



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
5 March 2019

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Group of Experts on Gender Statistics

Work Session on Gender Statistics

Neuchâtel, 15–17 May 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening, adoption of the agenda and election of officers

Annotated provisional agenda

The Work Session will be held at the Hotel Beaulac, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 15 May 2019.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening, adoption of the agenda and election of officers.
2. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from the gender perspective.
3. Communicating gender statistics.
4. Measuring gender identity.
5. Use of gender statistics in policymaking and policy monitoring.
6. Economic empowerment and intra-household power.
7. Institutional mechanisms to support gender statistics.
8. Gender and trade statistics.
9. Emerging issues and international initiatives in gender statistics.
10. Future work.
11. Adoption of the report.
12. Closing of the meeting.

GE.19-03680(E)



* 1 9 0 3 6 8 0 *

Please recycle The recycling symbol, consisting of three chasing arrows forming a triangle.



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.5, 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 made available on the following webpage: <http://bit.ly/unecegenderstats2019>.

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

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

2. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from the gender perspective

It is by now well established and widely accepted that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires a gender perspective to be integrated throughout the process, not only in those elements of the 2030 Agenda that specifically target gender equality. This has heightened the need for sex-disaggregation of statistics in many domains and has generated momentum for improved methodology and increased data gathering and use in gender-relevant areas, especially for the indicators of SDG 5. Much progress has been made, but significant gaps remain. This session will consider conceptual, methodological and data-availability gaps for gender-relevant SDG indicators, and work being undertaken to address them. It will examine efforts to integrate a gender perspective throughout the SDG-related work of statistical offices. Finally, it will consider evidence of the impact that the 2030 Agenda has had as an advocacy tool to raise the status of gender statistics more broadly.

3. Communicating gender statistics

A key priority for national statistical offices (NSOs) is to present statistical information clearly, in ways which maximize impact and usefulness. NSOs are also increasingly recognizing that communication is a two-way process, not limited only to dissemination. These observations are crucial because statistical information represents a strategic asset for policymakers and because NSOs need to bring statistics closer to citizens to make things happen. Users' demands for statistics are ever-changing and increasing, and the information and communication technologies available for producing, disseminating and communicating statistics are evolving rapidly. These trends pose communication challenges for NSOs across all statistical domains, but some challenges are uniquely felt in the field of gender statistics. With this in mind, a UNECE task force has been developing guidance and a collection of good practice examples on communicating gender statistics. This session will showcase the progress of the task force and invite feedback. It will also consider some examples of good practice in identifying stakeholders and their needs, and in developing effective tools to deal with the specific communication challenges for gender statistics.

4. Measuring gender identity

Following a proposal at the 2017 Work Session on Gender Statistics and agreement by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), Statistics Canada and the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics have prepared an in-depth review paper on measuring gender identity, forming the basis for discussion by the CES Bureau in February 2019. This session will present findings from the in-depth review and will consider experiences from other countries in their efforts to measure gender identity. The session will consider questions such as what policy needs have been identified to collect data on gender identity; how stakeholders have been engaged in methodological development; how challenges of terminology and classifications are being addressed; and how the particular sensitivities of this topic area are being tackled.

5. Use of gender statistics in policymaking and policy monitoring

For policies to be gender responsive –formulated in ways that take into account the different experiences of women and men– they must have a strong evidence base that includes sex disaggregated and gender-relevant statistics. This is true whether or not the area of policy concern is directly related to gender issues, since a gender perspective should be integrated into all policy domains. NSOs therefore strive to meet policymakers’ demands for gender statistics, a task entailing constant efforts to stay aware of evolving demands, in terms of statistical content, formats and channels. At the same time, NSOs are increasingly working in close dialogue with policymakers to foster greater awareness of the availability of gender statistics and a better awareness of how they can be used to inform and monitor policies. This session will consider examples of actions taken by NSOs to ensure that they are responding to policymakers’ needs for gender statistics; evidence of the use and impact of gender statistics in policymaking and policy monitoring; and good practices in navigating the relationship between gender statistics producers and policymakers.

6. Economic empowerment and intra-household power

“Empowerment” is a widely-used word, but one that in practice is rarely unpacked to reveal its many aspects. Various attempts to define it have centred on influence, agency and choice, and a general consensus is that “empowerment” refers to a process, as distinct from “power” itself. Empowerment is a process of gaining power through expanding one’s ability to make choices and act upon intentions. Understood in this way, economic empowerment and intra-household power are both crucial elements of the overall process of empowerment. This session will include a report from the Task Force on Intra-household Power and Decision-making, which has reviewed existing practice and developed recommendations and suggested indicators. The session will also consider lessons learned from some national experiences of measuring economic empowerment and intra-household power and decision-making.

7. Institutional mechanisms to support gender statistics

For as long as the international statistical community has been discussing gender statistics as a separate thematic area, it has been argued that the success of efforts to gather data, produce gender statistics and promote their use depends on strong institutional support. Such support includes the formal organizational structure of NSOs; the human and financial resources allocated to gender statistics by NSOs, international organizations, the development community and civil society; the extent of advocacy efforts by each of these stakeholders; the legal framework supporting gender statistics as part of the overall statistical system; and the degree to which gender is mainstreamed into development programming in general, and

statistical development more specifically. This session will examine the current state of the various facets of institutional support and, where such support is found lacking, will explore opportunities for increasing it. It will do so by considering both national examples and internationally-coordinated initiatives.

8. Gender and trade statistics

Trade and gender equality are linked in many ways. Trade interacts with the division of labour, income distribution, social and economic wellbeing and the agency of women and men in society. Trade policies have important redistributive effects within the economy, which can either magnify or reduce existing disparities, including gender inequalities. Solid data and statistics are the basis for sound and inclusive trade policymaking: yet most trade and economic statistics are not collected with a gender perspective in mind, and therefore preclude the possibility of even simple sex-disaggregation. While statistics typically measure gender inequalities in the labour market, it is more challenging to find data about the impact of trade on women as entrepreneurs, producers and consumers. This session will introduce plans for a project to be conducted jointly between the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNECE and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), that will address the gender and trade data gap by strengthening the capacity of NSOs to measure key aspects of gender and trade.

9. Emerging issues and international initiatives in gender statistics

This session will provide an opportunity for presentation and discussion of other topics not covered by sessions 2–8, including new and emerging issues, and updates on initiatives by international organizations.

10. Future work

Drawing on the conclusions of item 9, the meeting will be invited to discuss proposals for future international work in gender statistics and topics for the 2020 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
