



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Conference of European Statisticians

#### Group of Experts on Gender Statistics

##### Work Session on Gender Statistics

Belgrade, 29 November – 1 December 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

##### Opening, adoption of the agenda and election of officers

### Annotated provisional agenda

The Work Session will be held at the Hotel Metropol Palace, Belgrade, Serbia, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 29 November 2017.

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening, adoption of the agenda and election of officers
2. Violence against women
3. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from the gender perspective
4. Measuring time use and valuing unpaid work
5. Economic empowerment and intra-household power
6. Gender issues in vulnerable population groups
7. Use of gender statistics in policymaking and policy monitoring
8. Building partnerships for better gender statistics
9. Emerging issues and international initiatives in gender statistics
10. Gender statistics priorities for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region
11. Future work
12. Adoption of the report
13. Closing of the meeting

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## **II. Annotations**

The Work Session is open to representatives of all member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Representatives of other Member States of the United Nations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may also participate in a consultative capacity, according to the terms of reference of UNECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.5, paras. 11, 12 and 13). All delegates must be accredited by the competent authority of their country or international organization.

All documents for the meeting will be made available on the following webpage: <http://bit.ly/unecegenderworksession2017>.

### **1. Opening, adoption of the agenda, and election of officers**

The meeting is expected to adopt its agenda and to elect its chairperson.

### **2. Violence against women**

Measuring violence against women is very important for policymakers, yet is notoriously difficult for many well-known reasons. The emphasis on 'leaving no-one behind' entailed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development brings additional challenges, as policymakers require ever more detailed data. The aim of this session is to examine possible ways to meet these challenges. It will ask whether and why data collection practices on violence against women are changing within and between countries, and whether data on violence against women are fulfilling the needs of policymakers.

### **3. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from the gender perspective**

This session will focus on the measurement of progress towards those SDGs that have gender-related indicators. Of the 232 indicators agreed at the global level, about one third are relevant for gender analysis or require data disaggregated by sex. This session will examine how far statistical offices have come in developing the data and tools needed to measure, monitor, conceptualize and communicate about the SDGs from a gender perspective. It will also address gaps in statistical capacity and measures taken to fill them, and consider innovative responses to the challenges for gender statistics posed by the SDG indicator framework.

### **4. Measuring time use and valuing unpaid work**

This session will focus on two interlinked themes: the potential of time-use surveys to measure contributions to the economy through a gender lens, and the measurement and valuation of unpaid work. Time-use statistics and especially analysis of time spent by women on unpaid work can shed light on the evolution of gender roles within couples. This evolution differs among countries, mediated by political and economic influences and by policies. In order to provide an evidence base for policymaking, time-use statistics must evolve to meet the demands of today's data users and the realities of modern statistical production. The inclusion of time spent on unpaid care and domestic work among the indicators for measuring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals gives added impetus to this increasing demand. This session will examine approaches to tackling the trade-offs in producing time-use statistics and in meeting the demands of users. It will ask

how time-use data are contributing to new insights about the gender dimensions of unpaid work, how remaining gaps could be filled, and how findings from both time-use surveys and the measurement and valuation of unpaid work are being put to use by policymakers.

## **5. Economic empowerment and intra-household power**

This session will consider two closely inter-related aspects of empowerment: economic empowerment arising from asset ownership, and power and decision-making within households. Recent efforts to improve individual-level data collection on ownership and control of assets hold great promise for the production of gender-sensitive indicators free from assumptions of joint ownership. Closely linked to the ownership of and right to dispose of resources, the ability to participate in decision-making is an indication of women's relative power within households. The session will include an update on the ongoing work of the UNECE task force on this topic. It will also consider how initiatives to produce gender-sensitive indicators of asset ownership are contributing to the understanding of women's economic empowerment; the data needs for measuring intra-household decision-making and resource allocation; and current experience, challenges and findings on these topics.

## **6. Gender issues in vulnerable population groups**

When considering gender issues for the whole population, it is easy to overlook issues specific to particular groups. Vulnerability can be described as occurring when adverse conditions affect people who are already exposed to instability and weak integration into society. People at risk include, for example, temporary workers, people whose income is fluctuating just above and below the poverty line, women with small children challenged to reconcile their work and family life. The difficulty for such individuals in coping with adversity increases the probability of disaffiliation or social exclusion when negative events occur. Providing data to develop, inform or monitor policies for such groups is essential, but, in many cases, such data can be particularly difficult to collect. This can be due to people being difficult to reach, such as the homeless; being afraid to identify themselves, such as migrants or LGBT people; or not being able to respond to surveys, due perhaps to disability or to poor education. This session will focus on work to develop and provide information on gender issues affecting vulnerable groups, looking in particular at how the experiences of such work can be shared among countries, and how results have been communicated and used.

## **7. Use of gender statistics in policymaking and policy monitoring**

The importance of gender statistics in policymaking and in policy monitoring is well recognized at the international level. Gender statistics have a clear role in developing and monitoring policies for the reduction of gender gaps, as well as in ensuring that a gender perspective is integrated in all policy domains. National statistical offices strive to ensure that their gender statistics respond to the needs of policymakers and can contribute to the formulation of appropriate policies for achieving gender equality. This endeavour can entail close interactions between data producers and policymakers at various points in the statistical production process. The nature of such interactions varies widely and can range from formalized collaboration to ad hoc exchanges. The aims of the session are to discuss and share examples of such collaboration, and to identify areas where the contribution of official gender statistics to policymaking could be enhanced. The session will examine how statistical offices can and should respond to the gender statistics needs of policymakers, aiming to identify best practices.

## **8. Building partnerships for better gender statistics**

Despite growing recognition of the importance of the gender dimension in statistics, there are still many factors impeding the inclusion of a gender perspective throughout statistical collection, production and communication. Overcoming these impediments often necessitates joint work: be it across departments of a statistical office; among different agencies and sectors of society; or across countries. This session will consider examples of such collaborative approaches, aiming to identify the key features necessary for success by looking at examples of partnership work for improving or promoting gender statistics and trying to identify lessons learned. It will look at good practices of joint working and ways of their application in other countries.

## **9. Emerging issues and international initiatives in gender statistics**

This session will provide an opportunity for presentation and discussion of other topics not covered by sessions 2-8, including new and emerging issues, and updates on initiatives by international organizations.

## **10. Gender statistics priorities for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region**

This session will use as its point of departure an in-depth review on gender statistics conducted in 2017 by Mexico for the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians. Participants will have the opportunity to comment on the recommendations contained in the review and to contribute their own ideas, drawing on the conclusions of all the preceding sessions of the meeting, for priorities and directions for UNECE work in gender statistics.

## **11. Future work**

Drawing on the conclusions of item 10, the meeting will be invited to discuss proposals for future international work in gender statistics and topics for the 2019 Work Session.

## **12. Adoption of the report**

A short report outlining the conclusions and decisions taken at the meeting will be presented for adoption before the meeting adjourns.

## **13. Closing of the meeting**

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