

First Meeting of the 2010/2011 Bureau
Geneva (Switzerland), 3-4 November 2010

Item 4b of the
Provisional Agenda

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STEERING GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS AND ITS TASK FORCES

Note by the secretariat

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Steering Group on Gender Statistics was created by the CES Bureau in 2005 (CES/BUR.2005/31). Its objective is to coordinate the CES work on gender statistics and to advise on the organization of CES meetings and workshops in this field.
2. The Steering Group currently includes representatives from Australia, Georgia, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, International Labour Office, United Nations Development Programme, UNECE, Eurostat and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
3. In October 2007, the Steering Group submitted to the CES Bureau a progress report on its activities and the work of task forces working on gender statistics (ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/5). In February 2008, the Bureau approved the revised terms of reference of the Steering Group, the Task Force on Gender Statistics Training for Statisticians and the Task Force on Gender-based Violence (ECE/CES/BUR/2008/FEB/16, 17 and 18).
4. At its 58th plenary session in June 2010, the Conference of European Statisticians recognized the need to continue work on gender statistics involving the high level of expertise available in member countries (ECE/CES/79 para. 21).

II. PROGRESS ACHIEVED

5. The progress of the work carried out since October 2007 by the Steering Group and the task forces is presented in this section by topic. Throughout this period, the Steering Group provided advice to its task forces on their work programme and on the capacity development activities. Several steering group members participated directly in the work of the task forces and delivered training. The Steering Group developed the agenda and helped to organize the UNECE Work Sessions on Gender Statistics that took place in October 2008¹ and April 2010² in Geneva. It met twice in conjunction with these work sessions.

¹ <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.10.gender.htm>

² <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2010.04.gender.htm>

A. Gender statistics training for statisticians

6. The Task Force on Gender Statistics Training for Statisticians (set up in 2005) has aimed at assisting national statistical offices in integrating gender perspective into their data collection, processing and dissemination. From 2006 to 2010, UNECE received funding from the World Bank to support this work.

7. The Task Force included representatives from Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Serbia, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United States, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

8. The Task Force developed the manual “Developing Gender Statistics: a Practical Tool”, which aims to guide statistical organizations in the production and use of gender statistics. It represents a consolidated reference for any organization or individual interested in producing information about gender differences, guides producers of gender statistics and assists in improving the availability of high-quality information on women and men. In addition to task force members, a number of independent experts and experts from international organizations were engaged in its preparation. At its 58th plenary session in June 2010, the Conference of European Statisticians endorsed the manual (ECE/CES/79 para. 20). Its English version is in print and the translation to Russian has been completed. The secretariat is currently finalizing the layout of the Russian version and will submit it for printing in November.

9. The Task Force has developed many training modules consisting of multimedia presentations and practical exercises for use in training events. The training materials are available from the UNECE website³ and have been used in the sub-regional and national training workshops that the secretariat has organized since 2007 with financial support from the World Bank (Table).

Table: Gender statistics training activities organized by UNECE from 2007 to 2010

Activity	Venue	Date
1 Regional training of trainers workshop	Almaty, Kazakhstan	23-27 Apr 2007
2 National workshop on gender statistics	Astana, Kazakhstan	21 June 2007
3 National workshop on gender statistics	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	23-26 June 2007
4 National workshop on gender statistics	Vadul lui Voda, Republic of Moldova	4-5 Oct 2007
5 National workshop on gender statistics	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	29 Oct 2007
6 National workshop on gender-based violence	Astana, Kazakhstan	26-29 Nov 2007
7 Regional workshop on national gender statistics training programs	Rome, Italy	13-14 Dec 2008
8 National workshop on the gender perspective in labour statistics	Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina	5-7 Feb 2008
9 National workshop on measuring informal employment	Astana, Kazakhstan	12-13 May 2008
10 Study tour on informal employment for two Tajik statistical office staff to the Republic of Moldova	Chisinau, Republic of Moldova	10-13 Aug 2008

³ <http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/TRAINSTATS/Gender+statistics>

	Activity	Venue	Date
11	Workshop on national gender statistics training programmes	Geneva, Switzerland	9-10 Oct 2008
12	National workshop on gender statistics	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	24-26 Mar 2009
13	National workshop on measuring violence against women	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	22 May 2009
14	National workshop on gender statistics	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	28-29 July 2009
15	Sub-regional workshop on the challenges and lessons learned in engendering national statistical systems	Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	15-17 Feb 2010
16	Regional workshop on measuring violence against women	Geneva, Switzerland	29-30 April 2010
17	National workshop on gender statistics	Belgrade, Serbia	18-19 May 2010
18	Sub-regional workshop on gender statistics	Tbilisi, Georgia	27-29 Sep 2010
19	National workshop on gender statistics	Tirana, Albania	Dec 2010

10. With the finalisation of the manual and training materials, the Task Force on Gender Statistics Training for Statisticians has completed its work.

B. Gender-based violence

11. The Task Force on the Measurement of Gender-based Violence (set up in 2005) aims at improving and harmonizing statistics on gender-based violence. Its activities have been closely linked to the global effort of developing indicators on violence against women in response to the General Assembly resolution from 2006, and its follow-up resolutions from 2007, 2008 and 2009⁴. The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) has established the Friends of the Chair group for coordinating this global effort. Since 2009, UNECE has participated together with the other United Nations Regional Commissions in an inter-regional project funded from the United Nations Development Account, which has supported the Task Force's work.

12. The Task Force includes representatives from Canada, Italy, Serbia, United Nations Fund for the Advancement of Women, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, World Health Organization, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, and five independent experts.

13. In October 2007 and September 2009, UNECE convened meetings of an Expert Group on Measuring Violence against Women, which includes several international experts in addition to the members of the Task Force. Several task force members attended the meeting of the UNSC Friends of the Chair group in December 2009. The Task Force provided input to the identification of the interim set of indicators on measuring violence against women, which was adopted by UNSC at its 40th session in February 2009.

14. The Task Force guided the development of a questionnaire module designed for collecting data on the set of indicators agreed upon by UNSC. The module is expected to become a standard data collection tool on violence against women for national statistical offices worldwide. Its development and testing also provides input to the development of

⁴ Resolutions A/RES/61/143, 62/133, 63/155 and 64/137 all entitled "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women".

guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women undertaken by the Statistical Commission Friends of the Chair group.

15. In September 2009, the Task Force reviewed and provided detailed comments on the draft questionnaire module and related methodological material prepared by a UNECE consultant. The module has thereafter been revised and pilot-tested in Mexico and the Republic of Moldova. Tests in Armenia and Georgia are scheduled to take place in October. The expert meeting on 18-19 November 2010 is expected to review these first test experiences and decide on further adjustments to the module. The module is planned to be finalised in 2011 based on further pilot tests in other countries.

16. Training on the measurement of gender-based violence has been promoted in statistical offices and among data users. UNECE organized three training workshops on gender-based violence in 2007, 2009 and 2010 with support from the World Bank and the United Nations Development Account. Training modules on measuring gender-based violence have been included in six other training workshops on gender statistics.

C. Indicators of gender equality

17. The Steering Group on Gender Statistics prepared draft terms of reference for the new task force, which are submitted to the CES Bureau for review and approval (see ECE/CES/BUR/2010/NOV/8/Add. 1). In drafting the terms of reference, the Steering Group took into account the objectives and characteristics of existing initiatives to avoid duplication and create synergies whenever possible.

III. CHALLENGES FOR THE COMING PERIOD

18. In the coming years, the Steering Group and its Task Forces will, subject to the approval of the Bureau, carry out the following activities:

(a) *Guidance by the Steering Group.* The Steering Group will continue providing guidance and advice to its task forces and on capacity development in gender statistics. It will prepare the agenda and help to organize the next UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics scheduled for April 2012;

(b) *Finalising the questionnaire module on violence against women.* The Task Force on Gender-based Violence is expected to continue promoting the testing of the developed questionnaire module in more countries. It will draw conclusions from the first such experiences at its meeting on 18-19 November 2010. Several countries in the UNECE region and beyond have indicated the possibility of carrying out a test in 2011. The results need to be analyzed in view of achieving a robust data collection tool applicable in various cultural contexts. The Bureau is therefore invited to endorse the continuation of the Task Force for one more year;

(c) *Indicators of gender equality.* Draft terms of reference for a new Task Force on Indicators of Gender Equality are presented in ECE/CES/BUR/2010/NOV/8/Add. 1. Subject to approval by the CES Bureau, the Steering Group is expected to provide advice to this Task Force and oversee its work;

(d) *Training.* Countries of Eastern and South-eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia have repeatedly expressed the need for continuing training in gender statistics, in particular for sub-regional events involving both statisticians and users of gender statistics.

In view of the wealth of training materials prepared in recent years and the enhanced expertise on gender statistics available in many member countries, UNECE is well positioned to continue the training activities in countries with developing statistical systems. As the current capacity development project with the World Bank is coming to its natural end in 2010 after five years, the secretariat is at present in consultation with several donors who could support such activities in the region in the coming years.

IV. PROPOSAL

19. The Bureau is invited to:

(a) Approve the continuation of the mandate of the Steering Group on Gender Statistics for two years;

(b) Approve the continuation of the Task Force on the Measurement of Gender-based Violence for one year;

(c) Approve the terms of reference for the Task Force on Indicators of Gender Equality (ECE/CES/BUR/2010/8/Add.1).

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