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Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Group of Experts on Gender Statistics

Work Session on Gender Statistics

Geneva, 10–12 May 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

Annotated provisional agenda*

The meeting of the Group of Experts on Gender Statistics will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, starting at 9.30 am on Wednesday, 10 May 2023.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers.
2. Gender pay gap and income inequality.
3. Gender digital divide.
4. Gender, climate and the environment.
5. Measuring sex and gender.
6. Measuring violence against women.
7. New data sources for gender statistics.
8. New approaches to measuring unpaid work and work-life balance.
9. Gender and trade
10. Current and future work on gender statistics under the Conference of European Statisticians.
11. Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations

The meeting is organized following the provisions of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Statistical Programme for 2023 ([ECE/CES/2022/16](#) and

* The document was submitted late because of the need to consult with member States.



[ECE/CES/2022/16/Add.1](#)), adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and approved by the UNECE Executive Committee.

UNECE, in cooperation with partners, regularly organizes meetings of the Group of Experts on Gender Statistics. The aims of these meetings are: to facilitate exchange of experience among countries; to increase knowledge of gender issues to take forward methodological work and strengthen multilateral cooperation on gender statistics among countries participating in the Conference of European Statisticians.

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

The meeting will adopt its agenda and elect the chairperson.

2. Gender pay gap and income inequality

Gaps in earnings between women and men persist. In some countries, the work-related impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic have made disparities even worse. The measurement of pay gaps is methodologically complex, and certain challenges are more pronounced during times of labour market volatility like that seen during the pandemic period. During this session, Eurostat will present recent work on measuring the gender pay gap in the European Union. Contributions are invited that share recent developments in the calculation and/or dissemination of gender pay gap statistics or other statistics related to gender income inequality.

3. 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. 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. Contributions are invited that share experiences of countries that have measured the gender dimension to access to and use of ICT.

4. 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. 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. Despite growing recognition of the importance of the gender dimension in addressing the climate crisis, there are few concrete examples of its measurement. This session invites contributions that share approaches to measuring gender aspects of climate and the environment.

5. Measuring sex and gender

In recent years, some countries in the region have introduced to official data collection measures of gender and response options and/or classifications for sex, gender or both that include more than two categories. A CES Task Force is currently working to review and

update the CES Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses for the 2030 round with regards to sex and gender. During the session, the Task Force will provide an update on its work. Contributions are invited that share experiences of countries that have introduced measures of gender identity or have conducted related research. Submission could relate to terminology, legal considerations and public opinion, the development and testing of questions, statistical standards, data dissemination and disclosure control, among other topics.

6. Measuring violence against women

Violence against women and girls 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 recently fielded surveys on gender-based violence and/or made use of administrative data to assess gender-based violence during the pandemic. Contributions are invited that share recent experiences on the measurement of violence against women, which report early results from surveys, and that reflect on lessons learned for future crises.

7. New data sources for gender statistics

Data collected and disseminated by national statistical offices (NSOs) must reflect the broad diversity of topics and issues related to gender equality and the realities of the lives of women and men. For many gender issues, household surveys have been the primary source of accurate data. Compared to other data sources, survey questionnaires can more easily incorporate a gender perspective and cover gender-relevant topics in more detail. As NSOs face resource constraints, pandemic-related operational challenges, and increasing demand for timely data, many countries are relying more frequently on data from administrative data for statistical purposes. This session invites contributions that share country experiences in using administrative and/or non-traditional data source for gender statistics. Submissions might address the main barriers to use of administrative data for gender statistics, changes required to administrative data systems to improve their use for gender statistics, examples of the use of non-traditional data sources for gender statistics, how to incorporate the intersectional perspective with non-traditional data sources, principles for use of non-traditional data sources for gender statistics in the areas of ethics, quality standards and bias, and cooperation with non-governmental entities.

8. New approaches to measuring unpaid work and work-life balance

Pandemic-related interruptions in child-care, schooling, and work have impacted both the magnitude and distribution of unpaid work and parenting responsibilities within households. Hybrid work arrangements are here to stay, bringing both opportunities and challenges for balancing work and family life. With the potential to impact female labour force participation and gender equality in the household in the long-term, data and statistics are required that accurately reflect gender differences in unpaid work and time-use in this new context. To meet this increased demand, many countries have introduced new instruments or methods that are more flexible and timelier than traditional time-diary approaches. Contributions are invited that share recent experiences on measuring unpaid work and/or work-life balance.

9. 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 countries' statistical capacity in this area, UNCTAD, UNECE and UNECA are carrying out the project "Data and statistics for more gender-responsive trade policies in Africa, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia" (2020–2023). This session will include presentations on methodological work in this area and on the results of case studies in Georgia and Kazakhstan.

10. Current and future work on gender statistics under the Conference of European Statisticians

In 2022, a global review of national gender statistics programmes was conducted by the United National Statistics Division and the United Nations regional commissions. The Secretariat will present the review's key findings that pertain to countries in the UNECE region. Proposals on future collaborative work under the Conference of European Statisticians will be presented and discussed.

11. Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting

The meeting will adopt its report and adjourn.
