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**Session 1 – Invited paper**

**OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF GENDER STATISTICS  
IN RUSSIA**

Submitted by Federal State Statistics Service, Russian Federation \*

**I. Gender statistics, principles of formation and purpose.**

1. During the last years, the purposes, tasks, forms and methods of distribution of statistical data has changed in Russia. Demand for statistical information describing problems of gender equality has increased. The circle of users of this type of data has expanded. In the years following the Beijing Declaration Platform of Actions, which was accepted by the Fifth International Conference of Women (Beijing, 1995) and approved by the special session of the UN General Assembly «Women in 2000», the importance of gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data has taken on a new direction.

2. This was promoted to a great extent by the greater activeness of state authority bodies and public and scientific organizations in the area of gender equality. The reconsideration of founding principles on gender statistics was carried out in close interaction with the users of the information in the following directions:

- The systematization, wider publication and presentation of the gender component on available information to users;
- The introduction and development of new parameters, enabling the comparative analysis of the situation of women and men in society.

3. During the last years, work on improving information on gender aspects has been carried out coordinated closely with the development of all branches of national statistics which has been focused on incorporating new aspects of the socio-economic state and society as well as recommendations of the international organizations. Organizational issues related to the

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interaction between various data producers within the framework of the Federal State Statistics Service (a group was created), as well as in other departments, were solved.

4. An important stage of gender statistics development in Russia was the period of implementation of the Gender Statistics Project conducted within the framework of bilateral cooperation between Statistics Sweden and Goskomstat of Russia in 1996-2000. 11 territorial bodies of the Goskomstat of Russia as well as experts from the central office participated.

5. The result of this cooperation was the preparation of special editions “Women and Men of Russia” and of other appropriate subjects to the Russian Federation. The publications are funded with periodicity from the federal budget. Currently, work is going on to prepare the next publication of the edition.

6. The issue of improving gender statistics was considered during sessions of inter-departmental commissions on socio-demographic issues. Improvement of the situation of women both at the federal level and as subjects of the Russian Federation has been discussed. The issue has also been taken up in meetings with the scientific community. All of this has been at the initiative of statistical bodies.

## **II. Developing a system of indicators of gender statistics.**

### **2.1. Structure and principles of system formation**

7. The development in 1998 of the system of indicators of gender statistics, which is periodically updated, had a great importance for the work on systematization of available data in gender areas.

8. In 1998, the Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat) developed the system of indicators of gender statistics (System) within the framework of the Federal Task Program “Reforming of statistics in 1997-2000”. Together with the systematization of indicators traditionally used to assess the situation of women, the system included new indicators representing various facets of life activity of women and men.

9. The System is based on internationally accepted principles which are used by statistical services of other countries on the basis of recommendations of international organizations - UNESCO, WHO, ILO, OECD, UN.

10. The System of indicators was developed with consideration to propositions by executive and legislative federal bodies, scientific and public organizations.

11. The System is constructed as a statistical reference book, and contains a list of indicators, including: the name of the indicator, sections of development, sources and periodicity of data reporting. The system also contains metadata.

12. Indicators are grouped in the following main sections:

1. Population.
2. Householding.
3. Public health services.
4. Education.
5. Employment and unemployment. Labor conditions and payment.

6. Living standards. Social welfare.
7. Crime.
8. Political activity. Bodies of state authority.
9. Protection of the environment.

13. The data sources for the gender statistics are: whole and sample statistical business surveys, population censuses - organized by bodies of state statistics and federal bodies of the executive authority – as well as administrative statistics. The system is regularly updated in view of improvement of statistical surveys programs.

14. Currently, the review of the System is being carried out within the framework of the administrative reform of bodies of state authority and provision of complex data on level, quality and conditions of life of women and men, according to purposes presented in the UN Millennium Declaration. There are plans to place it on the web-site of the Federal State Statistics Service; therefore, consumers will receive information on the gender component of available data not only through publications, but in whole volume.

15. Allow me to emphasize the characteristics of various sections of the System in specific areas that were subject to maximum development during the last years.

2.2. Indicators describing changes in age and gender composition of the population and the demographic dynamics within the country.

16. Statistical data, reflecting the age and gender composition of the population and the demographic processes in Russia are widely presented in the System. The main source of this data are censuses and micro-censuses of the population.

17. The last population census was carried out in 2002. Traditional issues of a population census - including gender issues and also a number of issues wider in range than usual describing the socio-economic situation of women and men of Russia - were included in its program.

18. It was first census in Russia after the change in economic orientation. During the preparation of its program, the needs for statistical data on processes occurring in the economical and social sphere of society were taken into account. Not only was data on families collected, but also on households. Data on the number of unregistered marriages was collected for the first time. Also new formulations of questions on employment were created. Data on unemployment was also collected.

19. Based on data from the All-Russia Population census, conducted to capture the situation on October 9, 2002, the constant population number in the Russian Federation has reached 145.2 millions people. From 1989 to 2002, the population in the country dwindled by 1.8 millions people, or by 1.3 %.

20. The number of women exceeding men is significant, which is characteristic for the population of Russia. It consisted of 10.0 millions women contrasted to 9.6 millions men in 1989. The deterioration of the genders ratio is due to a high premature mortality of men. It is especially high for men at working age where men's mortality exceed women's mortality by more than 4 times.

21. For each 1000 men in 2002, there were 1147 women. In 1989, this had been 114 women. The prevalence of number of women over number of men is marked from 33 years of age.

22. The results of the 2002 census contain a combination of various attributes in gender. It is necessary to note, that the collection of data on the number of men and women is stipulated for all cities and towns of the country.

2.3. Indicators describing the households.

23. For the first time after the census of 1897, the unit census taken was not a family, but as a household. Households statistics, developed based on materials of population censuses, contains statistical indicators on the number, type and size of the households and family cells, including households and families having children younger than 18 years and other dependents.

State of marriage.

24. The 2002 census has accounted almost 53 millions individual households, in which 98 % of all population of Russia resided. The average size of the households was 2,7 people, half of the households consisted of 1 or 2 people, and only 17 % of the households consisted of 4 people.

25. For the first time, during the population census, data on the number of unregistered marriages was collected. From the total number of married couples, 3 millions (10 %) were involved in unregistered marriages.

26. The growth in unregistered marriages has resulted in an increase in the number of children born outside registered marriages. For 1989-2002, the share of such children has doubled. It numbered about 30 % from the total number of annual births.

27. Based on the results of sample surveys on households budgets, organized by the Goskomstat of Russia, information on composition and structure of available households resources of different socio-economic categories, including the presence of children, was developed.

28. Beginning from the results for 2004, it is planned to organize processing of households by economic activity of their members, based on data of quarterly population censuses on employment problems. Thus, this block of indicators characterizes the whole complex of conditions and preconditions of development of demographic and social processes in Russia, which, in the 1990s, occurred with a background of deep changes in the socio-economical situation of the country, and, in many respects, had a recessionary nature.

29. For the first time, during the 2002 census the population could specify all sources of income available to them, as compared to the last census, when from the population was asked about no more than two sources of income.

30. The results of the census have shown an increase of population density, in particular in the number of those having more than one source of income. In 2002, 29 % of the population had more than one type of income source (26 % had two types, 1.5 % had three types).

31. More than 62 millions inhabitants of the country (43 %) have named income of labor activity as the source of income (in 1989 - 77 millions people, or 52 %). This was the sole source of income for more than 48 people.

2.4. Indicators describing the situation of women and men in the labor market.

32. There is a wide section on the labor market, based on various sources of data in the System. The most complete source of data on the labor market is the labor force survey, introduced in the statistical practice of Russia in 1992 with funding from the World Bank.

33. Data collected as a result of surveys allows one to characterize the situation of men and women in the labor market based on a wide circle of social and demographic characteristics.

34. Recently, the Federal State Statistics Service had developed and integrated methodological guidelines on defining and measuring of employment in informal sector into statistical practice. They are based on statements of the Resolution concerning statistics of employment, accepted at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labor Statisticians in 1993. To maintain clarity, approaches to determine the margins of the informal sector were coordinated with principles of formation of the households sector in the SNA.

35. On average, according to data on four quarters of the population censuses on employment issues, carried out in 2003: 10,6 millions people were engaged in the informal sector, including 8,7 millions people (83 %) who had the main (or sole) employment in the informal sector basic. For 1,85 millions people (17,4 %), the employment in informal sector was an additional source of income to the employment outside of this sector.

36. The socio-demographic characteristics of the population employed in the informal sector differ in many aspects from the characteristics of the average employed person. Women make 48 %, as a whole in the economy and 49 % of the number of employed in the informal sector. Thus in this aspect, the gender composition of the employed in the informal sector has some more essential differences. In construction - informal sector - women make only 11%, whereas as a whole in the branch - 21%. In the transport and in the communications sectors - accordingly 8% and 29%. Representation of women in the informal sector is appreciably lower in comparison with the formal sector in the sphere of financial activity, science and scientific service, public health services, and culture.

37. In agriculture, there is an inverted ratio - women in informal sector are 49% versus 39% in the number of employed as a whole in this branch.

38. Russia still has a high level of gender segregation. The determining factor in redistribution of working women and men in branches of economy is the labor payment. Men, as a rule, master more actively the workplaces in new spheres of activity with a higher income.

39. Practically in all branches of the economy, the wages of women is lower than the wages of men. As a whole for the economy it is lower by 35%.

40. The Federal State Statistics Service organized a sample survey of the wage levels of women and men, employed in organizations on the basis of a new methodology. It will enable the collection of data on the differentiation of wage levels among women and men by employment, age, educational level, conditions of payment broken down by types of economic activity, forms of ownership and regions.

41. The processed data in the gender aspect is well presented in the official statistical publications: «Women and men of Russia», «Economic activity of the population», «Work and employment in Russia», «Russian statistical year-book», «Social status and living standard of the

population of Russia», «Results of the All-Russia population census 2002» in 14 volumes, and other publications.

### **III. Future plans of Rosstat on further development of gender statistics .**

42. Taking into account the orientation of state policy, aimed at the implementation of the equal rights and freedom, the principle of creation of equal opportunities for women and men and according to the Constitution of Russian Federation and international obligations of Russia, further perfection of gender statistics is one of the strategic directions of Russian statistics development.

3.1. Rosstat consistently continues work on further improvement of methods of collection, processing and presentation to users, together with the interested federal bodies of the executive authority during reconsideration of the forms of state statistical supervision, both programs of business surveys and population censuses.

3.2. To collect data on official and the professional-qualifying composition of businesses and organizations employees, Rosstat plans to develop a methodology of a new statistical business survey.

3.3. It's important for improving gender statistics to conduct work on building a system of indicators of life quality, expansion of data on social welfare: on sizes of pensions, social allowances and other social payments, given privileges to separate categories of the population.

3.4. The most detailed account of gender factors in demographic processes is included in the development strategy of current population statistics in the nearest prospect. Currently, the possibility of conducting a sample survey of family and birthrate in Russia is being considered. A similar survey was already conducted in 20 European countries by the UN Economic Commission for Europe with the financial support of UNFPA.

43. The creation of a multidimensional base of basic data on births, deaths, marriages, divorces, migrants would allow the extension of possibilities on demographic analysis of gender distinctions on separate groups of the population. Currently Rosstat is participating in a pilot project on its creation.

44. To summarize, we would like to emphasize that the successful improvement of statistics depends in many respects on the dialogue between the producers and consumers of statistics: state bodies and non-governmental organizations, scientific centers, scientists. It is mainly about interaction during all data production phases: from development of statistical survey programs to data development, preparation of the publications and distribution forms.

45. As an example of such a dialogue in our country, we would like to make mention of the scientific expert group seminar "Problems of gender statistics development in Russian Federation", organized by the Moscow Center of Gender Research, together with the Institute of Socio-Economic Problems of Population of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the National Statistical Department. The result of the Seminar was a detailed analysis of the situation of gender statistics in Russia and directions for its further improvement, carried out by experts working in the area of gender issues, and presented in the book "Gender inequality in modern Russia through the prism of statistics" in 330 pages.

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