

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

Meeting of the 2014/2015 Bureau
Geneva (Switzerland), 17-18 February 2015

Item 3(b) of the Provisional
Agenda

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR THE STEERING GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS**

Note by the Steering Group

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Steering Group on Gender Statistics was created by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in 2005¹ with the objective to coordinate the CES work on gender statistics and to advise on the organization of meetings and workshops in this field. The CES Bureau has regularly reviewed the Group's work and its terms of reference have been updated to reflect the developments in the area of gender statistics. The latest mandate expired in the end of 2014.

2. Over the past two years, the Steering Group acted as an organizing committee of the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics (Geneva, March 2014) and provided guidance on the finalisation of the report on indicators of gender equality and on the organization of capacity-building activities. The Group played an important role in coordinating activities of UNECE and other international organizations in order to avoid overlaps. It held a face-to-face meeting in conjunction with the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics in March 2014.

3. The 20-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action² on gender equality and women's empowerment (Regional Review Meeting, Geneva, November 2014) emphasized the importance of the production of gender-disaggregated statistics and statistics on pertinent gender issues, alongside with the need of methodological developments to ensure international comparability. It specifically mentioned the potential contribution of UNECE activities in this regard. To ensure the continuity of CES work on gender statistics and its coordination with other international organizations in responding to the demand from policymakers, continued guidance by the Steering Group on Gender Statistics is needed.

¹ ECE/CES/BUR.2005/31

² ECE/AC.28/2014/2

II. MANDATE

4. The Steering Group on Gender Statistics regularly reports to the Bureau on the CES activities in gender statistics. The Steering Group will identify new areas where methodological work could be undertaken. In such cases, after having verified the interest by a sufficient number of CES member countries and the availability of resources, the Steering Group will submit proposals to the CES Bureau for review and approval.

III. OBJECTIVE

5. The objective of the Steering Group is to provide direction to the CES work on gender statistics, advance methodological development, capacity-building and collaboration between users and producers in gender statistics, and provide a mechanism for following up on the implementation of CES guidance.

IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

6. The Steering Group will:

(a) Coordinate CES work on gender statistics; launch and steer the development of guidelines and surveys of best practice; oversee the work of CES task forces working in the area of gender statistics;

(b) Develop a plan for taking forward methodological work on measuring the gendered power and decision-making relationships within the household;

(c) Advise the UNECE Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Indicators of Gender Equality regarding enhancements to the UNECE Gender Database;

(d) Follow-up of the implementation of CES methodological guidance related to gender statistics in UNECE countries;

(e) Advise the UNECE Secretariat on the formulation and planning of capacity-building activities to support the engendering of statistical systems in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, promoting use of the training materials and indicators prepared by CES task forces in recent years;

(f) Act as an organizing committee for the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics.

7. The main outputs of the Steering Group will be:

(a) Proposal on methodological work on measuring the gendered power and decision-making relationships within the household, presented to the CES Bureau for approval;

(b) Revised data collection plan for the 2016 update of the UNECE Gender Database;

(c) Advice on proposed concept notes for capacity-building workshops in gender statistics;

(d) Proposal for an agenda and invited speakers for UNECE Work Sessions on Gender Statistics.

8. The Steering Group will ensure coordination of the CES work on gender statistics with the Global Gender Statistics Programme and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics under the United Nations Statistical Commission, and with the monitoring of gender issues in the Sustainable Development Goals.

V. TIMETABLE

9. The work on gender statistics in countries participating in CES is ongoing. The CES Bureau will review the terms of reference for the Steering Group on Gender Statistics in 2018.

VI. METHOD OF WORK

10. The Steering Group will work mainly through e-mail consultations and teleconferences. The Group will also have face-to-face meetings in conjunction with the biennial UNECE Work Sessions on Gender Statistics, next to be held in March 2016.

VII. MEMBERSHIP

11. The Steering Group currently includes representatives from Australia, Georgia, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Eurostat and OECD, thus covering the different sub-regions in the UNECE. The European Institute for Gender Equality will be invited to join the Group. If necessary, other experts and agencies can also be consulted or asked to contribute, to consolidate the best available expertise.

12. UNECE acts as Secretariat to the Steering Group.

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