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Implementation in Sweden of recommendations concerning gender statistics in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1995

A gender perspective should be included in all development activities

1. Problems and questions related to gender cover all spheres of society. Consequently, a gender perspective should be included in all areas of policy. The 1994 Swedish Parliamentary Bill on equal opportunities mandates that a gender perspective always be taken into account in both analyses and in the planning stages of proposals. The question of effects of decisions on women and men in various social groups should always be raised, at the national as well as regional and local level.

Reference: para. 198, 202 and 204 of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Women and men should be visible in all statistics

2. One of the most important tools in promoting equality is statistics and indicators on gender issues. Gender statistics have an essential role in the elimination of stereotypes, formulating policies and monitoring progress towards full equality. The differences in women's and men's conditions in society, in working life and in the family must be made visible before they can be taken into account in policy making.

3. Since 1994 gender statistics is an integrated part of the Swedish official statistical system. Also, in 1994 a new section, section 10, was added to the Ordinance on Official Statistics. It states that "Official statistics related to individuals should, if no special, contradictory reasons exist, be disaggregated by sex.". Sex should be a basic classification in statistical analysis and presentation and not treated as one among many other variables. The goal is that all official statistics on individuals should be collected, analysed and presented by sex and reflect gender relations and their effect on all spheres of society.

Reference: para.206 (a) and 207 (d).

Organisation of gender statistics work

4. Statistics Sweden established a special unit for gender statistics as early as in 1983 as a complement to other units. Today, the responsibility for engendering statistics lies on each subject matter unit. The task of the gender statistics unit is to continuously identify various needs for gender statistics, disseminate information on these needs within the statistical office, act as initiator and co-ordinator of special gender statistics activities, and be responsible for special marketing activities and for production of gender statistics products which do not fall under any subject matter unit's field of responsibility.

Reference: para. 206 (d).

5. Statistics Sweden has during the 1990's established advisory boards for various statistical fields in order to increase the relevance of statistics to different user-groups' needs. The composition of the boards reflects important user-groups for each field. The gender statistics advisory board was established in 1991. It has over the years successfully contributed with ideas for new and improved statistics and strongly supported the unit in its work.

Reference: para. 207 (b).

Production of gender statistics

6. The Gender Statistics Unit at Statistics Sweden produces regularly (in Swedish every third year) Statistics Sweden's best-seller - the statistical booklet "Women and Men in Sweden. Facts and Figures". The booklet was first presented in Swedish 1984 and in an updated version in English in Nairobi 1985. English versions have also been published in 1990 and 1995.

7. A new booklet is now being produced to be ready in August in a Swedish version and in November in an English version. This booklet will give statistical information on the development between 1970 and 1997 in various policy areas what concerns gender equality.

8. The unit also produces fact sheets, exhibitions and publications with deeper analyses of specific problem areas. All production is done on commission and in close co-operation with users from various groups.

Reference: para. 206 (b) and (c) and 207 (a).

9. In June 1997, an in-depth statistical study of women and men as managers at different managerial levels in the private and public sector was published. The publication, "Women and Men at the Top. Facts on Numbers and Salaries 1995", was commissioned by the Equality Affairs Division at the Ministry of Labour.

Reference: para. 207 (c).

Integrating a gender perspective in policies, programmes and projects requires knowledge and tools

10. Mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policy areas requires knowledge of gender concerns and how to compile and analyse statistics on women and men. Therefore, since 1995, information and training of high level managers, politicians, planners and policy makers are important parts of government mainstreaming activities. Gender statistics is a necessary tool in these activities.

11. The gender statistics unit participates in the training in which gender statistics is used as a basis for discussion of problems and questions related to women's and men's situation in different policy areas. In addition to mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policy areas, this user-producer co-operation is expected to increase the demand from users for improved statistics on the situation of women and men.

Reference: para. 205 (f) and 207 (b) and (d).

Improving gender statistics

12. The Beijing document specifically stresses the need for improved gender statistics on power and decision making, work and economy, violence and crime and health and disability.

13. The Swedish labour force survey has recently been used for deeper analysis of the consequences of the economic recession for women's and men's gainful employment including underemployment and unemployment.

14. For an in-depth understanding of the full contribution of women and men to the economy, time-use studies are needed. In 1990/1991 Statistics Sweden conducted a time-use study including persons 20-64

years of age. This study has been extensively used for analyses of women's and men's situation in various subgroups. The need for updated information is well documented through contacts with user-groups. Decision on a new survey has until now not been taken, dependent on government cost restrictions.

15. However, Statistics Sweden undertakes development work in the field of time-use studies. In a project on household production and consumption, methods are developed to measure and analyse income, expenditure and time-use for household-members. Measurement of time-use is concentrated to household production. Also, Statistics Sweden takes an active role in Eurostat's project on harmonised time-use surveys, in which a model has been successfully tested in 18 countries. (see paper presented by Klas Rydenstam and Karen Blanke under topic (iii), unpaid work).

16. A government proposition for a new law on violence against women has just been past to the Parliament. Improved statistics in this field is included in the proposition.

Reference: para. 206 (e)-(j)
