United Nations Statistical Commission
Fifty-third session
Item 3 (h) of the provisional agenda
Items for discussion and decision: gender statistics

Document E/CN.3/2022/12 – Report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics

Statement provided by:	
Belarus	

Statement:	
Belstat endorses and appreciates the work of the Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, supports the proposed future plans to finalize the UN guidelines and to build the capacity of countries in the field of time-use statistics. In Belarus a full-scale time-use survey is conducted every 10 years. The last survey on this topic was conducted in 2014-2015 with technical support from UNFPA and UNICEF, and the next one is planned for 2024-2025. Given the importance of the results of the time-use survey for monitoring SDG 5.4.1 "Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work" for studying gender equality in different activities and leisure time, Belstat is interested in obtaining data on time use for basic activities at lower periodicity. This could be facilitated by the Minimum Harmonized Instrument proposed by the Inter-Agency Group. Belstat generally supports the inclusion of gender issues in the agenda items of the Statistical Commission and the desire of the Inter-Agency Group to align the minimum set of gender indicators with the SDG indicators. However, in our view, the indicator "QI.3 Length of maternity leave" included in the updated minimum set is ambiguous to characterize gender equality. Social guarantees provided to parents as a measure of family support help in raising children, but at the same time may lead to the erosion of human capital: skills and career prospects are lost. The indicator "Number of men and women on parental leave" seems to be more appropriate, and its dynamics will allow for direct assessment of the progress made by countries in achieving gender equality.	

Submitted on:	3/1/2022