

5th meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics

Activities related to gender statistics undertaken by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

In March 2011 the OECD Gender Initiative was launched to develop a toolkit of indicators and policies to empower women and promote gender equality in education, employment and entrepreneurship in OECD, emerging and developing economies.

At the 25-26 May 2011 meeting of the OECD Council at Ministerial Level, ministers of the OECD member countries welcomed a preliminary report on the Initiative. The Chairperson of the Meeting, U.S. Secretary of State Ms. Hilary Rodham Clinton, stated in her conclusions that Ministers “*called on the OECD to work with other willing international organisations to create a plan to make existing gender data more comparable and useful and to identify a list of common indicators for future data collection*”. She further announced that “*the World Bank, UN Women and the OECD have agreed to work with the OECD on a joint plan for the November 2011 High-Level Meeting on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea.*”

The OECD has since been engaged in delivering on this mandate and has been cooperating with other International Organizations in developing – as part of the Busan Action Plan for Statistics – a list of possible gender disaggregated statistics that capture gender inequalities in education, employment and entrepreneurship.

Some of the statistics included in the proposed list are already systematically collected and would only require harmonization of the definitions used by the various International Organizations. Other statistics need instead to be collected in a more systematic way. Educational attainment of the adult population and the amount of paid and unpaid parental leave are two examples of important indicators that need more systematic collection.

Entrepreneurship is, however, the topic where gender statistics are less developed. A significant part of the OECD Gender Initiative programme is in fact dedicated to collecting gender disaggregated statistics on entrepreneurship, through a “gender-focused” version of the framework of the existing OECD–EUROSTAT Entrepreneurship Indicators Programme (EIP), which identifies a number of indicators relevant to measuring the gender dimension of entrepreneurial activity – such as: business owners by gender and by industry; age and education of business owners.

The work programme of the OECD Gender Initiative also includes the development and launch – by end of 2012 – of a one-stop data portal for indicators on gender equality in education, employment and entrepreneurship. The data portal will present the indicators used in the OECD Gender Initiative reports will cover – as much as possible – OECD, emerging and developing economies.