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Conference of European Statisticians manuals, guidelines and recommendations**Summary of comments from countries and international organizations on “Developing gender statistics: a practical tool”****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The present note summarizes the comments by countries and international organizations on the draft Manual *Developing gender statistics: a practical tool*, resulting from the electronic consultation conducted by the secretariat in April-May 2010.

A total of 37 replies were received in response to the request for comments: from thirty-two countries and five supra-national and international organizations. There was general support for the endorsement of the Manual. Furthermore, several specific comments and amendments were proposed that have been incorporated into the text of the updated version of the Manual that is made available on the Conference of European Statisticians plenary session website at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2010.06.ces.htm>.

In view of the general support, it is proposed that the Conference endorses the Manual *Developing gender statistics: a practical tool*.

I. Introduction

1. The present note summarizes the comments by countries and international organizations on the draft Manual *Developing gender statistics: a practical tool*, resulting from the electronic consultation conducted by the secretariat in April-May 2010.

II. Summary

2. A total of 37 replies were received in response to the request for comments on the Manual. The following thirty-two countries and five supra-national and international organizations replied: Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-Stat), Eurostat, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the World Bank.

3. Most countries and international organizations supported the endorsement of the Manual. No country or organization opposed the endorsement.

4. The following eleven countries and two international organizations made suggestions for including additional examples, text, or changing the wording in the document: Belgium, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, CIS-Stat and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. These suggestions are summarized in Annex.

III. General comments

5. Many countries took the opportunity to emphasise the value of the Manual in national and international context. In addition to general support to the document, favourable remarks highlighted the usefulness of the Manual as a working tool, the spread of topics treated in Chapter 4 of the Manual, the use of examples from around the globe and the added value from compiling the Manual in partnership with a wide group of countries and experts in the field.

6. Some quotes highlighting the different positive aspects of the Manual are provided in Box 1 on page 4.

7. Many countries and organizations provided detailed information on their gender statistics activities, publications and legislation (Belgium, the Republic of Korea, Portugal, Serbia, United Kingdom *inter alia*). This useful information will be forwarded to the Steering Group on Gender Statistics and will be taken into account in future work.

8. Some of the proposals mentioned ideas for further extensions or developments of the Manual that could be taken up as future activities. These include covering additional subjects such as environment, poverty, gender-budgeting, discrimination, composite indicators (Belgium, Latvia, CIS-Stat), and identifying a set of leading and complementary statistical indicators in different subject-matter areas (Poland). (A proposal to develop a set of key gender indicators related to internationally agreed policy goals was also made at the recent UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics (26-28 April 2010)).

9. The Republic of Korea asked for the development of a Gender Statistics Manual that could be tailored for the Asian countries. This request will be forwarded to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP).

10. Some countries requested more guidance on analysis of gender statistics (Brazil and the Netherlands *inter alia*) which is possibly beyond the range of the objectives of the Manual.

IV. Proposal

11. Following the consultation, the proposed amendments which are described in the Annex, were introduced in an updated version of the Manual. This updated version ECE/CES/2010/7 Rev.1 is available on the Conference's website at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2010.06.ces.htm>. (Please note that since some new text has been added, the layout of the pages has changed in some cases and will be adjusted before submitting the Manual to print.)

12. In view of the support expressed by countries and organizations, **it is proposed that the Conference endorse the manual *Developing gender statistics: a practical tool*, as presented in the document ECE/CES/2010/7 Rev.1.**

13. Subject to the endorsement by the Conference, the Manual is planned to be published by the UNECE by the end of 2010. It will be translated into Russian with financial support provided by the World Bank Development Grant Facility.

Box 1.

Brazil: This kind of document is very important for the work by our Institute and it will be very useful in the near future, serving as a guide for best practices... We welcome ... reflecting in the Manual the new standards in labour and National Accounts statistics..

Czech Republic: ... we find it well-arranged, systematically prepared and thoroughly compiled... It seems to be a comprehensive tool for gender statistics.

Denmark: ...a good and useful tool in the work of building gender statistics.

Latvia: The draft manual is well structured, written in a captivating and easy perceivable way. It contains many examples of good practice and information from different countries of the world.

Lithuania: This manual should serve as a valuable guide for the producers of gender statistics and assist in improving the availability of high-quality statistical information on women and men in society... The manual should be useful not only for the statisticians of the NSIs which only start developing gender statistics but also for all NSIs for producing data that accurately reflect the situation in gender equality in the country.

The Netherlands: ...the UNECE and the Task Force can be proud of the final result of all the work that's been done... as a working tool on gender statistics, this manual is really one step beyond. Especially chapter 4, the structure of each section and its consistency across the topics is one of the best parts of the publication... It's also good that the new manual is the common result of the work of many countries together instead of being the product of mainly one country.

New Zealand: ...a useful guide for organizations and individuals interested in the production and dissemination of gender statistics. It is comprehensive in its coverage describing what gender statistics are, why they are important, issues involved in their production, how to improve the dissemination and use of gender statistics and how to establish gender statistics. ... the Manual provides a balanced perspective on the production of gender statistics. It will be a valuable resource for statistical organizations that are beginning work in this field as well as those that already have gender statistics programmes.

Norway: ...it will be a very useful tool for everyone working with gender statistics.

Sweden: The draft manual Developing gender statistics: A practical tool gives more detailed information on how to incorporate a gender perspective within different statistical fields. For those already working within gender statistics it gives many valuable suggestions on further reading.

Switzerland: ... a comprehensive and very useful tool for countries developing gender statistics but also for countries willing to improve their already existing gender statistics or to think about and maybe revise their content, methods or procedures.

United Kingdom: ... a valuable tool for developing gender statistics.

FAO: The manual comes at a right time when the need of gender statistics is strongly felt for more focused and targeted programmes. It will definitely be a great help in guiding the national statistical institutions of both developed and developing countries in estimating standardized and harmonized comparable gender statistics.

Annex

Comments on specific parts of the document and the related amendments to the text

1. The comments that relate to specific parts of the Manual and the relevant responses/explanations and amendments to the text are presented below. The deleted text is crossed out and the new text is underlined.
2. Some countries and organizations requested changes to the parts of text that referred to examples from their statistical systems, outputs and recent developments (Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, UNESCO Institute for Statistics). These changes have been integrated into the text of the updated version of the Manual and are not all listed in detail under the amendments below.
3. The updated version of the Manual including amendments below is available at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2010.06.ces.htm>.

A. Preface

4. Sweden requested for a more explicit reference to the publication by Birgitta Hedman, Francesca Perucci and Pehr Sundström “*Engendering Statistics: A Tool For Change*” issued by Statistics Sweden in 1996. Both the Preface and the Introduction have been amended to give appropriate credit to the work done in this important publication.

- Amendment in the second paragraph of the Preface:

Developing Gender Statistics: A Practical Tool aims to guide statistical organizations in the production and use of gender statistics. It builds upon the seminal work Engendering Statistics: A Tool for Change by Statistics Sweden (Hedman et al., 1996).

- Amendment in the the second paragraph of section 1.1 (Introduction):

The development of gender statistics involves the same steps as the production of other statistics, but with specific regard to integrating gender issues and reflecting gender concerns. As Hedman et al. (1996) have already established, the main steps include:

B. Chapter 1

5. Portugal requested improvement of the distinction between sex and gender. The definitions of sex and gender have therefore been included in a more precise form (based on the WHO formulations) and the respective roles of sex as the variable and gender as the research objective have been stressed. The wording in Box 1.1 has been improved. The publication has also been double-checked to make sure that the tables and graphs have been presented with breakdown by sex (not by gender).

- Amendment in Section 1.2, second half of paragraph 2:

Sex is a reference to the relatively fixed biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women. Gender is a reference to the relatively fluid socially

constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women¹.

- Amendment in Box 1.1:

2nd column: Adding ~~gender~~ breakdown by sex will cost too much.

3rd column: ~~Adding gender~~ Disaggregating data by sex will adversely affect the quality of the data

3rd column last sentence: The ~~addition of gender~~ disaggregation by sex also often provides the basis for more thorough checking of the accuracy of data collection

6. The Republic of Korea asked for more concrete examples of the distinction between sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis, and of gender issues that are relevant for women or men only. The Section 1.2, 3rd para and the first example in Box 1.1 underline that providing sex-disaggregated data alone is not always sufficient for gender analysis.

- Amendments in Box 1.1 and in Section 1.2:

Examples of health issues that concern only men have been added in Box 1.1 and in Section 1.2.

C. Chapter 2

7. The Netherlands brought attention to the possible moral dilemmas that might arise in gender statistics: “sometimes statistical information might also imply the conclusion that specific situations are not as bad as assumed/proclaimed by groups or parties who represent the interests of disadvantaged groups. In this situation statisticians should also take their stand and take care of their own integrity: e.g. it might be tempting to reconsider the measurement problems more when the statistical results are politically less attractive.”

8. The importance of integrity, independence and impartiality of official statistics is set out in the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 1994. A reference to the Fundamental Principles was added to Chapter 2.

- Addition of the last paragraph at the in section 2.2

In gender statistics, as in all official statistics, it is important to adhere to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1994. In particular, the Principles 1 “Relevance, impartiality and equal access” and 2 “Professional standards and ethics” underline the duty of official statistics to operate on an impartial and ethical basis and to decide according to strictly professional considerations on the methods for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data (UNSD 1994).

D. Chapter 3

9. Lithuania requested to include a concern about using the existing statistical and administrative sources which would allow proper use of resources without increasing the burden on respondents. This point has already been included in section 3.2.2 and has now been further emphasised.

¹ These definitions have been taken from the World Health Organization at <http://www.who.int/gender/whatisgender/en/index.html>

- Amendment in the 2nd paragraph of sub-Section 3.2.2:

Once the data needs have been identified, statistical producers need to evaluate existing sources in order to assess the extent to which these sources meet those needs and to keep response burden to a minimum.

10. Belgium indicated in some detail their experiences of identifying and dealing with gender bias in survey operations. A relevant example from Belgium has therefore been added as Box 3.11 to illustrate the practices used.

- Addition of Box 3.11 on p. 26 (the subsequent boxes will be renumbered in the publication before printing it):

Box 3.11: Actions to reduce error from gender bias in Belgian survey operations

In Belgium, an effort is made to avoid gender bias by raising awareness and instructing and training interviewers to adhere strictly to standardised questions. Even so, the wording of a question can be adapted to sex using computer assisted personal interviewing (CAPI). Characteristics of the interviewer can also influence the response and only by encoding these characteristics of the interviewer in a global database is it possible to analyse outcomes - age and/or ethnicity can influence response.

In a survey on migrants, care was taken to match interviewers and respondents. Muslim women were only contacted by female interviewers. Bias can also creep in through the mode of contact. For example, in Belgian telephone interviews middle-aged women are easier to contact than middle-aged men or younger adults, because they are more likely to be at home. For the same reason, face-to-face interviews reach more single women than single men.

11. Mexico emphasised that many countries use their own classification of time-use surveys and requested reference to the classification used in Latin America (CAUTAL). This was added to Section 3.4.5 under the sub-heading "Activity Classification" and with link to a recent resource.

- Amendment to sub-Section 3.4.5 (last paragraph under the sub-title "Activity Classification"):

For example, the ICATUS is adapted for regional purposes in Latin America. The Clasificación de Actividades de Uso del Tiempo para América Latina (CAUTAL) is comparable with ICATUS but includes activities identified in the Latin American time-use surveys².

E. Chapter 4

12. In the Introduction to Chapter 4, the text has been modified slightly at the request of Portugal to clarify the different roles of Labour Force Surveys and Time Use Surveys.

- Amendment to last paragraph of Section 4.1:

Labour Force Surveys provide basic statistics relating to employment but Time Use Surveys shed light on all activities and the balance between them, whether conducted at work, home or elsewhere.

² See http://www.eclac.org/deype/noticias/noticias/2/38832/GTGenero_mexico.pdf

13. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics provided a series of comments and updates concerning section 4.11. These have been taken into account.

- Amendments to Section 4.11:

The summary global statistics and indicators were updated according to the UIS's latest released figures.

- Additional paragraph to sub-Section 4.11.2:

The OECD, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and Eurostat are also in the process of undertaking a joint survey on the careers of Doctorate Holders³ which will yield internationally comparable indicators on the careers and professional mobility of PhD holders⁴.

- A reference to Anand and Sen (1995)'s paper on the gender-equity-sensitive indicator was added.

14. Romania asked for more clarification concerning the scheme of informal employment in Box 4.3. This scheme originates from the ILO 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) *Guidelines concerning a statistical definition of informal employment* where it is possible to find out more explanation about the distinction between formal and informal employment and how these relate to status in employment in different production units.

- Amendment in Box 4.3:

A reference has been added to the origin of the scheme which is the ILO 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) *Guidelines concerning a statistical definition of informal employment available at: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/download/guidelines/defempl.pdf>*

E. Chapter 5

15. Lithuania underlined the importance of providing contextual information (e.g. number of women and men, their age structure, geographic and urban/rural breakdown, etc.) for the users of gender statistics.

- Amendment in Section 5.2.1 third paragraph:

To facilitate correct interpretation of statistics, it can be sometimes useful to provide to users the contextual demographic information, such as number of women and men, their age structure, geographic breakdown, etc.

16. A caveat regarding sample sizes has been added to the text in section 5.12 at the suggestion of Latvia.

- Amendment to Section 5.2.1 (4th paragraph added):

Another important consideration is the number of respondents behind an indicator. Where there may be an insufficient number of records for a variable – especially if one of the sexes is under-represented, the results may have statistical significance that is too low for being communicated.

³ www.oecd.org/sti/cdh

⁴ <http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmh8phxvf5-en>

17. Portugal's database has been added as an example in Box 5.8 and a link to Switzerland's report on work-life balance has been added after Box 5.12.

F. Chapter 6

18. The Republic of Korea proposed to add an example to the Manual of the best practices achieved in mainstreaming gender statistics into their national statistical system:

- Proposal for amendment in the Gender Manual:

To insert a new Box providing an example of how gender statistics has been introduced in the statistical system in the Republic of Korea

19. Mexico asked for the importance of promoting and encouraging training of national statistical offices to develop gender statistics to be reinforced in this Chapter. The text at the end of 6.1 has therefore been adapted:

- Amendment to the 3rd paragraph of Section 6.1:

~~Another important element in developing gender statistics is the training of statisticians. Training of statisticians cuts across these important elements in developing gender statistics. Statistical offices should not neglect the need for continuous skill development, to ensure adequate incorporation of gender aspects into production and dissemination of official statistics. Introduction of new standards and recommendations, such as the SNA 2008, should be considered in the development of training programmes. A case study on participatory training approaches used in the UNECE – World Bank Institute Gender Statistics Programme for countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia is presented in Annex 2.~~
