

**Group of Experts on Gender Statistics**

Online meeting

28 September 2021, 10:00-13:00 CEST

29 September 2021, 15:00-18:00 CEST

## **INVITATION TO REGISTER AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

[Submit abstract](#) by Friday 3 September

[Register](#) by Friday 10 September

### **I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Group of Experts on Gender Statistics exchanges experience and advances methodological work in gender statistics among countries participating in the Conference of European Statisticians and international organizations active in gender statistics. Meetings of the Group of Experts have been reviewing ways of measuring progress towards gender equality and emerging issues in gender statistics since 1985. They discuss, propose and review specific projects in gender statistics to be carried out by expert task forces, and review the results of their work. The meetings provide a forum for countries to share experiences and methodological developments in the production of gender statistics.

The online meeting of the Group of Experts will take place across two days:

Tuesday 28 September, 10:00-13:00 CEST (Geneva time)

Wednesday 29 September, 15:00-18:00 CEST (Geneva time)

The meeting marks the Gender Statistics Week together with the Global Forum on Gender Statistics (30 September – 1 October). These “Road to Bern” events are all leading up to the 3rd United Nations World Data Forum (Bern, 3-6 October).

### **II. PARTICIPATION**

The target audience is statisticians in national statistical offices and international organizations responsible for gender statistics. Representatives of academia, civil society and other individuals may also register and will be able to participate subject to available capacity.

Only registered participants will be able to connect to the meetings. **To register, please complete [the online registration form here](#) by Friday 10 September 2021.** Connection links and instructions for joining the events will be sent out by email approximately one week before the meetings.

The working languages of the meeting are English and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation is provided in these languages. Abstracts should be submitted and presentations delivered in English or Russian.

### **III. CONTRIBUTIONS**

The meeting will consist of short presentations followed by facilitated discussions. You are invited to submit an abstract of approximately 300 words outlining your proposed contribution. **Abstracts should be submitted in English or Russian [via the online form here](#) by Friday 3 September 2021.** No written papers are requested.

Abstracts should aim to be forward-looking with the goal of providing information that is useful for others: e.g. highlighting findings or experiences that could offer valuable lessons learned; and/or showing how these experiences will inform future approaches.

If more abstracts are received than can be accommodated in the meeting, the CES Steering Group on Gender Statistics will select the abstracts to be presented. Selected presenters will be given full instructions and deadlines for preparing their presentations and for the conduct of the online event. All abstracts received will be made available on the meeting website and may be used to inform future discussions.

### **IV. SESSION THEMES**

#### [Covid-19 and gender statistics: guidance for the measurement of the impact of the pandemic on women and men](#)

Questions surrounding the economic impact on women and men, the burden of childcare and domestic tasks amidst school closures, and the link between social isolation measures and gender-based violence have placed gender statistics at the forefront of national statistical offices' responses to the crisis. These social and economic impacts of Covid-19 will last far longer than the pandemic itself and the renewed demand for gender statistics will persist after the immediate monitoring needs of the pandemic are met. To provide practical guidance to countries and support the collection of internationally comparable data, the CES Steering Group on Gender Statistics has developed guidance for data producers on a minimum set of survey questions and indicators to measure the differentiated impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women and men. The guidance covers work (paid and unpaid), health, violence against women, and the gender digital divide. The Steering Group will present the guidance and invites contributions that present country approaches to measuring the impacts of Covid-19 on women and men.

#### [Measuring violence against women in times of crisis](#)

Available data show that violence against women and girls has increased during the Covid-19 pandemic in many countries. Periods of lockdown to contain the Covid-19 virus simultaneously increased the risk of violence for women and restricted access to services for women experiencing violence. The pandemic conditions also presented challenges for the measurement of violence

against women, both from an operational point of view and due to concerns for women's safety. Despite these challenges, many countries in the region have made innovative use of service-based and other administrative data to assess gender-based violence during the pandemic. Contributions are invited that share country experiences in the measurement of violence against women during the pandemic period and reflect on lessons learned for future crises.

### Use of gender statistics in policymaking and policy monitoring in times of crisis

The Covid-19 pandemic has generated unprecedented demand among policymakers for timely and reliable data and statistics. Policy responses to the virus and its economic and social impacts have relied on real-time data from traditional and new sources across NSO domains. With gender equality issues attracting attention from the outset of the pandemic, NSOs have endeavoured to meet policymaker demands for sex disaggregated and gender-relevant statistics. During a time of crisis, NSOs must maintain close dialogue with policymakers to stay aware of rapidly evolving statistical demands. This session invites contributions that present actions taken by NSOs to ensure effective and timely responses to policymakers' needs for gender statistics, evidence of the use and impact of gender statistics in Covid-19 policymaking and policy monitoring, good practices in navigating the relationship between gender statistics producers and policymakers, and lessons learned that can be applied to other crisis contexts.

### Gender and trade

Trade and gender equality are linked in many ways, yet most trade and economic statistics are not collected with a gender perspective in mind, and therefore preclude the possibility of even simple sex-disaggregation. To develop a coherent approach to measuring the impact of trade on gender equality using official statistics, and building on the existing statistical data and capacity of countries, UNCTAD, UNECE and UNECA launched the project "Data and statistics for more gender-responsive trade policies in Africa, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia" (2020-2023). During this session, UNCTAD and UNECE will present progress on methodological work in the area and the results of a case study in Georgia exploring the production of gender-in-trade statistics and responses to data gaps and measurement challenges in the country. Other contributions are invited that share approaches to addressing the gender and trade data gap and experiences in the measurement of aspects of gender and trade.

### Regional networking platform

The 2019 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) endorsed the outcome of the in-depth review on the measurement of gender identity ([ECE/CES/2019/19](#)), which recommended to develop and maintain a repository of documentation and research that may be consulted by those countries that are interested in the topic and wish to begin work in this area. The CES Bureau established a task team to develop a regional networking platform. The task team will present the progress of its work.

## Emerging topics and gender data gaps

Despite growing recognition of the importance of the gender dimension in statistical collection, production and communication, there are domains of official statistics that have yet to incorporate a gender perspective. These include newly-observed phenomena that lack established methodologies and the measurement of longer-standing topics that still overlook gender issues. This session invites contributions that share approaches to data gaps and/or the measurement of emerging topics in gender statistics, including but not limited to:

- *The gender digital divide.* The increase in Internet use and expansion of access to information and communications technologies (ICT) have not been universal. Women and girls are found less likely to use digital tools because of barriers to access, limited skills and technological literacy, and gender biases and socio-cultural norms<sup>1</sup>. The Covid-19 pandemic has revealed existing gender inequalities in this area and cemented the importance of access to ICT resources for equal participation in many aspects of economic and social life.
- *Cultural participation.* In many countries participation in arts and culture and employment in this sector are higher among women<sup>2</sup>. Closures, restrictions, and job loss due to the Covid-19 pandemic in this area have therefore had a larger impact on women than men. Limited access to ICT for some women has made it more difficult for women than men to participate in arts and cultural activities that shifted online during the pandemic period. More statistical data are required to understand the role of art and culture in the lives of women and men.
- *Gender, climate, and the environment.* Women and men relate to the environment differently. Patterns of production and consumption that impact the environment as well as the effects of climate change on population health have recognized gender dimensions. Likewise, in many countries women are less represented than men in decision-making and leadership roles related to the environment and natural resource management<sup>3</sup>. A lack of sex disaggregated data in various fields (e.g. disaster preparedness, protection of environment, environmental decision-making health and well-being) often leads to an underestimation of women's contributions and impacts on women.

## V. CONTACT INFORMATION

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<sup>1</sup> [Bridging the Digital Gender Divide: Include, Upskill, Innovate, OECD, 2018](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Eurostat Culture Statistics, 2016; Precarious situation for women working in culture, UIS, 2017](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Gender and environment statistics: unlocking information for action and measuring the SDGs, UNEP, 2019](#)