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Measuring Intra-Household Power and Decision-Making: Progress so Far

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Purpose of the Presentation

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- What are we trying to measure and why?
- Task Force: Background and composition
- Progress so far: What have we learned?
- Next steps
- Discussions



Issues and Challenges

- Gender equality: Women increasingly fill important roles in positions of power in business, politics, justice, culture and sports
- Power and decision-making recognized as an important domain of gender equality
- Official statistics on 'power and influence' or 'women in decision-making roles' usually limited to public sphere
- However, access to power outside the home may very well be limited if power is gender- divided within the home
- The main question is, who decides?
 - Who decides how money is spent, how time is spent, who goes to work, when to have children?



Background

- Concept note, literature review...
- Business case gave arguments for
 - why intra-household power & decision-making is a distinct topic
 - why it merits investigation
 - what mandate there is for the work
 - what the value-added of statistics on this topic would be
- Linked to but different from division of labour (unpaid and paid)
- SDGs refer to 'all levels' of decision-making
- End 2016: ToRs developed & consulted across CES member countries
- Feb 2017: CES bureau established Task Force



Task Force

- NSOs of all CES member countries were invited to participate
- 21 members
- 19 countries and organizations
- Chaired by Pierre Turcotte, Status of Women Canada

Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Serbia, Italy, Canada, Mexico, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Turkey, Mongolia, Colombia, Belarus, Montenegro, Philippines, Armenia, Russian Federation, EIGE, OECD, Statistics Canada



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Terms of Reference

Objective: to make an inventory of indicators and sources and provide recommendations to statistical offices on measuring the gendered dimensions of intra-household power and decision-making



ToRs: Activities

- Activities
 - a) Compile an **inventory of existing indicators**, including information about the statistical surveys in which they are included;
 - b) **Evaluate the existing indicators** in terms of conceptual validity, coverage, frequency, quality and standardization across sources and UNECE countries;
 - c) Identify aspects of the topic for which there are currently **no adequate indicators**;
 - d) Make proposals for **methodological work to fill gaps** where indicators do not exist or are poorly defined or where data availability is limited: such as by developing and testing new survey questions, or by conducting research to investigate how better to pose questions to collect valid data;
 - e) Define **headline and supporting indicators**;
 - f) Evaluate the prospect of the production of these indicators as **official statistics**;
 - g) **Analyze** intra-household power and decision-making in selected countries, using available indicators;
 - h) **Draft recommendations** for statistical offices based on findings from above activities



Information-Gathering Exercise with TF Countries

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- Key sub-topics identified:
 - Reproductive decision-making
 - Health care
 - Labour market participation
 - Social life and leisure time
 - Child-related matters
 - Household finances
 - Expenditure and saving
 - Resource allocation/sharing
 - Control over household finances and permission-seeking
 - Asset ownership
 - Perception of control, satisfaction, resolution of disagreements



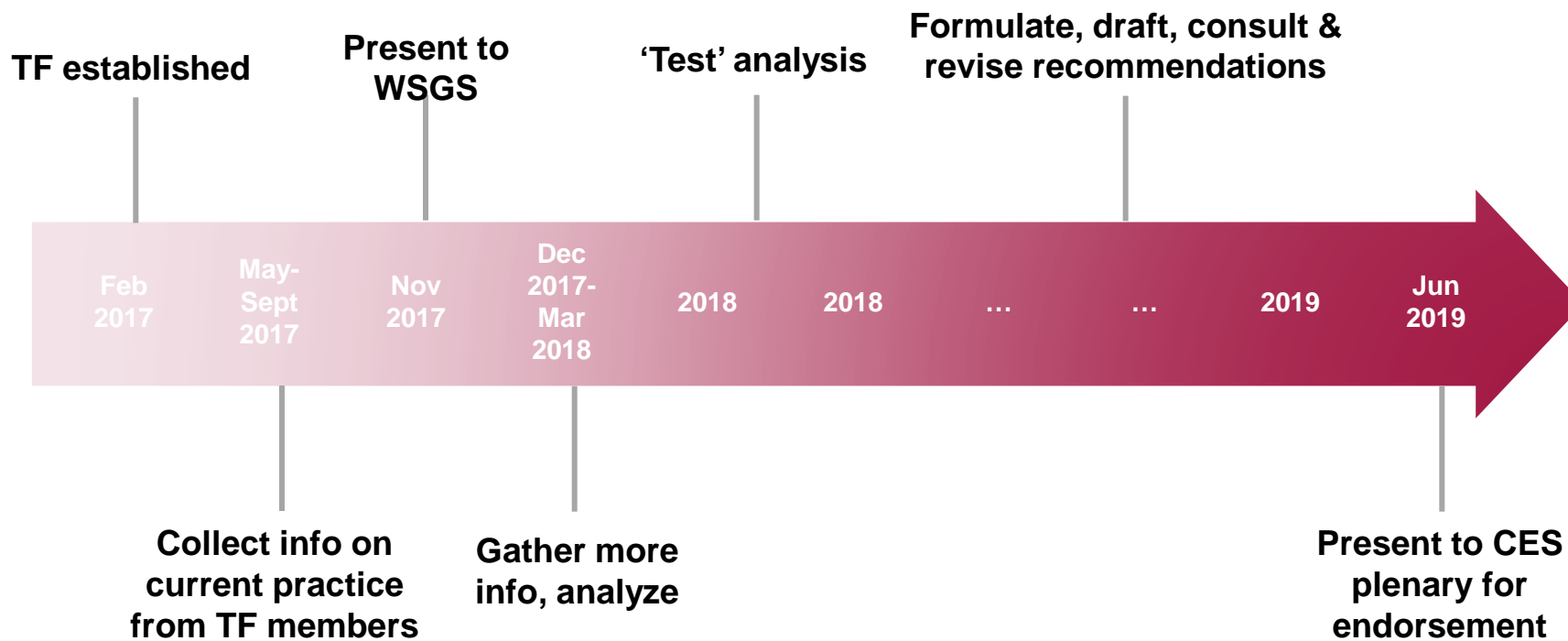
Data Collection in TF Countries: Gaps & Challenges

- Several remaining gaps, e.g. health, child-related matters, satisfaction with decision-making processes & perceived control
- Methodological challenges, e.g.
 - Perception of q's as intrusive → non-response
 - Need for respondent to be alone
 - Inaccuracy/impossibility of proxy responses (perception questions)
- Variation in wording, purpose, surveys in which they are included, samples and units of analysis
- Very little dissemination or communication of existing data on power and decision-making



TF Tentative Timeline

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Key Upcoming TF Activities

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- Present to Work Session on Gender Statistics in Belgrade (today)
- Face-to-face side meeting of TF in Belgrade
 - More country inputs → richer view of existing practice
 - Assign leads for work streams
- Looked at surveys, sources, questions, now need to look at indicators (what already exists, what could be done?)



Potential Questions for Discussions



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- Are there other dimensions (e.g. reproductive decision-making, health care, labour market participation, etc.) of household-power and decision-making the TF should look at?
- Any other gaps in knowledge?
- Any other key activities the TF should be undertaking?



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Thank you for your attention!

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To provide additional material:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/hhdecisions>



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