website to demonstrate how the geospatial perspective could enrich the analysis of gender indicators and provide additional insights for policy makers. She added that the latest Jordan Population and Family Health Survey conducted in 2017-2018 consisted of many distinctive features setting it apart from its predecessors, including data collected from men aged 15-59, breakdown of data by nationality, new questions allowing the measurement of SDG indicator 5.6.1 and of physical violence

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<sup>3</sup> [www.geostat.ge](http://www.geostat.ge) [whose number of visitors increased by 16 per cent compared to the previous year]



perpetrated by women against husbands as well as marital controlling behaviors. Moreover, Ms. Sweidan explained that Jordan's political will for increased use of evidence-based data led to substantial reforms in national laws to eliminate discrimination against women- e.g. the rise in child marriage cases between 2012 and 2017 and the subsequent issuance of new regulations in 2017 to combat child marriage resulted in a significant drop in exceptional child marriage contracts practiced in 2018.

61. Ms. Sweidan informed that an SDG mapping assessed that Jordan reported baselines for 64 per cent of indicators under Goal 5, and the national statistical office completed a 11-point roadmap for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as a Voluntary National Report on the Status of Implementation of SDGs. She stressed that high-quality data, increased accountability in all stages of data lifecycle and cohesive collaboration between data producers and data users including policy makers are key to translate advances in gender statistics into tangible changes within the Jordanian society, unleashing the potential of girls and women in the country.
62. The IAEG-GS members praised Jordan's decade-long contribution to the work of the IAEG-GS.

## **V. Guest Speaker Session**

63. Ms. Yongi Min (UNSD) updated the IAEG-GS members on the 2020 comprehensive review and on data disaggregation of gender-relevant SDG indicators, sharing the key outcomes of the 10<sup>th</sup> IAEG-SDGs Meeting held in Addis Ababa in October 2019.
64. The IAEG-GS members agreed that the Advisory Group on gender indicators will revisit the 80 gender-relevant SDG indicators once the 2020 comprehensive review is finalized and take steps towards alignment, where appropriate, in the UN Minimum Set of Gender Indicators.

## **VI. The World's Women 2020**

65. Mr. Mehmet K. Sökeli (UNSD) and Mr. Luis Gonzalez Morales (UNSD) co-presented the preparations undertaken by UNSD for *The World's Women 2020* (WW2020) to receive the IAEG-GS members' comments and feedback. Mr. Sökeli give a brief introduction to *The World's Women* series and shared UNSD's vision for the upcoming seventh edition to be launched in October 2020. He noted that the series is a flagship report of the UN Secretary General with a direct mandate from the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. He informed that while WW2020 would be consistent with the past editions, containing descriptive analyses on key gender issues, it would also consist of multiple data-driven online products that broadcast countries' own data at the national and sub-national levels and/or include broader information on other intersectionality dimensions intersecting with gender.
66. Mr. Gonzalez Morales demonstrated WW2020's gender story maps linking statistical and geospatial data, improving the level of geographical disaggregation and the communication of critical gender concerns using web-GIS technologies. He noted that requirements to generate gender story maps would include a common understanding between substantive and GIS experts, data availability at the sub-national level and access to the FIS4SDGs infrastructure/data management system, which would be secured by UNSD for interested partners. In addition, he referenced a pilot gender story map initiative UNSD carried out in 2018 together with Mexico, Ireland and Palestine.
67. Mr. Sökeli introduced a group activity structured around a mini questionnaire for WW2020. which UNSD had sent out prior to the meeting, and the IAEG-GS members, working in groups, filled out a handout to

identify and exchange assessments of gender priorities for various thematic areas and intersectionality dimensions.

68. Ms. Adriana Oropeza Lliteras (Mexico) inquired whether any data management recommendations would be provided for countries having various datasets in multiple systems. Ms. Francesca Grum (UNSD) commented that UNSD is ready to work with interested partners to improve data transfer mechanisms within and between countries, starting with gender data for an interactive WW2020.
69. Ms. Grum added that WW2020 would be an additional channel for countries to disseminate critical short gender narratives, which countries might have already formulated in the context of celebrating Beijing+25 and wish to highlight at the global stage.
70. 29 IAEG-GS member entities participating in the group activity expressed their interest to partner with UNSD and contribute to *The World's Women 2020*.

## **VII. Coordination: On-going/planned activities on gender statistics – who is doing what**

71. Ms. Francesca Grum (UNSD) presented the progress achieved by the implementing agencies of the DA10 programme, a four-year endeavor financed with the contributions of UN Member States. Through a shared vision for its cross-cutting component on gender statistics and indicators, the programme aimed to integrate a gender perspective into official statistics and improve the use of existing gender data while further developing methods to produce data in selected areas of women's empowerment including the nexus between gender and the environment, violence against women and time use. Ms. Grum informed that a total of 26 countries were hitherto covered by the programme, with around 1,300 individuals trained or involved in expert consultations. She highlighted that gender data in the context of the nexus between gender and the environment was addressed for the first time through new partnerships formed during the implementation of this programme. The outputs, which will be concluded by end-2020, can be found in detail on the Development Account website<sup>4</sup> and include guidelines, toolkits and e-learning courses.
72. Mr. Mehmet K. Sökeli (UNSD) presented the aggregate results of the mapping exercise conducted with all IAEG-GS members in August 2019. He pointed out some overlaps between the reported strengths and challenges faced by the IAEG-GS countries. Furthermore, he provided a diagram with clusters of common thematic areas and issues identified from the individual responses to promote exchanges, learning and coordination among the IAEG-GS members<sup>5</sup>. Mr. Sökeli also noted that the individual responses inspired the IAEG-GS Secretariat to propose the following three outputs: (i) a shared IAEG-GS calendar for the IAEG-GS members' activities related to gender-statistics, (ii) an overarching IAEG-GS gender data portal linking many created by the IAEG-GS members and (iii) a library of gender statistics hosting publications, products or manuals produced by the IAEG-GS members. However, further discussion will be needed among the IAEG-GS members before implementation of the proposed outputs.
73. Ms. Neda Jafar (ESCWA) reported the outputs of the Statistical Policy and Coordination Unit in ESCWA, highlighting, in particular, The Arab Gender Gap Report: Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals, a publication comprising nine chapters, links with over 200 indicators from the SDGs, BPfA and the Minimum Set, around 200 charts and infographics covering the 22 countries in the region. Ms. Jafar suggested that ESCWA's Catalogue for Arab Gender Statistics Activities, featuring publications, workshops, surveys and datasets produced by countries in the region, could be integrated into the proposed

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/da/about-the-development-account/>

<sup>5</sup> The aggregate results of the IAEG-GS mapping exercise are uploaded on the internal IAEG-GS website.

IAEG-GS library. She noted that ESCWA's e-handbook on SDG framework and metadata includes additional background information as well as a repository of videos and other virtual materials on the 80 gender-relevant SDG indicators. In addition, she informed that a total of 12,000 users registered for ESCWA's e-learning programme and 7,000 users received their certificates upon successful completion. Future activities of ESCWA include translation of ICATUS 2016 into the Arabic language, a second round of trainer-of-trainers initiative with a gender statistics curriculum and an e-learning dedicated to SDG 5.

74. Ms. Iliana Vaca Trigo (ECLAC) reported the activities of ECLAC include a focus on producing guidelines to harmonize time-use surveys in the region, in line with the work being undertaken at the global level, a collaboration with UN Women to calculate SDG indicator 5.5.1b, a study on the harmonization and quality of femicide data, which is said to be dependent more on legislations and less on statistical concepts in the region, and a repository of equality plans and migration laws in the context of monitoring SDGs from a gender perspective given priorities for the Latin America region. She informed that ECLAC assisted Guatemala and El Salvador with analyses of their previously conducted time-use surveys as well as Bolivia and Chile with preparations of their planned time-use surveys. In addition, Ms. Vaca Trigo noted that ECLAC is working on 2-pagers concentrating on methodological concepts, e.g. measurement of time use, and on analyses of specific gender-relevant indicators with proposals for public policies.
75. Ms. Fatouma Sissoko (ECA) stated that the African Programme on Gender Statistics (AGGS) implemented by ECA is currently at its second phase (2017-2021), composed of efforts in regional partnership and coordination, capacity building and research, advocacy and reporting and dissemination of gender statistics. As ECA's recent initiatives, she named a regional workshop on coordination mechanisms of gender statistics to develop a roadmap to improve coordination, an expert group meeting on gender statistics to identify challenges to fill gender data gaps in the region, the meeting of the AGGS on the Minimum Set of Indicators for Africa and the first meeting of the Gender Data Network to raise the standard of gender data production to better link with policy demands. In addition, Ms. Sissoko informed that ECA would conduct a national training workshop for data users and producers to address challenges in the compilation and dissemination of gender sensitive information and extend technical support to selected countries in the ECA region in preparation for their 2020 Voluntary National Reviews.
76. Ms. Sharita Serrao (ESCAP) informed that while ESCAP does not have a full-fledged regional programme on gender statistics, its initiatives in 2018-2019 revolved around mainstreaming gender in environment statistics, strengthening responsiveness of national statistical systems to gender policy demands via technical support in Armenia, Viet Nam and the Philippines through the application of EPIC<sup>6</sup> -the policy-data integration tool- and strengthening communication of data using a gender perspective by targeting statistical literacy, design of gender data communications strategy, data visualization, and engagement of media for gender data communication. Moreover, Ms. Serrao mentioned that ESCAP has been promoting the analysis of existing time-use data. A publication on time-use data analysis is currently being developed, comprising studies conducted by researchers/academia using national time-use survey data, to demonstrate the potential of such data for policy analysis.
77. Mr. Paolo Valente (ECE) provided virtually an update on ECE activities on gender statistics, namely the capacity development workshops conducted in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan under the DA10 programme, the final report of the task force on measuring intra-household power and decision-making, ECE's updated gender database and its work session on gender statistics conducted in Switzerland in May 2019. In

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<sup>6</sup> EPIC identifies data gaps and data waste by facilitating policy content analysis to identify priority population groups and issues in policy documents, providing insights into data needs that are then mapped against existing indicators at the national, regional and global levels.

addition, Mr. Valente informed that the task force on communicating gender statistics produced a living web platform as well as electronic guidance notes and would publish its final report by June 2020. He invited all IAEG-GS members to submit their good practice examples to be considered for inclusion in the repository<sup>7</sup> of good practices in communicating gender statistics. Moreover, Mr. Valente highlighted the in-depth review paper co-formulated by Canada and the United Kingdom on measuring gender identity, covering the main needs, challenges and approaches for statistical measurement. He informed that ECE would work with a task team and create a regional networking platform to host related information and materials on this emerging topic. A literature review of current practices in measuring gender identity covers 18 countries across and beyond the ECE region.

78. Ms. Elisa Benes (ILO) presented ILO's activities during its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary to mainstream gender into its data collection. She informed that the major reclassification concerning statistics on work relationships adopted at the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in October 2018 would allow for additional analysis, including on the concentration of women employed in jobs with greater dependency and/or more exposed to risk. She noted that ILO is working with a network of countries to develop a guidance that would minimize biases in reporting in data collection and classifying types of dependence and risk. In addition, Ms. Benes stated that ILO partnered with other agencies to measure employment and own-use production of goods to better capture women's work via LFS/LSMS; to measure volunteer work and analyze of gender and age patterns in volunteer work participation; and to test approaches to link time-use data collection with LFS operations. Moreover, Ms. Benes announced that ILO is launching a gender labor market database, processing LFS microdata to enable additional analysis by marital status, household composition, presence of children aged <6 and <18 in the household and place of residence.
79. Mr. Papa Seck (UN Women) presented UN Women's flagship programme: making every woman and girl count, highlighting the progress achieved in 12 pathfinder countries<sup>8</sup> during 2018-2019. He mentioned UN Women's collaboration with the OECD in integrating gender in national statistics strategies, a joint programme with WHO on violence against women database and cooperation with Mexico through the establishment of the Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics. He noted that UN Women mobilized 40.5 million USD from 10 donors since 2018 and supported seven new surveys in Albania, Tanzania, Morocco, Uganda and Georgia to address key data gaps and strengthen countries' capacities to monitor SDGs. UN Women conducted training and capacity building activities for 554 data producers and 210 data users and launched its gender data hub in September 2019. In addition, Mr. Seck stated that a sub-group on gender statistics training was formed in the Asia and the Pacific region to develop a regional training curriculum for data users and producers.
80. Ms. Mengjia Liang (UNFPA) informed that SDG indicator 5.6.2 was upgraded to Tier-II status in September 2018 following the completion of its methodological work, noting, however, that the indicator does not yet have officially disseminated data. She stated that the indicator measures 13 components under four sections, with sections scored with an index ranging between 0 and 100, reflecting the extent the laws and regulations guarantee for equal access to sexual and reproductive health care information and education. Ms. Liang pointed out that UNFPA managed to collect preliminary data from 107 countries, with a coverage around 75 per cent of the world's population and revealing variations in values between and within SDG regions. The official data on SDG indicator 5.6.2 would be disseminated in 2020.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://bit.ly/genderstatsgoodpractices>

<sup>8</sup> Albania, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Colombia, Jordan, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda.

81. Mr. Olivier Labé (UNESCO UIS) mentioned that as the custodian agency of all SDG indicators under Goal 4, UNESCO UIS also reports on SDG indicator 9.5.2. He stated that while most education data reported by UNESCO UIS are internationally comparable and disaggregated by sex, challenges in disaggregation would surface with smaller sample sizes, resulting in a decrease in the accuracy of data. Mr. Labé walked the IAEG-GS members through UNESCO UIS' data compilation and visualization efforts, namely the eAtlas of Gender Inequality in Education, eAtlas for SDG4 Education 2030, World Inequality Database on Education (WIDE) and UIS Global Education Database. Moreover, he added that UNESCO UIS coordinates the activities of the Inter-Agency Group on Education Inequality Indicators (IAG-EII) to improve measurement, norms and standards, documentation, collection and dissemination of education data.
82. Ms. Yonca Gurbuzer (FAO) informed that FAO's recent activities related to gender statistics involved publications reporting on SDG indicators 1.4.2, 5.a.1 and 2.1.2 with a gender perspective, updates on modules and datasets containing sex-disaggregated indicators on employment (FAOSTAT) and rural income and livelihoods (RuLIS), translation of e-learning tools into the French and Spanish languages and technical assistance extended for implementation of agricultural censuses to better reflect gender-based differences in decision-making and ownership of key agricultural assets. Ms. Gurbuzer stated that future activities would include a working paper on employment statistics and gender using RuLIS data, a study exploring the measurement of SDG indicator 5.a.1 through LSMS-type of surveys and technical assistance extended for measurement of SDG indicator 5.a.1 via joint modules or additional questions and for agricultural censuses.
83. Ms. Luisa Sanchez Iriarte (UNODC) presented UNODC's ongoing work and future activities in gender statistics. She informed that UNODC's recent methodological developments included the multiple system estimation (MSE) methodology developed with Argentina, Peru and Mexico to capture hidden figures in trafficking in persons, the definitions fine-tuned in the ARQ data collection instrument, the disaggregation of gender motive variable for gender-related killings and the reiteration of Nigeria corruption survey to further unpack gender and corruption statistics. Ms. Sanchez Iriarte noted that the comparative study between VAW and VS, in cooperation with UNSD, would include additional methodological and statistical analysis on surveys conducted in Canada, Australia and Nigeria. Moreover, she announced that UNODC is working towards developing new SDG indicators and improving their data collection, namely on drug use prevalence<sup>9</sup> and on access to civil service.<sup>10</sup>
84. Ms. Yu-Chieh Hsu (UNDP) gave a brief update on the gender measures of UNDP's Human Development Report, a publication with a long history of measuring gender disparities including a gender-related development index dating back to 1995. She noted that UNDP computes two gender-related indices and updates two gender dashboards on a regular basis. While the Gender Development Index is designed to capture differences in human development across women and men in three dimensions -health, education and standard of living- and does not rank countries given its data limitations, the Gender Inequality Index measures gender inequalities in potential loss in human development in three dimensions -reproductive health (benchmarked against 'the perfect outcome'), empowerment and the labor market. Ms. Hsu added that in addition to the composite index approach, countries may be grouped in terciles in UNDP's user-friendly color-coded dashboards given their performance in particular sets of gender-relevant indicators. She noted that potential areas of improvement for good indices include better coverage for country-level data on estimated income for women and men, improved measurement of intra-household share of

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<sup>9</sup> Proposed SDG indicator 3.5.3: number of persons (general/youth) who used drugs during the last 12 months, as a percentage of the whole population (general/youth)

<sup>10</sup> Proposed SDG indicator 16.3.3: proportion of those who experienced a legal problem in the last two years who could access appropriate information or expert help and were able to resolve the problem

resources and of unpaid care work. Ms. Hsu announced that UNDP's latest Human Development Report would be launched in December 2019.

85. Ms. El Iza Mohamedou (PARIS21/OECD) presented the projects being implemented by PARIS21 that cover financing in gender statistics, strengthening national statistical capacities and strategies with a gender lens and use of gender statistics. She mentioned that PARIS21 disseminates annually a publication on funding for statistical capacity, the latest of which revealed that a significant amount of contribution to gender statistics would come from multilateral donors, with only 13 per cent of funding allocated to statistical capacity development set aside for activities that would support gender statistics. Furthermore, Ms. Mohamedou mentioned that PARIS21, in collaboration with UNSD, developed a survey on the short- and medium-term challenges, priorities and plans of national statistical offices and systems, with only six per cent of 96 responding countries indicating an immediate need for capacity building in gender statistics and 16 per cent citing the dimension by sex as their first priority for data disaggregation (31 per cent cited, on the other hand, the dimension by disability status as their first priority for data disaggregation). She added that PARIS21 will present in January 2020 its guidelines on "capacity development 4.0" to respond to a changing data ecosystem. In addition, Ms. Mohamedou informed that PARIS21 developed a framework that assesses data and capacity gaps in gender statistics at the country-level and an indicator on the use of gender statistics through references made in policy documents and the media, which is measured via data mining of different levels of identified sets of key words.
86. Mr. Richard E. Cibulskis (WHO) presented an overview of *World Health Statistics*, a report produced by WHO annually, informing about the authoring team's efforts and experience in disaggregating by sex all the statistics used in the report. He pointed out that differences in life expectancy between women and men are relatively small compared with those observed between countries of various income levels, noting that behavioral/environmental factors, which could be mitigated by public policy, play a larger role than biological differences. He added that WHO looks at the intersection of gender and income levels and underlined that maternal deaths and cervical cancer, though affecting women only, are diseases of poverty and totally preventable with access to high quality health services. In addition, Mr. Cibulskis reported that out of 28 health-related SDG indicators, for which sex-disaggregated data would be informative for policy, data disaggregation by sex is only available for 11 at the global level.

## **VIII. Priorities for the IAEG-GS members and conclusions of the 13<sup>th</sup> IAEG-GS Meeting**

87. The Group decided to undertake the following activities, which were agreed to constitute the annual work plan of the IAEG-GS until the 14<sup>th</sup> IAEG-GS Meeting in 2020, with emphasis placed on the workstreams (a), (b), (c), (d):
  - a. Advisory Group on gender indicators will revisit the 80 SDG indicators previously identified by the Group as gender-relevant as well as the 54 indicators prioritized by UN-Women, following potential changes that could result from the 2020 comprehensive review for SDGs. Once agreed, the list of SDG gender-relevant indicators will be officially submitted by the Group's co-chairs (Japan and Finland) to the IAEG-GS to contribute to its workstream on data disaggregation.
  - b. UNSD and contributing IAEG-GS partners will hold virtual meetings to agree on priorities for short gender narratives and for gender story maps for the preparation of WW2020 to be launched in October 2020, providing underlying and sub-national data, respectively, that measure progress towards gender equality in the context of Beijing+25.
  - c. Advisory Group on strengthening administrative systems to close gender data gaps will share the short statistical query with all IAEG-GS members, invite additional IAEG-GS countries to enrich

its analysis and update the IAEG-GS members with its progress on the gender dimension of use of administrative records.

- d. UN Women will update the IAEG-GS members with its progress on its methodological work on the collection and use of administrative data on violence against women, and the IAEG-GS members will provide support by sharing feedback on the finalized guidelines.
- e. The IAEG-GS member countries, in particular those that are in the process of conducting or having recently conducted time-use surveys, will contribute to the work of EG-TUS.
- f. The World Bank will update the IAEG-GS members with its progress on its methodological research on the gender dimension of poverty, reaching out to the IAEG-GS members to get their inputs from a gender lens for assumptions made with models.
- g. UNCTAD will update the IAEG-GS members with its progress on its methodological work on gender and trade.
- h. UNECE will update the IAEG-GS members with the progress of the task team (to be formed) to work towards the measurement of gender identity.

88. Ms. Francesca Grum (UNSD) asked the IAEG-GS members to save the date and announced that the Group would meet again in October 2020 in Bern, Switzerland, where the 8<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on Gender Statistics would be taking place back-to-back with the 14<sup>th</sup> IAEG-GS Meeting. As the programme committee, the IAEG-GS members will be requested to provide guidance on the Global Forum's plenary sessions and topics to be covered.

89. The meeting was closed by Mr. Akira Tsumura (Japan), Ms. Marjut Pietiläinen (Finland) and Ms. Francesca Grum (UNSD), who thanked all participants for their active participation and contribution to the discussions held during the previous two days.

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## Annex 2. Meeting Agenda

### The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS)

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Thursday, 7 November 2019

##### Registration

##### Opening remarks and objectives of the meeting


- Mr. Akira Tsumura, Office of Director General for Policy Planning on Statistical Standards, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan
- Ms. Marjut Pietiläinen, Statistics Finland
- Ms. Francesca Grum, Social and Gender Statistics Section, UNSD

#### 1. Featured Session: Time-Use Statistics



Session chair(s): Ms. Marjut Pietiläinen (Finland)

- a. UNSD and the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics – Modernizing Time-Use Surveys in line with international standards and using the latest technologies


Discussion and Q&A 

#### 2. Review of methodological developments to measure and monitor gender indicators



Session chair(s): Ms. Marjut Pietiläinen (Finland)

- b. UNODC – Gender-relevant statistics on drugs and crime
- c. UN Women – Global guidance for the collection and use of administrative data on violence against women
- d. UNESCAP/UN Women – Gender and environment statistics: outcomes of the Expert Group Meeting on Statistics on Gender and the Environment
- e. The World Bank – Lessons learned in measuring poverty gaps within the household
- f. OECD Development Centre – The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2019: A revised framework for better advocacy
- g. UNCTAD (in video) – A coherent approach to measure the impact of trade on gender equality with existing statistical data and capacity


Discussion and Q&A 

### 3. IAEG-GS Advisory Group on strengthening administrative systems to close gender data gaps



Session chair(s): Ms. Lauren Pandolfelli (UNICEF)

- h. UNICEF (AG Chair) – Overview and preliminary findings

Discussion and Q&A 

### 4. Review of country practices in measuring and monitoring gender equality




Session chair(s): Mr. Akira Tsumura (Japan)

- i. Kazakhstan

- j. Georgia

- k. Jordan


Discussion and Q&A 

### 5. Guest Speaker Session



Session chair(s): Ms. Marjut Pietiläinen (Finland)

- Ms. Yongyi Min, UNSD – 10<sup>th</sup> IAEG-SDGs Meeting: key outcomes and updates on 2020 comprehensive review and data disaggregation of (gender-relevant) SDG indicators

Discussion and Q&A 

**Friday, 8 November 2019**


### 6. *The World's Women 2020* (WW2020)



Session chair(s): Ms. Marjut Pietiläinen (Finland)

1. UNSD – *The World's Women 2020*: vision, demonstration and next steps

Group Activity 

Discussion and Q&A 

### 7. Coordination: On-going/planned activities on gender statistics – who is doing what



Session chair(s): Mr. Akira Tsumura (Japan)

- m. DA10 Implementing Agencies – Lessons learned from providing countries the technical capacity to improve their gender statistics

- n. UNSD – IAEG-GS mapping exercise results
- o. UNESCWA – regional initiatives
- p. UNECLAC – regional initiatives
- q. UNECA – regional initiatives
- r. UNESCAP – Recent initiatives on gender statistics in the Asia-Pacific region
- s. UNECE (in video) – Update on UNECE activities on gender statistics
- t. ILO – ILO work activities related to gender statistics

#### Discussion and Q&A

- u. UN Women – Global flagship programme: making every woman and girl count
- v. UNESCO UIS – Gender statistics in UIS dissemination products
- w. UNFPA – Preliminary data of the SDG indicator 5.6.2
- x. FAO – FAO’s on-going work and planned activities on gender statistics
- y. UNODC – UNODC’s on-going and gender-related work
- z. UNDP – Gender measures in the Human Development Report
- aa. Paris21 – Paris21 framework for assessing gender statistics
- bb. WHO – Findings from the World Health Statistics Report

#### Discussion and Q&A

### **8. Priorities for the IAEG-GS members and conclusions of the 13<sup>th</sup> IAEG-GS Meeting**

- Feedback from the evaluation of the 12<sup>th</sup> IAEG-GS Meeting and 7<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on Gender Statistics in Tokyo, Japan
- Agreed next steps and the 8<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on Gender Statistics in 2020
- Conclusions: Finland – Ms. Marjut Pietiläinen, Japan – Mr. Akira Tsumura and UNSD – Ms. Francesca Grum
- IAEG-GS Family Photo