

First Meeting of the 2010/2011 Bureau
Geneva (Switzerland), 3-4 November 2010

Item 4b of the
Provisional Agenda

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR THE TASK FORCE ON INDICATORS OF GENDER EQUALITY**

Note by the secretariat

I. BACKGROUND

1. The April 2010 UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics recommended undertaking work to identify key gender indicators related to internationally agreed policy goals, including developing a framework for grouping indicators by domains and a hierarchy of indicators that distinguishes, for example, headline and supporting indicators.¹
2. At its fifty-eighth plenary session in June 2010, the Conference of European Statisticians recognized the need to continue work on gender statistics involving the high level of expertise available in member countries.²
3. The need to monitor progress towards internationally agreed gender-related policy objectives has led to several efforts to develop gender-sensitive indicators. These include the indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals and for mainstreaming gender in ageing societies. At UNECE level, the importance of available data for measuring key gender issues has been analyzed to establish the content of the UNECE Gender Statistics database. Organizations such as OECD and the World Bank work in this area. At the European Union level, indicators have been developed for monitoring nine out of the twelve strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform of Action and have been considered for monitoring the EU roadmap for equality between women and men. At the same time, there is no coherent set of indicators for measuring progress with implementing the Beijing Platform of Action that would be applicable outside the EU.
4. In view of the proliferation of various indicator development exercises, a review is required to be able to identify those that are key measures that most UNECE countries would be able to obtain. Such a review would assess the indicators' suitability for describing major gender inequalities, for monitoring gender-relevant policies, their regular availability and comparability across countries.
5. In carrying out its activities, the Task Force should use as far as possible the results of the initiatives mentioned above and other relevant material, and should take into account the existing demand for statistical information in this field at national and international levels. The participation in the Task Force of representatives from Eurostat and some of the

¹ Para. 9 in the report available at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.30/2010/zip.7.e.pdf>.

² Para. 21 in the report ECE/CES/79 available at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2010.06.ces.htm>.

countries participating in the EU initiatives will facilitate the transfer of knowledge and the communication among the different groups, and ensure that duplication will be avoided.

II. MANDATE AND REPORTING

6. The work of the Task Force should be conducted in the framework of the activities of the Conference of European Statisticians.

7. The Task Force reports to the CES Steering Group on Gender Statistics through a progress report submitted once a year. The secretariat will also submit the progress report for information and comments to the informal network of Directors of Social Statistics of CES countries. The Steering Group on Gender Statistics will submit the progress reports and the final report to the CES Bureau.

III. OBJECTIVE

8. The objective of the Task Force is to improve the monitoring of gender equality in the UNECE region by consolidating and systematizing the existing proliferation of gender-relevant statistical indicators and by proposing ways for sustainable data collection on selected indicators.

IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

9. To achieve its objective, the Task Force will undertake the following activities:

(a) Review the indicators developed in international initiatives of monitoring policy agendas with a strong gender dimension, such as the Beijing Platform of Action, the Millennium Development Goals, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the European Union roadmap for equality between women and men, to identify gaps in the measurement of gender equality;

(b) Review the availability of data for the established indicators in international databases to identify gaps where data for established indicators is lacking;

(c) Develop a framework for grouping the indicators by domain;

(d) Select and structure the indicators by identifying headline and supporting indicators in each domain, for monitoring gender equality throughout the UNECE region;

(e) Propose methodological work in areas where gender equality indicators have not been developed and suggest ways of improving data availability;

(f) Propose methodological work to further develop high priority indicators for which there are no internationally consistent measurement approaches;

(g) Based on the activities above, elaborate proposals for improving the content, structure and visibility of the UNECE Gender Statistics Database.

10. In pursuing these activities, the Task Force will rely on the previous efforts in developing internationally comparable indicators on gender issues. The Task Force will cooperate with the European Institute for Gender Equality considering its current initiatives in gender-related indicators and data collection.

11. The outputs of this work will be presented in a report that includes the following main elements:

(a) An inventory of internationally developed indicators for measuring gender equality, including data availability for those indicators in the UNECE region;

(b) A framework for grouping the indicators by domain;

(c) Proposed measurement approaches where internationally consistent measures are lacking;

(d) A system of headline and supporting indicators for measuring gender equality in the UNECE region;

(e) Proposed actions to improve the UNECE Gender Database.

V. TIMETABLE

12. The work of the Task Force should be conducted in the period from December 2010 to October 2012, according to the following tentative timetable:

December 2010 to April 2011: Preparation of the inventory

May to October 2011: Preparation of the system of selected headline and supporting indicators and proposals for improvements to the UNECE Gender Database

October 2011: presenting the first draft report to the Steering Group on Gender Statistics

November and December 2011: review of the first draft report by the Steering Group
January and February 2012: revision of the draft based on Steering Group's comments

April 2012: Discussion of the revised draft at the Work Session on Gender Statistics

May to August 2012: Revision of the draft report based on feedback from the Work Session

September 2012: Submission of the report by the Steering Group to the CES Bureau.

VI. METHODS OF WORK

13. The Task Force is expected to work mainly via email and telephone conference, organized on average once a month.

14. For the preparation of the draft documents, the Task Force may take advantage of the wiki infrastructure available at UNECE.

15. No face-to-face meetings of the Task Force are expected. However, informal meetings of the Task Force could be organised at events attended by a significant number of Task Force members.

VII. MEMBERSHIP

16. Australia, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom, the European Institute for Gender Equality, Eurostat, the International Labour Office and the United Nations Development Programme have expressed interest in participating in this task force.

17. The membership is open to additional countries or organizations that may desire joining the task force.

18. The secretariat will be provided by UNECE.

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