



Statistics



Towards Better Statistics on Men and Women

Gender statistics experts from national statistical offices met in Geneva from 19 to 21 March to highlight new developments in the area of gender statistics and to share experiences related to their production and use. Organized by the UNECE Statistical Division, the Work Session on Gender Statistics considered a set of gender equality indicators for regular use in all countries of the UNECE region. A preceding workshop focused on the indicators in countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. It revealed improvements in the availability of the indicators over recent years and identified issues where future efforts in that region should focus on.

Policymaking in most areas requires information on gender differences in society. Without an understanding of these differences and the ways in which a policy will affect men and women, the intended policy objectives may not be fulfilled. Activities in gender statistics are designed to ensure that such information is available in all areas. A series of United Nations policy documents, most prominently the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Declaration, call for the development of gender equality policies as well as for the statistics required for their development.

The Gender Statistics Work Session will formulate recommendations for further methodological work in gender statistics. Discussions on Gender equality in the life course were based on findings from the Generations and Gender Programme of data collection and research, coordinated by the UNECE Population Unit in partnership with a consortium of research institutes. Other key topics of the Session include gender segregation in education and employment, gender differences in well-being, and the use of censuses and time-use surveys in studying gender issues. □

For more information, please visit: http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2014.03_gender.html or contact: andres.vikat@unece.org.

Water

TARGETING WATER IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
14 March 2014
10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
World Meteorological Organization
"Room A/Chester"

Briefing on how water issues are being addressed within the evolving debate on possible sustainable development goals, in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda

Chair: Michel Jarraud, Chair of UN-Water, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Welcome remarks:
Samuel Bül, Representative of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office (UNOG) and other international organizations at Geneva

- Role of the UNECE Water Convention in promoting water in the post-2015 development agenda
- Monika Lim, Principal Adviser, Office of the Executive Secretary, UNECE
- Overview of the post-2015 process
- Chair: Csaba Kiss, Head of EU External Relations Department, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Hungary
- Swiss engagement in the post-2015 process
- Michael Gerber, Ambassador, Swiss Special Representative for Global Sustainable Development, and Considerations from a Swiss water perspective
- Michael Thurnher, Senior Water Policy Advisor, Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC)
- Recommendations from UN-Water on a post-2015 global goal for water
- Federico Prosser, UN-Water

Coffee break (11.00 a.m.)

Chair: Monika Lim, Principal Adviser, Office of the Executive Secretary, UNECE

- Colombia's engagement in relation to water in the post-2015 process
- Claudia Patricia Cuevas Ortiz, Coordinator of Environmental Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Colombia
- Industry perspective
- Geoff Meier, Senior Advisor, AquaFed – The International Federation of Private Water Operators
- Civil society position
- Carola Wimmer, the Butterfly Effect NGO coalition

Moderated interactive discussion involving all participants (Moderator: Monika Lim, UNECE)

The working language will be English.
Light lunch will be offered after the interactive discussion.
WMO registration: 12.30 p.m.

The briefing is organized with support of the SDC.

To register, please contact Natalya Nikaforova at: nikaforova@unece.org

UNECE puts the spotlight on water in the post-2015 development agenda

Countries, international organizations, civil society and the water industry came together in Geneva on 14 March for a briefing on Targeting water in the post-2015 development agenda. While at the meeting, each country expressed a different position with regard to water in the future development agenda with a common view on the importance of an integrated approach to water as an essential key to sustainable social, environmental and economic development.

The briefing, co-organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UN-Water and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, was structured around statements by foreign affairs experts from Colombia, Hungary and Switzerland and chaired by Michel Jarraud, Chair of UN-Water and Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization.

The speaker from Hungary provided an overview of the post-2015 process from the perspective of one of the countries co-chairing the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Ambassador Michael Gerber, Swiss Special Representative for Global Sustainable Development, described the Swiss engagement in the post-2015 process and highlighted the Swiss position for a strong, holistic and dedicated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on water: A Water-secure World for All. The speaker from Colombia also introduced her country's integrated approach to SDGs, with a strong place for water.

Sixty per cent of the global freshwater flow comes from the 276 transboundary river basins and lakes worldwide, where 40 per cent of the world's population lives. Shared groundwater has come to the forefront of water issues, as over 300 aquifers worldwide are transboundary and large populations are dependent on these resources.

Regional economic development depends on the use of these shared waters, management of which is often complex, especially in basins that do not have some type of cooperative management framework. The UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes has a leading role to play in this regard.

For these reasons UNECE has engaged strongly in the development of the UN-Water paper, A Post-2015 Global Goal for Water: Synthesis of key findings and recommendations from UN-Water, which was also presented during the event. UN-Water's suggestion for a dedicated SDG on water —Securing sustainable water for all — is based on the premise that the many interrelated water issues, including the sharing of transboundary waters, need to be addressed coherently through a dedicated water goal in order to achieve the future we want.

Representatives of the private sector were also involved in the preparation of the UN-Water paper, including AquaFed — the International Federation of Private Water Operators — a representative of which introduced the industry perspective with regard to water in the post-2015 development agenda.

The Butterfly Effect NGO coalition called upon Governments to work towards an explicit goal aiming for a water-safe world, encompassing all aspects of water and sanitation issues in quantity, quality, accessibility and affordability.

UNECE described its engagement in the wider post-2015 development agenda, particularly with regard to implementation at the regional level, as well as its particular expertise in the field of water. The Water Convention provides a unique combination of a legal framework and an intergovernmental platform for strengthening transboundary water cooperation and water governance at the global level. □

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35196>.

Energy

Developing a common assessment methodology for renewable energy resources



Adopting a common assessment methodology for renewable resources will greatly benefit investors, regulators, governments and consumers. UNECE is working to achieve such a methodology through application of the United Nations Framework Classification to Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources (UNFC) to renewable energy resources. A key step in this process is the UNECE Workshop on Application of UNFC to Renewable Energy that will be held in Washington DC, from 24 -25 March.

Hosted by the World Bank and sponsored by BP, DuPont, Shell and Total, the Workshop will bring together representatives from the United Nations, governments, international organizations, industry, professional societies and associations, academia and other key stakeholders engaged in activities related to the classification and reporting of energy reserves and resources, in particular renewable energy. □

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=34799> or contact Charlotte Griffiths at: charlotte.griffiths@unece.org.

Transport

UNECE promotes the work of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations in South Africa



UNECE participated in the "2014 CITA Regional Conference in Africa" organized by the International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee (CITA) in Cape Town, South Africa from 4-6 March.

This third edition aimed at fostering a regional dialogue on transport policies to increase vehicle and road safety and especially to support the adoption of vehicles standards introducing better mandatory "in service" vehicle testing or "Periodical Technical Inspections" (PTI). South Africa faces high numbers of casualties on the roads. Studies made by the Western Cape Government show that 5-20% of crashes are linked to defective vehicle condition, justifying the introduction of PTI in the Country.

High-level officials from various African Countries and from the Philippines participated in the Conference, as well as various actors from the private sector. The industry promoted PTI solutions, which is a key element to keep vehicles well maintained and safe.

Francois Guichard, member of the secretariat of the World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), [presented](#) the World Forum's regulatory activities, encompassing both vehicle safety and environmental performance. He further highlighted the benefits that would derive from the participation of more African countries to the work of the World Forum. For the time being, Tunisia and South Africa, which are contracting parties to both the 1958 and the 1998 agreements, and Egypt, which acceded to the 1958 agreement, are the only countries on the continent to actively take part in the World Forum's activities. □

For more information on the World Forum, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/welcwp29.html>.

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