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Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Group of Experts on Gender Statistics

Work Session on Gender Statistics

Geneva, 12-14 March 2012

Annotated provisional agenda

The work session will be held in room VII at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, starting at 10 am on Monday, 12 March 2012.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening addresses, adoption of the agenda and election of officers.
2. Revisiting the gender pay gap.
3. Time use surveys.
4. Measuring violence against women.
5. Health and lifestyles.
6. Gender analysis of census data.
7. Gender perspective in migration statistics.
8. Indicators of gender equality.
9. Information session:
 - (a) UNECE databases;
 - (b) Global review of gender statistics.
10. Future work.
11. Adoption of the report
12. Closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations

The Work Session is open to representatives of all member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Representatives of other Member States of the United Nations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic

and Social Council (ECOSOC) may also participate in a consultative capacity, according to the terms of reference of UNECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.3, paras. 11, 12 and 13). All delegates must be accredited by the competent authority of their country or international organization.

All documents for the meeting will be available at the following website: www.unece.org/stats/documents/2012.03.gender.htm

1. Opening addresses, adoption of the agenda and election of officers

The meeting is expected to adopt its agenda and to elect its chairperson.

2. Revisiting the gender pay gap

The gender pay gap is an important indicator of gender equality. The Work Session will discuss the measurement issues related to the gender pay gap with the aim of improving the comparability in the light of recent developments in harmonising the measurement of earnings. The main measurement issues pertain to the coverage of industries, categories of workers, sizes of enterprises and gross or net wages as well as to the heterogeneity in sources and methodologies across the UNECE region. There are also differences related to the use of mean or median wages in the calculations. Participants are invited to share their recent experience in measuring the gender pay gap.

3. Time use surveys

Time-use surveys collect information on how people allocate their time among different types of activities during the day and provide a detailed picture of people's daily lives. They show the gendered patterns of time-allocation and discern the roles and conditions of women and men in family and social life. They are an important information source for measuring household satellite accounts and care. Participants are invited to share their experience in conducting time-use surveys and to present findings. Information on the work progress of the UNECE Task Force on Time Use Surveys will also be shared in this session.

4. Measuring violence against women

The collection and dissemination of statistics on the prevalence and incidence of various forms of violence against women is part of the global effort to develop appropriate policies, legislation and services for women affected by violence and to eradicate this phenomenon. The United Nations Statistical Commission has recently agreed on a set of indicators on violence against women and UNECE has developed survey tools for measuring them. This session will examine recent work related to measuring violence against women and provide participants the opportunity to share information on related work undertaken in their offices.

5. Health and lifestyles

Health is a broad statistical domain with a distinct gender dimension, as men's and women's biology, lifestyles and roles differ and may require different policy interventions. The lifestyle factors measured in this context include nutrition, physical activity and use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. These factors as well as risk-taking behaviours are shaped by gender norms and values. Participants are invited to share information on the work undertaken in their offices on the measurement of different lifestyle factors and their links to health.

6. Gender analysis of census data

The 2010 round of population and housing censuses provides an opportunity for countries to strengthen gender mainstreaming across the national statistical system. This session will provide participants with an opportunity to share experiences in gender analysis of census data and discuss the successes and challenges to date with a view to formulating proposals for gender analysis of key census topics. In particular, participants are expected to address improvements in the gender analysis of topics such as family, education, social protection and migration.

7. Gender perspective in migration statistics

Global estimates show that women's portion of the international migration has been increasing and was about half at the turn of the millennium. Statistics cast light on the situation of migrant women and men and in which direction developments are heading and how they fare in comparison with women and men in the total population. The key variables include demographic characteristics, education and labour market participation. Gender aspects of labour migration constitute another important topic. Participants are invited to share information on related work undertaken in their offices.

8. Indicators of gender equality

The UNECE Task Force on Indicators of Gender Equality will present its approach to the selection of indicators and the results achieved so far. Participants are invited to discuss the presentation and provide comments and suggestions to the Task Force for its further work. Information will also be shared on other international initiatives in developing gender indicators.

9. Information session

(a) UNECE databases

The secretariat will inform the Session on the updating of the Gender Database and on the new Millennium Development Goals database.

(b) Global review of gender statistics

The secretariat will inform the Session on the preliminary results of the review of gender statistics in the UNECE region.

10. Future work

The meeting is invited to discuss proposals for future international work in gender statistics and topics for the 2014 work session.

11. Adoption of the report

A short report outlining the conclusions and decisions taken at the meeting will be presented for adoption before the meeting adjourns.

12. Closing of the meeting