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Statement provided by:	
Lesotho	
Statement:	
Lesotho would like to express on behalf of the Africa Group a contribution to the subject matter.	
The monitoring requirements of the Beijing platform of action in 1995 and other international instruments, such as the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and African Union Agenda 2063 have increased demand for data, including gender related data and put national statistical systems (NSSs) under continued pressure to review their data collection and management procedures accordingly. In support of the ongoing efforts of African countries to better mainstream gender issues in their statistical activities, UNECA undertook various activities aiming to improve capacity of member states in the production of timely and quality gender data, using innovative tools and technics. These include among others: (i) Assessment of the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the gender statistics activities and operations of member states. (ii) Development of guidelines on mainstreaming gender issues in statistics in support of Covid related decision making. (iii) Development of a minimum set of gender indicators for Africa (MSGIA) in collaboration with UNWOMEN and AfDB, National Statistics Offices (NSOs), Gender Machineries, UN Agencies, Civil Society Organizations.	
Africa fully agrees with recommendations made to the commissions and welcome ongoing initiatives aiming to harmonize and modernize instrument for the collection of time-use data, and improve the quality of such surveys. These initiatives are timely, as many studies have identified the lack of gender related data and statistics as a missing link to gender responsive planning and management of countries response to the Covid-19 pandemic impact. Furthermore, an ECA assessment identified the lack of capacity of most member states to undertake gender specific surveys as one of the reasons preventing them from conducting gender-specific surveys, such as time-use survey. However, the effective implementation of these instruments requires their adaptation to Africa context and effective collaboration with UNECA and other gender statistics stakeholders institutions in the continent to ensure that they reflect Africa realities and priorities. This require also effective political, technical and financial support at national, regional and international levels.	
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