

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Third Meeting of the 2012/2013 Bureau
Luxembourg, 5-6 February 2013

For decision

Item 4(c) of the Provisional
Agenda

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STEERING GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS
AND ITS TASK FORCES**

Note by the secretariat

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Steering Group on Gender Statistics was created by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in 2005¹. Its objective is to coordinate the CES work on gender statistics and to advise on the organization of UNECE meetings and workshops in this field. In November 2010, the Bureau approved the extension of the Steering Group's terms of reference for two years.

2. The Steering Group currently includes representatives from Australia, Georgia, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, the International Labour Organization, Eurostat and OECD.

II. PROGRESS ACHIEVED

3. In the last two years, the Steering Group advised the existing two task forces on their work programme. Several steering group members participated directly in the work of the task forces. The Steering Group organized the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics² in March 2012 in Geneva. It met on the occasion of this Work Session to discuss the organization of the 2014 Work Session. The Steering Group has mainly worked by e-mail. The following sections present the progress of the work of the Task Force on gender-based violence and indicators of gender equality.

A. Gender-based violence

4. The Task Force on the Measurement of Gender-based Violence was set up in 2005 with the aim of improving and harmonizing statistics on gender-based violence. Based on the progress report³ presented in November 2010, the Bureau extended its mandate for one year. With the finalisation of the survey module and the related guidance material in 2011, the Task Force on Gender-based Violence has completed its work.

5. The Task Force included representatives from Canada, Italy, Serbia, UN Women, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, World Health Organization, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and five independent experts.

¹ CES/BUR.2005/31.

² <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2012.03.gender.htm>

³ ECE/CES/BUR/2010/NOV/8/Add.1.

In October 2007, September 2009 and November 2010, UNECE convened expert group meetings on measuring violence against women. Many of the Task Force's activities were supported by the inter-regional project "Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge communities"⁴ funded from the United Nations Development Account.

6. The Task Force's activities supported the global effort of developing indicators on violence against women in response to the General Assembly resolutions from 2006 onwards⁵. The United Nations Statistical Commission established the Friends of the Chair group for coordinating this global effort. Several task force members provided input to the work of this group, identifying the set of indicators on measuring violence against women, which was adopted by the Statistical Commission at its 40th session in February 2009.

7. The Task Force guided the development of a survey module for collecting data on the set of indicators agreed upon by the Statistical Commission. It is expected to become a standard data collection tool on violence against women for national statistical offices worldwide. The module has been pilot-tested in Armenia, Georgia, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova and South Africa. It was finalised in 2011 and is available at the UNECE web site⁶ along with guidance material for interviewers and their training and supervision, materials for data processing, including computation code for the indicators, and instructions on collecting feedback and evaluation of the data collection. The module has been included in the global guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women using statistical surveys, to be published in 2013.

8. Task Force members contributed to the capacity-building activities on the measurement of gender-based violence. UNECE organized four sub-regional capacity-building workshops on gender-based violence in 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2011 and three national level training events with support from the World Bank and the United Nations Development Account. Training modules on measuring gender-based violence have been included in six other training workshops on gender statistics.

B. Indicators of gender equality

9. In November 2010, the Bureau approved the terms of reference of the Task Force on Indicators of Gender Equality⁷. The objective is to improve the monitoring of gender equality in the UNECE region by consolidating and systematizing the existing proliferation of gender-relevant statistical indicators.

10. The Task Force includes representatives from Italy (Ms Cristina Freguja from ISTAT chairs the Task Force), Australia, Israel, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom, Eurostat, the European Institute for Gender Equality and the International Labour Organization. The Task Force has held 11 audio conferences and a face-to-face meeting on the occasion of the 2012 UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics. For efficient exchanges on its ongoing work, the Task Force uses the wiki environment of UNECE.

⁴ More information on the project is available at <http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/VAW>.

⁵ Resolutions A/RES/61/143, 62/133, 63/155, 64/137 and 65/187, all entitled "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women".

⁶ <http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/VAW>.

⁷ ECE/CES/BUR/2010/NOV/8/Add.1.

11. The Task Force carried out a review of the gender indicators developed by various international initiatives, including the review of data availability. It established criteria for the selection of indicators and for classifying them into headline and supporting indicators. Using the Beijing Platform of Action as a starting point for identifying the domains of gender equality, the Task Force developed concept notes for each domain, outlining the considerations for selecting the indicators and referring to the existing sets of indicators and data availability. It paid particular attention to maintaining consistency with the global minimum set of gender indicators⁸ developed by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics under the United Nations Statistical Commission.

12. The Task Force prepared a discussion paper⁹ on the conceptual framework and the approach it had taken in its work. This was discussed in a session on indicators of gender equality of the 2012 UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics (Geneva, 12-14 March). The session provided useful feedback that the Task Force has been able to consider in its work.

13. To date, the Task Force has developed and reviewed concept notes and indicators in all the areas of gender equality that it planned to address. Currently, it is consolidating this material into one consistent report. Some elements of the report still require additional inputs and the report needs overall editing for consistency. The full report will be available for a broader consultation in May 2013.

14. In view of the need to complete the report and the time needed to reflect on any feedback that the consultation with member countries would provide, it is proposed to extend the mandate of the Task Force on Indicators for Gender Equality by one year.

C. Capacity-building

15. Since November 2010, UNECE conducted three capacity-building workshops on gender statistics:

(a) National workshop on gender statistics for Albania (Durrës, 7-8 December 2010);

(b) Workshop on measuring violence against women (Geneva, 27-29 April 2011);

(c) Workshop on gender statistics with modules on labour statistics and time use surveys (Geneva, 15 March 2012), organized in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund and the Medstat programme of the European Union.

16. The workshop reports and other material are available at the UNECE web site¹⁰.

⁸ Contained in the Secretary-General's 2012 report on gender statistics E/CN.3/2013/10 available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2013.htm>.

⁹ ECE/CES/GE.30/2012/9 available at

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.30/2012/9_TaskForce_E_v2.pdf

¹⁰ <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2011.04.gender.html>,

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2012.03.15.gender.html>.

III. ACTIVITIES IN THE COMING TWO-YEAR PERIOD

17. The Steering Group will prepare the next UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics scheduled for March 2014. It will provide guidance on the finalisation of the report on indicators of gender equality.

18. The Steering Group will develop a work plan to follow up on the results of the Task Force on Indicators on Gender Equality, including data collection and communication of the recommended indicators through the UNECE Gender Statistics Database. The Steering Group will present this work plan for discussion to the Work Session on Gender Statistics in March 2014 and subsequently to the CES Bureau.

19. Countries of Eastern and South-eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia have repeatedly expressed the need for capacity-building in gender statistics. The Steering Group will provide advice on these activities, promoting use of the wealth of training materials prepared by UNECE task forces in recent years and the regional set of indicators that are being developed by the current task force. The capacity-building activities will be funded from the United Nations Development Account and potentially by other donors.

20. The Steering Group will work mainly using e-mail consultations and teleconferences. It will meet in conjunction with the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics.

IV. DECISION

21. The Bureau approved the closing of the Task Force on Gender-based Violence as it has completed its work. They extended the mandate of the Steering Group on Gender Statistics for two years and the mandate of the Task Force on Indicators of Gender Equality for one year (until end-2013).

* * * * *