

Third meeting of the 2007/2008 Bureau
Geneva, 12-13 February 2008

Item 10c of the Provisional
Agenda

**PROPOSAL FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCE
ON THE MEASUREMENT OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Note prepared by the UNECE secretariat

BACKGROUND

1. In February 2005, the Bureau approved the ToR for the Task Force on the Measurement of Violence against Women. Since its inception, the Task Force has been active as follows:

- The TF prepared a comparative analysis of 25 National Surveys carried out by 17 Member countries of the CES, which was presented and discussed at the 2006 UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics¹. The analysis highlighted the differences and commonalities of the methodology used to measure gender-based violence. Also highlighted was a common basis from where it would be possible to develop standard methodology. It was recommended that the Task Force continue its work under the mandate of the CES and increase its collaboration with other important stakeholders active in improving measurement of gender-based violence, in particular UN bodies/departments (UNDAW, UNHCHR) and the research community.
- In 2007 the TF hosted the “*Expert Group Meeting on Indicators to Measure Violence Against Women*” organized jointly with the UN Division for Advancement of Women, the UN Statistical Division and in collaboration with other UN Regional commissions. This Expert Group Meeting convened with the objective to commence work on a list of indicators.
- The Website on the measurement of gender-based violence has been developed and will soon be launched to inform a broad range of interested users on definitions and methods to measure gender-based violence through surveys, as well as to disseminate analytical products and available statistical data. Statistical data from 11 countries are also presented in a unifying framework, facilitating access to national survey data that are not widely available in the international context.

2. In October 2007, the Bureau reviewed the progress of the work of the Task Force. The Bureau noted that:

¹ <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.09.gender.htm>

“there is a bias in the perception of some of the activities which may be partially caused by the wording; users often do not understand the purpose of gender statistics and consider the subject exclusively as an advocacy tool for women; there is a need to find formulations that can better express what gender statistics is trying to achieve in an impartial way;(…and…) the issue is not only violence against women but also violence in families (e.g. by parents, carers) and households.” (ECE/CES/BUR.2007/OCT/18, pages 3 and 5).

3. The Bureau requested the Task Force to revise its ToR to take into account the concerns raised in the discussion. Therefore, the Task Force suggests its being renamed as the *Task Force on the Measurement of Gender-based Violence*.

OBJECTIVE OF THE WORK

4. The objective of the Task Force is to continue to improve and harmonize statistics on gender-based violence.

TASKS

5. The main tasks of the Task Force will be:
- to continue to promote training for NSOs and users in the field of gender-based violence;
 - to define common concepts, to define and contribute to the development of a core set of indicators and identify a minimum set of questions for:
 - i) specialized surveys; and
 - ii) inclusion of a short module on Gender-based violence in on-going surveys.

OUTPUTS OF THE TASK FORCE

6. The main outputs of the Task Force will be:
- contributions to the global effort in response to the UN General Assembly’s resolution² for the development of a “set of possible indicators on violence against women in order to assist States in assessing the scope, prevalence and incidence of violence against women”³ to be adopted by the Statistical Commission;
 - methodological guidelines on producing data on gender-based violence through i) specialized surveys and ii) inclusion of a short module on gender-based violence in on-going surveys.

² The resolution entitled “Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women” (A/RES/61/143) was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 19 December 2006.

³ Text quoted directly from *Aide Mémoire* of the “Expert Group Meeting on indicators to measure violence against women” held on 8-10 October 2007 in Geneva (<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.30/2007/mtg1/zip.1.e.pdf>).

MEMBERSHIP

7. The composition of the Task Force on the Measurement of Gender-based Violence will include representatives from Canada, Italy, Serbia, United States, Coordination Action on Human Rights Violations (CAHRV), Lancaster University, London Metropolitan University, European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI), Office of the High Commission on Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (UNDAW), UNFPA, UNIFEM, WHO and UNECE.

MEETINGS

8. The Task Force will work using e-mail consultations or face-to-face meetings as needed.

TIME FRAME

9. The work plan will be defined by the Task Force on the Measurement of Gender-based Violence upon approval of the ToR. The Bureau will review the ToR in 2010.

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