

**Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)**  
**Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards teleconference discussion notes and actions**  
**5 June 2024, 12:00 CET**

Item	Subject	Discussion / Action
1a	Approval of the agenda	Agenda agreed with no modifications
1b	Roll call	<p><b>Leadership:</b> <u>Michelle Parkouda</u> (Chair, SCC Canada), <u>Stephanie Eynon</u> (Vice-Chair, BSI UK)</p> <p><b>Secretariat:</b> Lance Thompson (UNECE)</p> <p><b>Members:</b> <u>Andia Persad-Maharaj</u> (TTBS, Trinidad &amp; Tobago), <u>Biljana Baljaj</u> (ISBIH, Bosnia-Herzegovina), <u>Dineo Hexana</u> (SABS, South Africa), <u>Dorte Kulle</u> (DS, Denmark), <u>Emmanuel Gatera</u> (RSB, Rwanda), <u>Fiona O'Donovan</u> (NSAI, Ireland), <u>Florence Umwatwembi</u> (RSB, Rwanda), <u>Franziska Wende</u> (PTB, Germany), <u>Gisèle Beleck</u> (ANOR, Cameroun), <u>Grace Bolan</u> (ASME, USA), Ian Gardner (IEC), Ihsan Övüt (SMIIC), <u>Ingvild Naess Stub</u> (SN, Norway), <u>Jovana Koricana</u> (RSS, Serbia), <u>Katie Kermaani</u> (ASME, USA), <u>Kostanca Dedja</u> (DPS, Albania), Leon Lee Dossou (ANM, Benin), <u>Ljubica Petrovic</u> (ISS, Serbia), <u>Mansha Marwah</u> (Germany), <u>Nazia Habib</u> (UK), <u>Paola Travaini</u> (UNI Italy), Paul Passerat (AFNOR, France), Peter Morfee (WorkSafe New Zealand), Sarid Sriduandao (TISI, Thailand), <u>Silvia Vaccaro</u> (DR GROW, EU), Tobias Diergardt (PTB, Germany)</p> <p><b>Observers:</b> Antonia Maria Mann, Anuschka Wojciechowski, Daljit Supria (OPSS, UK), Doriane Nashimwe, Kreeti Das, <u>Meredith Shaddix</u> (ANSI, US), Nisha Bura, (BIS, IN), Oisin Curtis, Preeti Prabha, <u>Sara Gobbi</u> (ASTM), Sazi Zangqa, Suuneti Toji, Tushit Kamal (IN)</p> <p>42 participants (23 were women)</p>
2	Invited Speaker	<p><u>Ms. Franziska Wende</u> of the German metrology agency PTB (Gender Focal Point) joined the meeting to present the PTB work on <i>Implementation of the Feminist Development Policy: Mainstreaming Gender Throughout the Quality Infrastructure</i>.</p> <p>Ms. Wende provided a brief introduction to the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB, the national metrology institute of Germany). PTB has nearly 50 projects in more than 80 countries around the world, representing a financial volume of 18-28 million euros annually. PTB often partners with GIZ and the German development bank for these.</p> <p>PTB is under the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). BMZ together with the Foreign Affairs office initiated the process of developing the policy guideline on gender equality in their ministries. The German government is a strong advocate for equal participation by all people in social, political and economic life, irrespective of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, skin colour, disability or other characteristics. This resulted in the BMZ Strategy for Feminist Development Policy (March 2023), the development of which included contributions from PTB, civil society and partner countries.</p> <p>PTB integrated the core principles and approach of this Policy, which include: human rights based approach, intersectional approach, multilateral, cooperation with civil society, inclusive and non-binary approach, gender-transformative approaches, post-colonial and anti-racist approach.</p> <p>The policy also contains four action areas: (1) rights, resources and representation, (2) anchoring a feminist approach across the BMZ portfolio, targeted promotion of gender</p>

		<p>equality, (3) building international alliances, (4) leading by example, an institution fit to deliver.</p> <p>There are common markers defined under the OECD which define the objectives of a project. Concerning gender equality, BMZ is using this as an indicator to follow projects. 93% of all projects must be at least a “GE1” marker (gender is an important secondary objective, but not decisive; but significant contributions can be expected) or a “GE2” marker (gender equality is the principal objective of the project)</p> <p>The projects of PTB are technical by nature, and integrating this approach is a new area. Here are some examples of the types of projects and possible measures currently being rolled out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standardization: (1) provide advisory services to standardization organizations concerning the involvement of relevant stakeholders; (2) raise awareness; (3) provide financial support for participation of marginalized groups and/or feminist actors; (4) break down further barriers to the development of gender-responsive standards.</li> <li>• Value chain: (1) both of these criteria are met: (quality infrastructure can contribute to economic development thanks to the sector and/or value chain ; the sector and/or value chain are where women and marginalized groups work); (2) if these criteria are not met, to investigate whether it is possible to contribute to making the sector/value chain more accessible for women and marginalized groups.</li> <li>• SME sector: (1) track and compensate for non-intended effects on the informal sector; (2) involve women-led enterprises and business associations in the demand analysis; (3) prioritize women-led/women-owned SMEs.</li> <li>• Exchange formats (for women) in the quality infrastructure sector: (1) identify and support existing networks/platforms; (2) support establishment of networks and platforms</li> </ul> <p>The presentation was followed by some questions/comments.</p> <p>One comment stressed the importance of addressing resilience and the target audience. Another comment underlined the difficulty to have impactful policies, especially to get fair and inclusive representation. Another comment noted that the identification of gender equality impacts may be difficult to do without creating an additional programme of work to assess those impacts (and the related financial implication). Another comment stressed the difficulty to identify and involve women in the engineering sectors.</p> <p>It was noted that there may be underlying reasons that women are not in the engineering sectors such as the education system or the lack of support from business owners to delegate women to standardization. The gender transformative approach is to try to address these underlying reasons. The network of women experts is creating spaces where women can express themselves, which is a first step.</p> <p>The Chair and experts expressed their gratitude for the presentation and look forward to hearing about the progress of the implementation of the Feminist Development Policy in a few years from now.</p>
3	Gender Action Plans and Declarations	<p>There have been no new signatories to the Declaration since the last meeting. We are still at 86 signatories.</p> <p>The secretariat underlined that the website for the Declaration had been updated to simplify how this is presented and to include the name of the gender focal points. See: <a href="https://unece.org/trade/wp6/Gender-Resp-Stdards-declaration#accordion">https://unece.org/trade/wp6/Gender-Resp-Stdards-declaration#accordion</a></p> <p>There have been no new submissions to the survey on gender action plan repository. Current submissions are available on the website at: <a href="https://unece.org/trade/wp6/GAP-repository">https://unece.org/trade/wp6/GAP-repository</a></p> <p>The Chair encouraged members to submit responses for the GAP and asked what could be done to encourage further responses. One suggestion was to allow people to submit what they have in whatever format they have (this could be interesting for gathering the</p>

		information but will make its analysis a bit more difficult). Another suggestion was to use an AI tool to automatically identify objectives and actions. It was also suggested to dedicate one of the working meetings to this topic and moderate input from all participants which could indirectly help to fill out the questionnaire for each member while at the same time provide ideas and useful discussion for further internal development. The discussion was continued under point 5 below.
4	Prep for WP6 34 <sup>th</sup> Session	The secretariat shared information on the <a href="#">34<sup>th</sup> annual session of WP.6</a> . This meeting will take place from Monday 26(pm) August to Wednesday 28 August. The reporting of the subgroups will take place on the Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> . Each subgroup will have one hour to present their work over the last period, to seek the approval of its report and any deliverables and to showcase any elements of its work that it wishes to highlight. It was reminded that all speakers will need to be physically present. The secretariat will draft propositions and exchange with the GRS leadership to finalize the plans.
5	Guide on GRS-related gender action plans	<p>The secretariat reminded that one of the key work items in the Programme of Work is the development of a guide on gender action plans (GAP). An official document for the annual session had been blocked for this but no content is ready for presentation. The secretariat therefore proposes to prepare an initial draft GAP guide which will group together the objectives and key activities of the responses already received through the GAP repository, to compare this with the activities listed in the annex of <i>Recommendation U</i> and to outline some base principles. The document would be considered a starting point for a future, more complete guide on GAP.</p> <p>Drafting will need to be completed before end of July.</p> <p>The Chair suggested that we do a final push during the next two weeks to get responses so that they can be included in the guide.</p> <p>One of the members underlined the need for such a guide. When she became responsible for the GAP of her organization, she did not have any documentation of what had been done in previous years. She could not respond to the GRS GAP questionnaire. It would be good if there were stages (what could be done the first year, what could be done the next year and subsequent years...). Timeline can be overwhelming.</p> <p>Action → The Chair requested that the secretariat send an email to all members to request that they provide information on the objectives and actions of their GAP in order to inform the guide in point 5 below.</p>
6	Gender and trade vocab. publication	<p>The secretariat provided an update on the publication on gender and trade vocabulary. The list of terms has been finalized (in English). Many of the terms already had official translations; those that did not have been translated and are identified in a different colour in order to be verified. The introductory text has been finalized (in English) and translations are necessary in Russian, French and Spanish. Volunteers are sought to provide assistance. (Paul Passerat of AFNOR volunteered to take a look at the French version).</p> <p>It was reminded that we need to be careful with our informal translations that we are capturing the precise meaning of what is intended within the GRS. For example, the terms “sensitive” and “responsive” can be translated in many languages as the equivalent to “sensitive” (some languages don’t make a distinction). However, the GRS certainly does make a distinction between the two terms so they cannot be translated with the same term...</p> <p>Some additional resources for such vocabulary was briefly discussed.</p>
7	Update from secretariat	<p>The secretariat informed of the meeting of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS, the parent body of WP.6) on 26(pm)-28 June 2024.</p> <p>A request was received to enquire with the ISO/IEC JTC1/SC42 leadership as well as with CEN/CENELC JTC21 on their work on artificial intelligence and to know if and how gender (and bias in general) are being addressed in their respective AI suite of standards. ISO/IEC JTC1/SC42 is working on trustworthiness as well as ground-up integration of ethics across their programme of work. The heads of delegation to this work are around 50% women (out of 60+ member bodies participating). 33% of these national bodies are</p>

		<p>from developing countries. They are able to offer significant diversity in backgrounds (regulatory, academic, technical, legal, etc.).</p> <p>There are a number of standards that address these issues directly; for instance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISO/IEC TR 24368:2022 Information technology — Artificial intelligence — Overview of ethical and societal concerns</li> <li>• ISO/IEC TR 24027:2021 Information technology — Artificial Intelligence — Bias in AI systems and AI aided decision making</li> <li>• ISO/IEC TR 24028:2020 Information technology — Artificial Intelligence — Overview of trustworthiness in artificial intelligence</li> </ul> <p>And in development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISO/IEC TS 12791: Information technology — Artificial Intelligence (AI) — Treatment of unwanted bias in classification and regression machine learning tasks</li> <li>• ISO/IEC TS 12792: Information technology — Artificial Intelligence (AI) — Transparency taxonomy of AI systems</li> <li>• ISO/IEC 22443: Information technology — Artificial Intelligence (AI) — Guidance on addressing societal concerns and ethical considerations</li> </ul>
		<p><u>WP.6 34<sup>th</sup> annual session: <b>26(pm)-28 August:</b> <a href="https://unece.org/trade/wp6/wp6-34th-2024">https://unece.org/trade/wp6/wp6-34th-2024</a></u>  <u>Next ToS-GRS meetings: <b>11 Sept., and 6 Nov. 2024</b> (all 12:00-14:00 Geneva-time)</u></p>