

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

For decision
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Third meeting of the 2006/2007 Bureau  
Geneva, 12-13 February 2007

Item 7g of the Provisional  
Agenda

**PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A TASK FORCE ON UNECE GENDER  
STATISTICS DATABASE**

**Note prepared by the UNECE secretariat**

**BACKGROUND**

1. The UNECE Database on Gender Statistics was reviewed and assessed by a team of experts in the period May-September 2006, as requested by the CES Bureau. This evaluation underlined the many advantages of having this platform for collecting and disseminating sex-disaggregated data for a variety of subject areas for the countries in the region. The assessment team strongly recommended that work on the Gender Statistics Database continue, while noting that some areas need improvement, and made the following suggestions:

- a) create a Task Force for the database that would include participants from UNECE member states and other international organizations. The objectives of this Task Force would be to advise UNECE on the database and the areas that need improvement such as marketing, table layout, graphics, etc.;
- b) make further improvements to the database;
- c) consider producing short reports based on the database.

2. The last UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics (Geneva, 11-13 September 2006), which was organized in cooperation with UNDP, UNFPA and the World Bank, also considered the UNECE Gender Statistics Database as an important dissemination tool. Participants agreed that further work is needed and more resources be invested for regular updates of the database. The meeting also focused on the dissemination, marketing, and use of gender statistics. It was suggested that a proactive dissemination strategy should be developed and accompanied by systematic marketing activities, starting by identifying different categories of users and interacting with them in order to understand their needs and provide them with the right products and the right dissemination channels. It was finally recommended that data collection and dissemination activities of international organizations on gender statistics be better coordinated. At the meeting, it was suggested to create a Task Force on UNECE Gender Statistics Database to support UNECE to address the issues mentioned above and to improve the consistency and quality of the Database.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE TASK FORCE**

3. The main objectives of the Task Forces are:

- to provide guidance and methods to ensure data accuracy and availability in the database;
- to provide suggestions on new indicators or modifications to the UNECE database, including the revision of the current data collection mechanism and questionnaire;
- to foster collaboration and discussion with National Statistical Offices and other international organizations working on similar databases;
- to develop a marketing strategy to outreach users;
- to explore ways to produce reports and/or publications using data from the UNECE database, possibly in collaboration with national agencies and international organizations.

## **COMPOSITION OF THE TASK FORCE**

4. The composition of the Task Force on the UNECE Gender Statistics Database will include representatives from Canada, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Switzerland and UNECE. Representatives from Finland and OECD will follow the work of the Task Force.

## **MEETINGS OF THE TASK FORCE**

5. The Task Force will mainly work using e-mail connections.

## **OUTPUTS**

6. The main output of the Task Force will be:
- a revised set of indicators/questionnaire to be used for data updates starting from 2007;
  - a marketing strategy (list of actual/potential users, plan for marketing);
  - contribution to analytical publication/report mainly based on the UNECE Database on Gender Statistics, provided that additional resources to produce the publication are ensured.

## **TIME FRAME**

7. The work defined by the Task Force should be completed by June 2008 and be presented at the next UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics scheduled for September 2008 in Geneva.

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