

**Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)**  
**Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards teleconference discussion notes and actions**  
**18 April 2023, 12:00 CET**

Item	Subject	Discussion / Action
1a	Roll call	Michelle Parkouda (Chair, Manager SCC), Lucy He (Vice-Chair), Stephanie Eynon (Vice-Chair), Sari Winasis Basuki (DIN Germany), Gisele Beleck (ANOR), Fernanda de Castro Boria (SCC), Vladimir Chernyak (EASC), Monideep Dey (consultant in US), Sandra Feliciano (Convivado), Joanna Gajdek (ASI), Carla Gordón (INEN), Lorraine Gruber (AFNOR) – replaces Pascale Mienville, Christina Kim (McKinsey & Co consultant), Daria Michurina (EEC), Peter Morfee (WorkSafe NZ), Hugh Pratt (CPLSO), Sarid Sriduandao (TISI), Silvina Suzuki (IRAM), Deborah Wautier (CEN/CENELEC), Pan Wei (ISO), Ihsan Övüt (SMIIC), Sevde Özbey (SMIIC) Secretariat: Lance Thompson, Tauno Kangur
1b	Approval of the Agenda	Agenda agreed with no modifications
2	Approval of 08/02/2023 minutes	Minutes of the 8 February 2023 call agreed with no modifications.
3a	Update from Secretariat	The secretariat reminded that at the last meeting experts were invited to double check the new website pages to ensure that no content was lost from the older links. (see: <a href="https://unece.org/trade/wp6/gender-responsive-standards">https://unece.org/trade/wp6/gender-responsive-standards</a> ). These pages were updated in order to harmonize the look and feel of all pages within WP.6 and its subgroups.
3b	Update on signatories to the Declaration	The secretariat announced that Standards Australia has signed the <i>Declaration on Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development</i> , becoming the 81 <sup>st</sup> signatory. The secretariat explained that it is actively trying to reach out to national standards organizations to request that they consider signing, first concentrating on those who expressed an interest in the past. Experts are encouraged to suggest to other standards bodies to consider becoming signatories.
4a	Preparations for Annual Meeting 24 May 2023	The first annual meeting of the GRS is planned for 24 May 2023. During this meeting, the Team of Specialists will need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the planned activities of 2023 (from the 2023 Programme of Work [PoW]) and check what has been achieved</li> <li>• Discuss and suggest what will be the planned activities of 2024 (to suggest for the 2024 PoW)</li> <li>• Present progress of on-going projects with the GRS (GRS Code List project, the “GRS are better” publication)</li> <li>• Discuss any new project proposals</li> </ul> These activities would be planned in the morning session of the GRS agenda from 11:00-12:30.
4b	Preparations for Annual Meeting 24 May 2023	In the second half of the annual meeting, the GRS should organize a panel discussion or webinar. The group discussed potential topics for this section of their agenda. Two main ideas were presented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing of experiences and updates from members on gender action plans in standards development, underlining the challenges, how organizations have implemented and identifying any capacity needs.</li> <li>• Linking gender-responsive standards with wider sustainability topics in order to ensure that developments for a better future also ensure an inclusive approach. This could be organized around a keynote speaker and GRS experts preparing</li> </ul>

		<p>information which they could discuss during the meeting as a type of guided workshop.</p> <p>It was underlined that no matter which topic is chosen, the meeting should be output-oriented and explore what the GRS could develop to assist in a way forward.</p> <p>Given that the meeting is one month away, it was suggested that the May meeting concentrate on a sharing of experiences (with examples perhaps from Rwanda, CEN/CENELEC, Mexico, BSI), eventually in three parts: 1. Sharing of experiences, 2. Challenges (with legacy ways of working, with social/cultural concepts, with gendered-standards) and 3. A toolkit of guidance that WP.6 can propose to assist. (the second part could be a round table discussion). The first and second parts could be about one hour each with a maximum of five speakers plus a moderator; the third part could be about a half-hour.</p> <p>On challenges, it was noted that we are encountering a bit more push back on this topic recently. We should try to work on responses to such push back. It was also underlined that countries may have very different experiences (especially very different challenges) depending on the state of development. It would be positive to ensure a balanced representation of types of economies.</p> <p>It was further suggested that the second proposal on gender and sustainable development could be an excellent topic for a webinar in September / October, which would give a little more time to organize good quality speakers and further marketing.</p> <p>The May webinar on exchange of experience would be planned from 13:00-16:00.</p>
5	Gender Action Plan Repository	<p>At the last call, the Chair requested experts to go through the questionnaire to confirm if it is doable – no confirmations were received. Chair also requested experts to submit by mid-April a use case.</p> <p>There is appetite to do this work. Perhaps the May session could help build momentum</p> <p>The principle of the Repository is to help organizations to see what has worked elsewhere and identify new ways that could help.</p> <p>Perhaps we should also ask speakers to the May event to also fill out the repository.</p>
6	Gender Code List project	<p>The project leader, Fernanda de Castro Boria provided a brief presentation of the Gender and Salutation Code List project. The objective of the project is to create code lists that could be used in electronic communications in order ensure that the response is standardized. Ensuring that the content is inclusive and respectful. There have been three official meetings of the working group and a number of exchanges in between calls. A good deal of experts were contacted to contribute to this work, including Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Global Action for Trans Equality (GATE), the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA)-Europe, the European umbrella organization of human rights-based intersex organizations (OII), the queer and feminist creators organization BOWIE, the association for greater equality in the media (Décadrée), AIDS Suisse contre le SIDA...</p> <p>The project team has developed a first draft which it has completed to go for a public review. This includes annexes with the proposed code lists accompanied with suggested coding as well as an explanatory guidelines. The draft is currently in public review until 19 May and all experts are invited to consult and comment on this draft so that it can be finalized for the WP.6 Annual Session. <a href="#">Draft for public review available here</a> (under the “Public Review” tab).</p> <p>The project team plans to work on the translation of this document into French, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese. Any experts who would like to participate are welcome to join by contacting the secretariat.</p> <p>⇒ Experts are invited to comment on the public review draft until 19 May 2023.</p>

		<p>⇒ Experts who would like to help with the translation of this document are welcome to join by contacting the secretariat.</p> <p>There was a suggestion to survey experts in GRS on their native-language capabilities in order to help with translations towards other languages. The SMIC said they might be able to help with Arabic. And the expert from Portugal with Portuguese.</p>
7	Proposed publication	<p>The Secretary, Lance Thompson, has prepared a publication entitled “Why gender-responsive standards are better for everyone”. The draft of this publication was linked on the web page for today’s meeting. Note that this document is not for wide distribution yet. Anyone who would like to provide comments is welcome to send these to the secretariat before the end of the week.</p> <p>The objective of this publication is to provide an entry-level view of gender-responsive standards to help experts understand why these are important – and also to help experts to explain this rationale to others.</p> <p>There was question raised that we might consider another approach on types of standards such as management standards or service standards because people may only think of standards for physical goods. The secretariat raised a question concerning the scope of the GRS, WP.6 and the UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division and whether these types of standards are included. As the publication is put together as a deliverable of the secretariat (with the support of the GRS and its experts), it may be awkward to include these other types of standards. It was suggested that the group may consider developing guidance on this topic with such an angle in the future.</p>
9	Training / other materials	<p>The secretariat briefly outlined the work which has been done on training material and e-learning modules. It was suggested to further develop this work during the summer months. Anyone who is interested to participate should contact the secretariat.</p>
10	AOB	<p>A point was raised on encouraging a gender-responsive standards approach to standards developed elsewhere in the UNECE. The Chair pointed out that she will be meeting with the chair of UNECE WP.29 to discuss crash test dummies on the sidelines of a meeting next week.</p> <p>The Chair will make presentations at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISO/IEC JSAG meeting in Stockholm next week</li> <li>• ITU WSIS meeting early May (virtual)</li> <li>• Training with ISO in Central Asia in June</li> </ul> <p>The Secretary also outlined some of the liaison activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He will present at the ITU WSIS meeting early May and is in discussion with the ITU Gender Focal Point; he has proposed that the “GRS are better for everyone” publication become a joint publication with ITU and eventually with UN-Women.</li> <li>• The WTO Informal Working Group on Gender later this week and plans to make a presentation to this group at one of its upcoming meetings. He is also discussing with them potential areas for collaboration in the future.</li> </ul>
		<p>Next GRS call: Annual meeting on 24 May from 11:00 CET (Geneva-time) and webinar on “Achievements and challenges in implementing gender action plans” will start from 13:00 CET (Geneva-time).</p>