

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**  
**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Work Session on Gender Statistics (Geneva, 12-14 March 2012)

**INFORMATION NOTICE FOR PARTICIPANTS**

The meeting will be held in **Room VII** (3d floor, C building) at the Palais des Nations.  
It will start at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 12 March 2012.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. UNECE is organising its biannual Work Session on Gender Statistics at the Palais des Nations, Avenue de la Paix 8, Geneva, from 12 to 14 March 2012.

**II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

2. The main purpose of the Work Session is to facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries on gender statistics and to discuss international statistical work in this area.

3. The target audience of the meeting includes statisticians in national and international statistical offices responsible for gender statistics as well as users of gender statistics.

**III. AGENDA OF THE MEETING**

4. The programme of the meeting will consist of the following substantive topics:

- Gender pay gap
- Time use surveys
- Measuring violence against women
- Health and lifestyles
- Gender analysis of census data
- Gender perspective in migration statistics
- Indicators of gender equality

5. Information will be provided also on the progress of the UNECE task forces on indicators of gender equality and on time use surveys, on the global review of gender statistics and on the UNECE Statistical Database.

6. Explanatory notes on the Work Session's topics are provided below.

**Gender pay gap**

7. 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.

### **Time use surveys**

8. 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.

### **Measuring violence against women**

9. 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.

### **Health and lifestyles**

10. 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.

### **Gender analysis of census data**

11. 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.

### **Gender perspective in migration statistics**

12. 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.

## **Indicators of gender equality**

13. 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.

## **IV. DOCUMENTATION AND METHOD OF WORK**

14. The working languages of the meeting are English, French and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in these languages.

15. For each substantive item of the agenda, the organizers will invite a limited number of speakers to write and present an invited paper. All other participants are welcome to submit a **supporting paper** for any topic on the agenda. The supporting papers will be distributed to the delegates via the Meeting's website. They will be summarized by a discussant.

16. Invited papers will be translated and therefore they will be available in English, French and Russian, provided that they will be submitted to UNECE by the deadline (see below). Supporting papers can be submitted in English or Russian and will be available only in the language in which they will be submitted. If papers will be submitted in Russian, the authors are invited to submit an abstract of about one page in English.

17. Meeting documents will be made available in the on the website of the UNECE secretariat at the following location: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2012.03.gender.html>. The posted documents will not be distributed in the meeting room. Participants are encouraged to download them and bring their own copies to the meeting.

18. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- Intention to contribute a supporting paper should be submitted to Mr Andres Vikat, by e-mail [andres.vikat@unece.org](mailto:andres.vikat@unece.org) by **9 December 2011**. The message should include a short abstract of the paper.
- The full versions of the papers of maximum 8 pages in length (including tables, references, annexes, etc.), should be sent as MS Word files electronically to UNECE secretariat, e-mail [social.stats@unece.org](mailto:social.stats@unece.org) by the following deadlines:
  - Invited papers by **9 December 2011**;
  - Supporting papers by **30 January 2012**.

## **V. PARTICIPATION, ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION**

19. 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.

20. All participants should register for the meeting by completing the attached registration form and sending it to the UNECE secretariat (email: [social.stats@unece.org](mailto:social.stats@unece.org) or fax: +41 22 917 0040) by **15 February 2012**.

21. All participants attending the meeting are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible at the Embassy of Switzerland in the country in which the participants reside, with reference to the meeting of the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics. If necessary, the UNECE secretariat can provide a letter to facilitate obtaining a visa (fax: +41 22 917 0040 or e-mail: [social.stats@unece.org](mailto:social.stats@unece.org)).

22. In order to enter the Palais des Nations, all participants need to obtain a security pass (ID badge). For this purpose, please present yourself with your passport and the original registration form at the UN Security Identification Office at the Pregny Gate of the Palais des Nations (Avenue de la Paix 14, 1210 Geneva; buses 8, F, V, Z and 28, stop Appia) by 9 a.m. on Monday, 12 March. The Security Identification Office is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (non-stop). For identification and security reasons, delegates are requested to wear their security badges at all times while inside the Palais des Nations.

## **VI. ACCOMMODATION**

23. Participants are requested to make their own accommodation arrangements. The UNECE secretariat in Geneva is not in a position to provide such services to participants. Participants are advised to book hotel accommodation well in advance of the meeting since available rooms are limited due to other meetings and events taking place in Geneva during the month of March. Maps of Geneva, list of hotels and information for visitors to the Palais des Nations are available on the following website: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>. The following information is also available:

- The closest hotel to Palais des Nations is the 5-Star Intercontinental.
- Grand Prè, Cornavin, Suisse are four-star hotels and within 7-10 minutes to the Palais des Nations by buses 8, 5, 28, F, V, Z and trams 13 and 15.
- There are several three-star and four-star hotels near Cornavin, the main train station. These hotels are moderate in price and are 10 minutes by bus or tram and 25-30 minutes on foot from the Palais des Nations. Examples include: Eden, Manotel, Mon Repos, des Alpes, International and Terminus, Montana, Savoy, Suisse, and Windsor.

## **VII. FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN GENEVA**

24. Geneva International Airport now offers incoming passengers a free ticket for public transport. The free tickets are available from a machine in the airport's baggage collection area and allow you to use any public transport (train, tram, bus) in Geneva and surrounding areas for a period of 80 minutes. Look for the machine pictured below after collecting your luggage and before walking out through the customs area.



25. When checking-in at your hotel you should receive a free Geneva Transport Card, enabling you to use the entire Geneva public transport system free of charge throughout your stay.

### **Getting from the Airport to Geneva**

26. The Geneva Airport is approximately 4 kilometres from the city centre. The train is the most efficient way to get into the city. Follow the signs to the airport railway station from the arrivals area. All trains leaving from the airport stop at the central Geneva-Cornavin station. The journey takes six minutes. The buses 5 and 28 will bring you from the airport to the Place des Nations.

27. Taxis are readily available from the airport. They are metered, so costs will vary, the journey from the airport into the city centre will usually cost around CHF 30.

28. Tourist and public transport information is available at the Unireso information desk in the airport arrival hall after you go through customs. More information on Geneva's free public transport initiative is available from:

- Public transport from Geneva Airport: <http://www.gva.ch/en/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-67/>
- Free Geneva Transport Card: <http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/index.php?rubrique=0000000417>

### **VIII. WEATHER**

29. The weather in Geneva in March is moderate and it may rain. The average day temperature is 7 °C. You can check the weather forecast at the local website:

<http://www.meteoswiss.admin.ch/web/en/weather.html>. The conference room where the meeting will be held is air-conditioned and the temperature is maintained in the range of 20-22°C.

### **IX. CURRENCY**

30. The exchange rate of the euro and the Swiss franc is now around 1.20 francs per 1 euro and is subject to daily market fluctuations. For conversion rate please consult

<http://www.ubs.com/1/e/index/bcqv/calculator.html>. Currency exchange facilities are available in the city centre and at the UBS bank branch at Palais des Nations, located on the ground floor of C building (door C6). It is open from 08:30 to 16:30, with no lunch break, from Monday to Friday.

## X. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

31. Should you have any questions regarding the information provided above, please contact:

Mr. Andres Vikat  
Social and Demographic Statistics Section  
Statistical Division, UNECE  
Room C.440  
Palais des Nations  
Tel: +41 22 917 2764  
E-mail: [andres.vikat@unece.org](mailto:andres.vikat@unece.org)

Ms. Oyunjargal (Oyuna)  
Social and Demographic Statistics Section  
Statistical Division, UNECE  
Room C.450  
Palais des Nations  
Tel.: +41 22 917 41 47  
E-mail: [social.stats@unece.org](mailto:social.stats@unece.org)

Map of the UN premises in Geneva

