OFFICE OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

DEPUTY GENERAL DIRECTOR FOR GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC SECURITY AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

“FRIENDS OF THE CHAIR OF THE UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION ON THE INDICATORS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN”
ABOUT GROUP OF FRIENDS OF THE CHAIR OF UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION ON INDICATORS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1. BACKGROUND

Recognition and concern by the United Nations and multilateral organizations of the extent, severity and repercussions of violence against women reached its highest peak so far this decade. In 2003 the WHO published a World Report on Violence and Health; in June 2006 the United Nations Secretary-General released an In-Depth Study on All Forms of Violence against Women. It was essential for placing the problem on international and government agendas. The study offers a wide perspective of the problem; it identifies the major difficulties facing its solution, including quantification, and therefore the lack of reliable and comparable statistics and indicators. This is due to using heterogeneous methods, definitions and analyses to measure its extent and severity.

Resolution 61/143 was issued early 2007 to respond to the major problems disclosed in the In-depth Study, in which Items 11, 18 and 19 recommend that member States and the United Nations system begin gathering information and defining homogeneous indicators.

11. It also urges States to ensure systematic data collection and analyses with the participation of national statistical offices

18. It asks the Statistical Commission to draft and propose, in consultation with the Commission on Women’s Legal and Social Condition and based on the work of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences, to appraise the scope, prevalence and frequency of violence against women.

1.1 INITIATIVES PRIOR TO THE FORMATION OF THE GROUP

a. Group of Experts on indicators to measure violence against women

A meeting of Experts was held in October 2007 for the purpose of responding to the mandate in Resolution 61/143 to measure violence against women, hosted by the Division for the Advancement of Women (UNDAW), the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in collaboration with regional commissions for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), for West Asia (ESCWA), for Latin America (CEPAL) and for Africa (ECA).

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1 INEGI was invited and participated with her work “Scope and Limitations of ENDIREH 2006 in Integrating Indicators to Measure Violence against Women in Mexico”
Conceptual and methodological aspects were discussed at the meeting to integrate a proposal of basic indicators that would work as a starting point for an International Proposal.²

b. Report by the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and consequences

Another step in this direction was the proposal for measuring violence against women made by the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences, in her second Report to the Human Rights Council in January 2008.

2. FORMATION OF THE GROUP OF FRIENDS

2.1 AUTHORITY OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION. The Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission has the authority to establish special work groups to draft studies, proposals or technical reports on a specific topic or issue so that the Commission, based on the report and results submitted to it by the Group, can deliberate and decide on technical standards that it will issue for National Statistical Systems.

2.2 STATISTICAL COMMISSION’S MANDATE TO ESTABLISH THE SPECIAL GROUP.

The proposal of indicators resulting from deliberation at the Group of Experts Meeting was presented to the 39th Session of the Statistical Commission and at the 52nd Session of the Commission for the Advancement of Women. This initiative was crucial for the Statistical Commission to determine the establishment of a Group of Friends to the Chair whose responsibility would be to valuate indicators and consolidate a proposal to be made to the 40th Commission session in February 2009.

2.3 GROUP OF FRIENDS’ GOALS

- Create a set of basic indicators with universal validity to carry out regular, precise and pertinent statistical measurements of violence against women within the framework of the national statistical systems.

- Have a set of guidelines for developing statistics on violence against women.

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Joint dialogue on indicators to measure violence against women. 28 February 2008. Moderator’s Summary
2.4 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GROUP OF FIENDS IN 2008. Within this framework the Group of Friends to the Chair of the Commission was established between April and May 2008 to examine indicators on violence against women. The Group consisted of representatives of National Statistical Offices from nine countries: Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Ghana, Italy, Mexico and Thailand. Representatives from the regional offices of Latin America, Europe and Asia Pacific (CEPAL, UNECE and ESCAP), from the United Nations Offices for the Advancement of Women (UNAW) and on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences participated as observers. The United Nations Statistical Division was named Chair of the Group.

2.5 INEGI IS NAMED COORDINATOR OF THE GROUP OF FRIENDS. Its major duties are:

✓ Direct the Group’s work to integrate and present a technical report with an indicator proposal.
✓ Lead discussions, order proposals, integrate comments and refer questions and suggestions.
✓ Serve as a mediator between UNSD and the Statistical Commission and member countries.
✓ Maintain permanent communication with group members and UNSD.
✓ Put together the final report and promote its adoption.

3. DUTIES AND TASKS PERFORMED BY THE COORDINATOR OF THE GROUP OF FRIENDS

3.1 Group Organization. The Coordinator’s first task was to establish communication with the defined organizations to invite them to participate, and to describe the group’s scope and tasks.

3.2 Definition of Group guidelines and work. The Coordinator drafted a “Reference document for the Group of Friends of the Chair of the Statistical Commission on indicators on violence against women” where it sets forth goals, guidelines, tasks and product commitments for the Group’s work.

“...The Group of Friends has the task of bolstering the Geneva proposal in technical terms to show its feasibility and the position it as “the proposal” so that countries assume a commitment to back it from the United Nations Statistical Commission

The Group will prepare a technical document with a proposal of indicators to measure violence against women that analyzes, complements and appraises the

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4 Reference terms prepared by UNSD “Friends of the Chair on Indicators on violence against women”
advantages and limitations of the indicators proposed in “Indicators to measure violence against women” plus a series of conceptual, methodological and technical suggestions to facilitate:

- Establishing a set of basic indicators to measure violence against women by pattern and type of violence as well as perpetrators to be considered

- Establishing the basic aspects that should include conceptual frameworks, methodologies and common indicators enabling one to compare dimension, prevalence and intensity or severity of the problem at the national, regional and international levels over time...

**During 2009**

a. Prepare a summary of the feasibility of current indicators based on national practices.

b. Analyze all surveys on violence against women (about fifty) applied over the last ten years and document whether the information collected allows one to prepare established indicators at this time.

c. Organize the First Group Meeting on December 9, 10 and 11, 2009 at INEGI Headquarters in Aguascalientes to deliberate on the above mentioned documents and analyze conceptual and methodological aspects for research on violence against women and on basic typology as well as draft the Report for the Statistical Commission that will be submitted on February 2010.

d. Cross-link work by the Group of Friends with the Group of Experts’ initiative through the Interregional Project of Regional United Nations Commissions, led by CEPAL.

e. Participate in the Group of Experts Meeting organized by UNECE to analyze the feasibility of testing a model questionnaire to measure violence against women, proposed by the Group of Experts and backed by the Group of Friends.

**During 2010**

- Participation in the 41st Session of StatCom, at an information session about Group Advances and Results of deliberations at the December Meeting in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

- Participate in the Meeting organized by CEPAL and UNECE to organize the questionnaire test.
➢ Revise the International Questionnaire Proposal and define strategies for the questionnaire test.

➢ Third meeting of the Group of Experts where the test results of the International Questionnaire will be analyzed.

➢ Development of “Guidelines for making surveys on violence against women” being prepared by the United Nations Statistical Division.

➢ Organize the Meeting of the Group of Friends to analyze draft Guidelines that will be submitted to the consideration of StatCom in February 2011.

4. GROUP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

4.1 FIRST REPORT BY THE GROUP OF FRIENDS AT THE 40TH SESSION OF THE STATISTICS COMMISSION

At the 40th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the General Director of Sociodemographic Statistics (the Group Chair) presented the “Report of the Group of Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on indicators of violence against women”\(^5\) that includes a basic set of indicators and measures it suggests be adopted.

Aspects requiring greater discussion and analysis were identified:

➢ Establish an extensive list or classification of acts of violence to develop surveys adequate for measuring violence against women
➢ Determine physical or sexual behavior or acts that should be included
➢ Determine focus and criteria for measuring the severity of violence homogeneously
➢ Define a list of aggressors or perpetrators to be considered and the kind of link or relationship, particularly in the case of an “intimate partner.”
➢ Define the scope of the reference period “throughout life”.
➢ Valuate the feasibility of including precocious marriage as an indicator of violence, and define age.
➢ Define and establish criteria for measuring femicide, and adequate information and source characteristics.
➢ Determine the widest set of indicators for review and technical valuation.

The Statistical Commission accepted the entire report as filed and recommended:

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a. To keep the Group and continue work for a five-year period until finishing a complete set of indicators that measure all forms of violence against women.

b. It asked the Statistical Division to prepare a set of Guidelines for developing statistics on violence against women.

c. It ratified INEGI to chair the Group of Friends and suggested the inclusion of other countries in this group.

4.2 EXPANSION OF THE GROUP OF FRIENDS IN 2009

As of 2009, the Group of Friends consists of:

Representatives of the National Statistical Offices of:
- Africa: Botswana, Ghana
- Latin America: Costa Rica, Chile and Mexico
- North America: Canada, United States
- Asia and Pacific: Australia, Bangladesh, China and Thailand
- Western Asia: Egypt
- Europe: Bulgaria, Italia and Turkey

Observers:
- Division for the Advancement of Women (UNDAW)
- Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences
- United Nations Office against Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL)
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

5. FIRST MEETING OF THE GROUP OF FRIENDS AT INEGI HEADQUARTERS IN DECEMBER 2009

During that year work performed by the Group of Friends focused on:

a. Preparing a summary of the feasibility of current indicators based on national practices.

b. Analyzing all surveys on violence against women (about fifty) applied over the last ten years and documenting whether the information collected allows one to prepare established indicators at this time (Statistical Division).

c. The First Group Meeting was held on December 9, 10 and 11, 2009 at INEGI Headquarters in Aguascalientes to deliberate on the abovementioned documents and analyze conceptual and
methodological aspects for research on violence against women on basic typology as well as to
draft the Report for the Statistical Commission that will be submitted in February 2011.

5.1 GOALS OF THE MEETING

1. Analyze the feasibility of current indicators based on national practices; towards this end it
presented an analysis of all national surveys on violence against women applied over the
last ten years (about sixty).

2. Review and deliberate on those acts of violence that will be included, and define physical,
sexual, psychological and economic violence.

3. Determine the criteria to measure the severity of violence.

4. Determine the aggressors and the period of lifetime to determine violence “throughout
life” and reference periods.

5. Analyze and determine the set of indicators and types of violence that could be proposed
to extend the basic set.

6. Analyze the advances of parallel projects that seek to support the work by the Group of
Friends such as the Interregional Project backed by the United Nations Regional
Commissions and its Proposal for a Survey Module to measure violence against women.

7. Review the UNSD proposal on “Guidelines for developing statistics on violence against
women”, the first part of which is dedicated to surveys.

8. Lastly, the scope of the Group’s work and activities in 2010 were defined and the
meeting’s preliminary summary was submitted.

5.2 ATTENDEES

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<tr>
<th>Country / Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Australia</td>
<td>Mr. Bob McCOLL, Australian Bureau of Statistics</td>
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<td>2. Bangladesh</td>
<td>Mr. Md. Shahjahan ALI MOLLAH. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Bulgaria</td>
<td>Ms. Mariana KOTZEVA. National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Chile</td>
<td>Ms. Veronica OXMAN. National Statistics Institute of Chile</td>
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<td>5. China</td>
<td>Ms. Wei LIU. National Bureau of Statistics of China</td>
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<td>6. Costa Rica</td>
<td>Ms. Aida CHAVES VILLALTA. Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos</td>
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<td>Country / Organization</td>
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<td>7. Egipto</td>
<td>Ms. Soad AHMED EL-HAWARY. CAPMAS, Egypt</td>
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<td>8. México</td>
<td>Mr. Miguel CERVERA FLORES. Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)</td>
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<td>10. Tailandia</td>
<td>Ms. Chalermkwan CHIEMPRAKANARAKORN. National Statistical Office</td>
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<td>11. Turquía</td>
<td>Ms. Deniz UYANIK. TurkStat</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Estados Unidos de Norteamérica</td>
<td>Ms. Marcella JONES-PUTHOFF United States Census Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. COMISIÓN ECONÓMICA PARA EUROPA, NACIONES UNIDAS</td>
<td>Ms. Tiina LUIGE UNECE</td>
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<td>14. COMISIÓN ECONÓMICA PARA EUROPA, NACIONES UNIDAS</td>
<td>Ms. Henrica A.F.M. (Henriette) JANSEN Consultant UNECE</td>
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<td>15. COMISIÓN ECONÓMICA PARA AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE</td>
<td>Ms. Vivian MILOSAVLJEVIC Division for Gender Affairs ECLAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. División para el Adelanto de la mujer de las Naciones Unidas</td>
<td>Ms. María Herminia GRATEROL GARRIDO DAW/DESA</td>
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<td>17. División de Estadística de las Naciones Unidas</td>
<td>Mr. Srdjan MRKIĆ Statistics Division</td>
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<td>18. División de Estadística de las Naciones Unidas</td>
<td>Ms. M. Isabel COBOS HERNÁNDEZ Statistics Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>19. Organización Mundial de la Salud</td>
<td>Ms. Christina PALLITTO WHO</td>
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**5.3 AGREEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS**

A set of six indicators as described in paragraph 28 of the Group’s First Report presented at the 40th Session of the Statistical Commission in 2009, was approved.
This constituted a starting point for deliberations whereby it was agreed to expand the basic set and define a set of indicators to be considered additional and optional, and still pending tasks were determined.

5.4 SET OF BASIC INDICATORS

1. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to physical violence in the last 12 months by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency.

2. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to physical violence during lifetime by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency.

3. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence in the last 12 months by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency.

4. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence during lifetime by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency.

5. Total and age specific rate of ever-partnered women subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by current or former intimate partner in the last 12 months by frequency.

6. Total and age specific rate of ever-partnered women subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by current or former intimate partner during lifetime by frequency.

7. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to psychological violence in the past 12 months by the intimate partner.

8. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to economic violence in the past 12 months by the intimate partner.

9. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to female genital mutilation.

6. THE GROUP OF FRIENDS’ WORK PLANS

➢ The Work of the Group of Friends of the Chair must extend beyond the first stage with a deadline of the year 2015.

➢ The first stage of the Group’s work consists of identifying the basic or core set and other statistical indicators on violence against women and adopting international guidelines for carrying out statistical surveys on violence against women. This first stage will conclude with the presentation of Guidelines for developing statistics on violence against women and the Meeting Report to the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 42nd Period of Sessions in February 2011.
It was agreed to extend the work towards analyses of and recommendations regarding administrative files, and along these lines it was determined to work in two basic lines:

First: make an investigation about including indicators where the source of information is the administrative files, as in the case of femicide, for the purpose of incorporating them into the basic set.

Second: ensure that a series of reviews and recommendations are applied to the collection of statistical data coming from administrative files – statistics on delinquency – and that they are adjusted to provide gender statistics in general and statistics on violence against women in particular.

It was agreed that the work and initiatives to be performed by the Group of Friends should be coordinated with other international initiatives aimed at improving administrative files that are scheduled over the next few years. Furthermore, the Group will lend support to regional activities along these lines.

The possibility of applying a homogeneous World Survey on violence against women will be explored, an extensive statistical data collection effort proposed by the Chair of the Group of Friends of the Chair.

7. IMMEDIATE TASKS

Draft the Second Report to be submitted to the consideration of the Statistical Commission in February 2011, which should include the Set of basic indicators and agreements reached by the Group. The first draft of the Report will be submitted in mid-November to the consideration of Group members for their approval.

The Third Meeting of the Group of Experts will be held on November 18 and 19 where test results of the international questionnaire will be analyzed in detail.

The results of this meeting will serve as a foundation for adjusting and improving Guidelines for applying surveys on violence against women that the United Nations Statistical Division is preparing with the support of Holly Johnson from Canada.

The Group of Friends will meet in early January to analyze the draft version of the Guidelines.
The Second Report of the Group of Friends will be presented during the 42\textsuperscript{nd} Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Manual for developing surveys on violence against women will be submitted to its consideration.

In March 2011, the Group will establish an agenda for work to be performed over the next two years. It will be aimed at analyses of and recommendations regarding administrative files, with two basic lines:

First: include indicators where the source of information is the administrative files for the purpose of incorporating them into the basic set.

Second: ensure that a series of reviews and recommendations are applied to the collection of statistical data coming from administrative files, and that they are adjusted to provide gender statistics in general and statistics on violence against women in particular.