

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

Third meeting of the 2007/2008 Bureau
Geneva, 12-13 February 2008

Item 10c of the Provisional
Agenda

**PROPOSAL FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE WORK OF THE STEERING
GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Note prepared by the UNECE secretariat

BACKGROUND

1. UNECE has a long history of being active in the area of gender statistics.
2. The Steering Group on Gender Statistics was created by the Bureau in February 2005 (CES/BUR.2005/31). Together with the SG, three Task Forces were set up: the Task Force on Gender-Sensitisation Training for Statisticians, the Task Force on Violence against Women and the Task Force on Time Use Surveys (the latter completed its work in 2006). Since their inception, the groups have been working toward their individual objectives and have produced outputs in accordance with their ToR (see Progress Reports presented at the October 2007 Meeting of the Bureau).
3. At the 2004 Work Session on Gender Statistics and reiterated at the 2006 Work Session on Gender Statistics, it was proposed that the future CES work on gender statistics be directed toward:
 - the promotion of gender statistics training for all statisticians;
 - developing a common set of harmonized indicators and survey instrument to measure gender-based violence.The Steering Group and Task Forces will serve as the vehicle to support the UNECE and its partner organizations, UNDP, UNFPA, and WHO among others, in carrying out this work on gender statistics.
4. In October 2007, the Bureau made an in-depth review of gender statistics. The Bureau also reviewed the program of work of the Steering Group on Gender Statistics, the Task Force on Gender-Sensitisation Training for Statisticians, and the Task Force on Violence against Women. The Bureau noted that

“there is a danger that the work on these issues is considered to be biased; sometimes these groups are perceived to be a body of women working for women, there is no clear border between the advocacy work and impartial provision of data; such an image does not work in favour of the activities; (and that) the language/terminology has to be clarified in order to transfer the right message, terms like ‘engendering’, ‘gender sensitisation’, ‘gender focal point’ do not say anything to people who are outside

the circle of experts dealing with gender statistics”
(ECE/CES/BUR.2007/OCT/18, page 5).

5. The Bureau requested the groups to revise the ToR to address the concerns and comments made during the Meeting. The new ToR are provided in the present document and documents 17 and 18.

OBJECTIVE OF THE WORK

6. The main role of the Steering Group on Gender Statistics (SG) is to coordinate the CES work on gender statistics. The group also has an advisory role in the organization of CES meetings and workshops on gender statistics. In their work, the groups will promote the usage of impartial terminology for gender statistics within the UNECE region and beyond.

TASKS

7. Specific tasks of the Steering Group include the following:
- to coordinate the work of the CES Task Forces related to gender statistics and provide advice as necessary;
 - to provide advisory services for the technical cooperation activities of the UNECE in the area of gender statistics;
 - to plan future UNECE meetings and workshops in the field of gender statistics, possibly in collaboration with UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, World Bank and others.

OUTPUTS

8. The main outputs of the Steering Group will be:
- a work programme and timetable for each Task Force and coordination of the work of the TFs;
 - a detailed agenda for the CES Work Session on Gender Statistics in 2008;
 - a work programme for gender statistics for 2008;
 - work programmes for other future meetings.

MEMBERSHIP

9. The Steering Group will include representatives from Ireland, the Netherlands, Serbia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, UNDP and UNECE.

MEETINGS OF THE STEERING GROUP

10. The Steering Group will work mainly using e-mail consultations and teleconferences. The group may also meet in conjunction with the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics.

TIME FRAME

11. The work defined by the Steering Group in relation to the coordination of the overall goals on gender statistics is on-going. The ToR will be reviewed by the Bureau in 2010.

* * * * *