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Forty-sixth plenary session
(Paris, 18-20 May 1998)

Report of the April 1998 Joint ECE/INSTRAW Work Session
on Gender Statistics

Prepared by the secretariat

1. The work session on Gender Statistics was held in Geneva from 20-22 April 1998. It was attended by Austria, Belarus, Canada, Finland, France, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. The International Labour Office (ILO), United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), were also represented. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) also attended.
2. The provisional agenda (Working Paper No. 1) was adopted.
3. Ms. Victoria Velkoff (U.S.A.) was elected to chair the meeting.
4. The main purpose of the meeting was to allow participants to discuss developments in gender statistics at the national and the international levels. The meeting was also an opportunity for countries to gauge progress made by governments and national statistical offices in implementing recommendations 206 and 207 of the Beijing World Conference on Women.
5. The following substantive topics were discussed at the meeting on the basis of 26 submitted papers:

- (i) Economic well-being: earnings, income and career mobility over the course of a lifetime;
- (ii) Progress in the statistical measurement of violence and crime;
- (iii) Progress made by national governments in implementing recommendations 206 and 207 of the Beijing Declaration and platform for Action;
- (iv) Unpaid work (including time-use studies and applications): developments in the measurement of unpaid work and time use;
- (v) Studies on ageing and improved statistics for policy needs;
- (vi) Caring activities: who cares for whom and for what payment?

6. The participants welcomed the supporting role that the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) had played in assisting the ECE and INSTRAW to organize this meeting. In view of its strong programme in Gender Statistics and its active involvement in other UN bodies dealing with Women's Issues, the Work Session recommended that UNSD be appointed the rapporteur for the Conference's project on Gender Statistics in the Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work Programmes.

7. The participants recommended that the Conference convene a further Work Session on Gender Statistics in two to three years time to discuss the following topics:

- (i) identification of national priority gender issues and the statistics needed for the implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes, with special focus on gender sensitive indicators and broader gender equality indices;
- (ii) gender differences in formal and informal education, use and access to new technologies. Consequences for labour market access, career and earnings;
- (iii) gender dimension of ageing populations in terms of differences in health, care needs and responsibilities, economic participation and income;
- (iv) role of women and men in decision-making processes: changes in their participation in political life, business and other influential positions in the public sphere.

8. The meeting also asked the secretariat to look into possibilities for producing an updated version of "Women and Men in Europe and North America 1995", to be ready in the year 2000, and recommended that a small steering group should be formed which would cooperate closely with the secretariat in preparing an outline and time schedule. The following countries volunteered to serve as members of the steering group: Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Sweden and the United States. Since the data collection was done for the first publication in 1994, a lot of new data have become available in countries which need to be made available to international users. Due to the current resource situation in the Statistical Division, the secretariat would not be able to produce the publication without substantive (in-kind) assistance from

countries and/or international organizations. In view of this, the secretariat agreed to investigate all potential avenues for having the publication updated, including obtaining assistance from national and international statistical agencies. The participants agreed, in the first instance, to provide feedback on the suitability and possibility of revision of the indicators used in the 1995 edition of "Women and Men in Europe and North America", and to closely collaborate with the secretariat in the production of the publication if it proves to be possible.

9. The meeting adopted this report at its closing session.

10. A more detailed report of the discussion which took place at the meeting will be prepared by the secretariat and will be forwarded to participants and other interested countries prior to the 1998 plenary session of the Conference.
