

## **REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP**

### **I. Organization and attendance**

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) organized the Workshop on Gender Statistics in Geneva on 17-18 March 2014. The Workshop was attended by participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Chile, Georgia, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan. Representatives from the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), Fida International, Make Mothers Matter International and Hacettepe University were also present.

2. The workshop consisted of an introduction session and ten sessions on topics covered by the indicators proposed by the Conference of European Statisticians Task Force on Indicators of Gender Equality. The present report contains the summary of the discussion and the recommendations of the Workshop. The presentations made at the Workshop are available at the UNECE website<sup>1</sup>.

### **II. Objective**

3. The main purpose of the workshop was to identify ways of improving data availability on the proposed indicators of gender equality in countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and plan further steps in this regard. The Workshop also assessed the suitability of the UNECE set of gender indicators for the situation of the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

### **III. Summary of the discussion**

4. Participants inquired about the exact definitions of the indicators included in the list of gender equality indicators. The Task Force members explained that the definitions are not included in the report because all of the indicators are available from international sources and definitions should be taken from these sources. Only in cases where no international definition exists will the Task Force propose one in its report.

#### **A. Economy**

5. The following economic aspects of gender equality were brought up in the discussion: (1) access to and ownership of assets and resources, (2) entrepreneurship and (3) the influence of inequalities over the life course on gender equality at older age.

6. The indicator 'proportion of employers' used as a proxy to female entrepreneurship does not always reflect the actual situation. Sometimes businesses are registered under

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2014.03.genderworkshop.html>

female employers, but often they are not those who manage the business or make the decisions in the business. The ownership is only on paper, not in practice. Instead, it was suggested to consider the proportion of women entitled to manage the assets of the companies where they are employed. It was noted that the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project led by UNSD and UN Women is working on improving the measurement of gender aspects of entrepreneurship and asset ownership.

7. The indicator ‘proportion of children under age three in formal care’ is supposed to influence women’s labour force participation indirectly. It does not measure the availability of childcare facilities. Moreover, the indicator might not be internationally comparable because national parental leave regulations influence it directly.

8. Participants recognised that for the measurement of unpaid work and work-life balance, time-use survey is a good source of data, but their cost makes frequent data collection difficult. The implications of the resolution of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians on types of work (adopted in October 2013) on labour force surveys would need to be explored.

9. It was recommended to consider the possibility of including the gender pension gap among the indicators and to reflect the measurement challenges related to entrepreneurship in the report’s section on further work.

## **B. Poverty**

10. Participants highlighted the lack of indicators measuring wealth and mentioned the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) as their possible source. Further work is needed to investigate the possibility of including measures of wealth among the indicators.

11. The proposed indicator on material deprivation – ‘Proportion of people living in households who lack at least four out of nine European Union (EU) items’ – was discussed with regards to data comparability between EU and non-EU countries. For example, Belarus uses 12 instead of 9 items to determine material deprivation. The proposed EU list of material deprivation items might not be relevant for all countries; however, creating a new list would be outside the mandate of the Task Force on Indicators of Gender Equality.

12. Countries highlighted the need for methodological documents in Russian in order to enhance the production of internationally comparable data on poverty. Kazakhstan proposed to have a questionnaire on the monitoring indicators for Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in connection with the approaching target year of MDGs in 2015.

## **C. Violence**

13. The session on violence mainly focused on indicators measuring violence against women at workplace. Participants noted that clear distinction should be made between domestic violence and violence at workplace.

14. Stalking was another indicator that raised questions. Since stalking in some countries is defined by law while in others not, participants acknowledged the importance to define stalking the same way across countries.

15. Concerning violence against women, it was noted that it is important to measure not only prevalence, but also frequency and severity. Several countries have successfully included men in surveys of domestic violence.

16. Problems with data comparability across countries were also discussed. The Manual on Victimization Surveys developed by UNECE and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) can serve as guidelines for developing a national victimization survey.

#### **D. Power and decision-making in the household**

17. It was proposed that the indicator ‘Percentage of women’s incomes on partners incomes’ should be simply described as ‘gender-based income ratio’.

18. Clarification was made of the relationship between the economic violence indicator and indicator on ‘Percentage of women in a co-residential partnership who state that their partner or spouse manages all the money and gives them their share’. Further explanation is needed in the report to understand the difference between these two indicators.

19. It was also suggested to include an indicator that would measure reproductive decision-making. In low-fertility countries, family planning should refer to the preferable number of children rather than to the reduction of family size.

#### **E. Health**

20. The indicator ‘Healthy life years at birth’ was deemed relevant with important policy interests. However, the lack of practical knowledge to produce it in some countries may require that methodological guidance be provided. Such guidance should consider the Survey Module for Measuring Health State developed by the Budapest Initiative Task Force, a collaboration of the World Health Organization, UNECE and Eurostat.

21. It was suggested to include reproductive health indicators such as abortion rate and percentage of women making health care decisions. Other suggested indicators include HIV infections, morbidity by main diseases, HIV/AIDS knowledge among youth and attempted suicide rate. Participants pointed out that indicators on mental health are absent.

#### **F. Power and decision-making in society**

22. Questions were raised about the source of data for indicators of power and decision-making in society, because statistical offices normally do not produce them. They must be obtained from the government agencies that have this information.

23. The usefulness of the indicator ‘Women’s share of researchers’ was questioned, because researchers could exist within private enterprises, as well as in the public sector. This indicator also does not consider seniority. For similar reasons, the indicator on the proportion of women journalists was questioned.

24. It was agreed to consider whether an analysis of collinearity could identify indicators that could be omitted from the list, and to remove indicators that are difficult to obtain.

#### **G. Children and adolescents**

25. It was clarified that the indicator on female genital mutilation was included because it is practiced among certain ethnic groups also in the UNECE region. It was also explained

that the indicator ‘Child discipline’ refers to children between 2-14 years old who are disciplined in a violent manner.

26. In the context of indicators on early sexual activity and adolescent fertility, the possibility was discussed of adding an indicator on abortions performed on adolescents.

27. Discussions evolved around the issue of pre-natal sex selection that is currently not included among the indicators. It was agreed that if further information could be provided indicating widespread and measurable prevalence of prenatal sex selection in UNECE countries, then the possibility of including such an indicator could be revisited

## **H. Education**

28. Question was raised on the age group for the indicator ‘Young people (aged 18-24) not in employment and not in education and training’, suggesting that it should include people aged 15 to 24 to be consistent with the age breakdowns for other indicators.

29. Different sources were discussed for measuring lifelong learning. In European countries, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is among the main sources used for providing results on participation in education and training.

## **I. Media**

30. Discussing the indicator ‘Proportion of individuals using the Internet (both weekly, and over last 3 months), participants noted that in terms of internet use there are only small gender differences. Possible alternative measures might include looking at use of smartphone devices, for example. Internet use could be added under supporting indicators.

31. Whilst the possibility of including media portrayal of men and women within other domains was discussed, the reason for including it within the media domain was explained with reference to the Beijing Platform for Action.

## **J. Environment**

32. It was explained that the indicator ‘proportion of women among government representatives to climate change decision-making bodies at the international level’ should focus on decision-making at both national and international levels. The decision should remain with countries on what information they can provide.

33. With regards to the indicator ‘Proportion of women tertiary graduates of total graduates (ISCED levels 5 and 6) in natural sciences and technologies’, it was pointed out that graduates are not necessarily active in the area they have graduated from.

34. A question was asked about the similarity of the indicator on natural science graduates to other indicators on graduates in the education domain. The motivation for the indicator concerning natural sciences related to its relevance to environmental decision-making.

## **IV. Recommendations**

35. The Workshop made the following recommendations concerning the gender equality indicators proposed by the CES task force:

- a) Include methodological work on entrepreneurship indicators and indicators measuring access to land and assets among the areas for further work.
  - b) Explore the possibility of including 'the gender pension gap' among the indicators, taking into account data availability.
  - c) Review the pertinence of the indicator 'proportion of children under age three in formal care'.
  - d) Consider including an appropriate measure of wealth among poverty indicators.
  - e) Consider including an indicator on gender-based violence at workplace.
  - f) Add 'abortion rate' to the health indicators and consider including other indicators related to reproductive health.
  - g) Add 'knowledge of HIV/AIDS among the health indicators and explore the possibility of including an indicator of mental health.
  - h) Reduce the number of indicators of power and decision making in society.
  - i) Explore the possibility of including 'sex ratio at birth'.
  - j) Include among the methodological work on measures for stereotypes and portrayal of men and women among the areas for further work.
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