
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Committee on Statistics

Seventh session

Bangkok, 26–28 August 2020

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Advancing official statistics for the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development:

**progress made in support of the collective
vision and framework for action by groups
responsible for regional initiatives of the
Committee on Statistics and by the
secretariat**

**Reports of the 4th and 5th meetings of the Network for the
Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific****

Summary

In September 2013, the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics established the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific, with a mandate to act as a facilitator of information-sharing and of coordination among statistical training institutes in the region.

The 4th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific was held in Chiba, Japan, on 12 September 2018. The Network approved the terms of reference of the subgroup on gender statistics, reviewed the possible development of the training needs assessment survey and discussed the modality of accreditation of training on official statistics.

The 5th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific was held in Chiba, Japan, on 10 December 2019. Reports on the activities of the Subgroup on Gender Statistics as well as that of the Subgroup on Economic Statistics were considered by the Network. The Network recommended the creation of a small group to initiate discussion on accreditation and standardization of the training curriculum in the subgroup on Gender Statistics. The Network supported the 2020–2024 Strategic Plan of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

* ESCAP/CST/2020/L.1.

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

I. The 4th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific

1. The 4th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific was held in Chiba, Japan on 12 September 2018, attended by twenty five participants from sixteen countries and United Nations Statistics Division, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific including the Chair of the Network.

A. Decision and recommendations of the meeting

2. The Network approved the establishment of a subgroup on gender statistics and approved its terms of reference. It also recommended that membership of the subgroup would be on a voluntary basis, based on nominations received by interested parties. In the eventual case of receiving too many nominations, selection would be made based on country diversity and skills of applicants. Interested countries were expected to nominate either representatives from national statistical offices, representatives from line ministries, personnel from training institutions, or representatives from civil society organizations with experience in producing or using gender statistics.

3. The Network considered and appreciated the training needs assessment survey conducted by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific for agriculture and rural statistics. The Network recommended that suitable adaptation of methodology used in this survey be made for conduct of similar survey in the area of economic statistics and gender statistics.

4. The Network considered the issue of accreditation of official statistics courses on the recommendation of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. The Network recognized that it was not possible to undertake any accreditation of official statistics courses since the courses developed and delivered by national statistical training institutions though follow international standards, but consider the country practices as well as the nature and level of knowledge of participants in a course. It was, therefore, not yet feasible to recommend uniform course content of various courses to be conducted by national statistical training institutions. This would require further discussion and consideration. However, the Network recommended that the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific should continue to develop its courses and share its contents with national statistical training institutions for their suitable adaptation wherever feasible.

B. Summary of proceedings

1. Session 1: Development of gender statistics

5. UN-Women presented the terms of reference for the subgroup on gender statistics.

6. After some clarifications and amendments, the Network approved the establishment of the subgroup on gender statistics and its terms of reference.

7. The subgroup would comprise of gender data users, producers and statistical training institutions. Among others, these might include representatives from national statistical offices, training institutes, ministries of women and other relevant ministries, academic institutions, civil society organizations and development partners. In addition, other stakeholders involved

in the production and use of gender statistics might be invited to advise the subgroup occasionally and based on the topic of discussion.

8. For the selection of members of the subgroup, the following criteria would be adopted:

- (a) Representation of both gender data users and producers;
- (b) A maximum of 15 members, at least three of which should be data users;
- (c) Representatives from ‘Making Every Women and Girl Count’ pathfinder countries should be granted the possibility of membership when requested;
- (d) All existing specialized gender statistics training centers should be granted the possibility of membership if desired, within and beyond the region;
- (e) Members should represent, ideally, all four Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) subregions;
- (f) Members should have expertise on training curriculum development, training delivery, gender data production or gender data use;
- (g) Preferably, institutional members would be expected to have decision-making power within their own organizations, particularly regarding broader training commitments.

9. Membership of the subgroup would only be considered if members commit to participate actively in the discussions and work of the subgroup.

10. Similar to other subgroups within the Network, each meeting of the subgroup would be chaired by one of its members in attendance. UN-Women’s Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific will act as the subgroup’s secretariat by convening meetings as needed, supporting some of the subgroup’s logistical costs and facilitating information sharing among the members. To achieve its objectives, the subgroup might consider the creation of task teams that would oversee key deliverables. Decisions and actions taken by the subgroup would be reported to the Network at least once a year, during the annual meeting of the Network.

11. The process of establishing the subgroup membership would be started in September 2018, when the draft terms of reference would be shared with potential members, and an expression of interest would be expected to be received before October 31st. Membership would be decided based on country diversity and relevant skills and expertise of applicants. Interested countries would be required to forward their nomination to UN-Women, the secretariat of the subgroup, selected from their national statisticians, representatives from line ministries, personnel from training institutions, or representatives from civil society organization with experience in producing or using gender statistics as member of the subgroup.

12. An organizational meeting would take place approximately on 15 January 2019, where specific assignments for the subgroup and modalities of work would be agreed upon.

13. The second meeting of the subgroup would be held at the end of July 2019 to decide on key set of priority areas for gender statistics training. This consultation would be held with the support of UN-Women and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. During this meeting, the modalities for the development of training curriculum on gender statistics would also be finalized.

2. Session 2: Training needs assessment tool

14. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific presented the results of the training needs assessment survey on agricultural statistics and responded to queries and comments.

15. Suggestions were made to expand the use of similar survey for other targeted subject areas like economic statistics and gender statistics. Based on experience gained in conduct of the survey, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific informed that it would be better to allow a longer duration for the member states to respond to the survey questionnaire in future. It was also suggested that non-response/lack of adequate response could be reduced if the survey was introduced during a meeting with the national statistician or their representatives.

16. The Chair suggested that this training needs assessment survey could be used as a basis and later modified to be used for the subgroups on economic statistics and on gender statistics. In addition, the target agency (data producers) could conduct orientation, preferably through face-to-face workshops rather than doing it through on-line, with other related agencies to obtain more complete responses to the questionnaire.

3. Session 3: Possible modalities for accrediting courses on official statistics in the region

17. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific presented the background and some examples for accreditation presently adopted in the field of official statistics.

18. While explaining the background of how accreditation on official statistics became an issue and acknowledging that this topic still needed much deliberation, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific explained that there were requests for a standard curriculum to be developed (as a guideline) for the training institutes within the region, so that the training courses could be aligned to the international standards and accepted practices. It was explained that while the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific can share its training curriculum that was being used in its training courses, this would not be for the purpose of accreditation of courses.

19. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific brought up the following questions for discussion to seek views of the member states on the topic to be presented to the next session of its Governing Council:

(a) Is accreditation regarding training of official statistics feasible? Is it desired by member states? Is it practical?

(b) What is(are) the benefit(s) of accreditation (if there are any)?

(c) Who will be the accrediting authority? How is this to be different depending on which area of statistics?

(d) What will be the scope of accreditation? The course itself? Trainers? Training Institutes?

20. Some country members shared their accreditation system and their experiences in its conduct.

21. The Philippines and UN-Women representatives agreed that there was possibility for 'regular' training courses to be standardized following the international standards.

22. On the other hand, Bangladesh, India, Iran and Thailand pointed out the difficulties in having common accredited training curriculum stating that their courses take into account various factors such as different background of people working on official statistics, dynamic characteristics of training courses and the fact that training courses were designed depending on what each country required from its officials. These countries also expressed great difficulties in validating information of each training institution which would require an enormous amount of administrative work.

23. The Republic of Korea and Japan felt that accreditation was not feasible for training courses conducted by the country's national statistics offices through their national training institutions since these training courses were designed to address their own needs and preferences.

24. On query regarding the scope of accreditation that whether it would include also accreditation of training institutions and trainers, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific informed that present discussion is to be focused on the accreditation of training courses.

25. The Chair wrapped up the discussion stating that the accreditation was not obligatory and that, currently, accreditation was only being discussed as a possibility and the discussion on that day was to get a feel of what was the opinion of members of the Network on the subject matter. The Network, however, recommended that the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific should continue to develop its courses and share its contents with statistical training institutions for their suitable adaptation by national training institutions, wherever feasible.

4. Session 4: Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training

26. United Nations Statistics Division gave presentation on the establishment of Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training and progress made so far.

27. The Chair informed that the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific was a founding member of Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific explained that Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training would be a network of networks of regional training institutions.

28. United Nations Statistics Division mentioned that there was a need for further discussion for integration of the work between Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training and this Network since their objectives were similar and overlapping. United Nations Statistics Division stated that the Network for Asia and the Pacific has undertaken work in three areas-agriculture and rural statistics, economic statistics and gender statistics in the regional context, while Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training would focus on all areas of official statistics in the global context. United Nations Statistics Division further said that it would use the information already collected by the Network of Asia and the Pacific if required by Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training for its work.

29. United Nations Statistics Division informed that the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training was in the stage of collecting information on availability of training facilities of the national training institutions and would also collect information on the training needs from national statistics offices. Most of the meetings of Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training would be held through Skype. United Nations Statistics Division further said that

there was no clarity regarding funding of activities to be undertaken by Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training since such activities were funded on voluntary basis by member states or organizations.

30. United Nations Statistics Division also informed that Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training was more an information-sharing platform and would facilitate members to share information about their work on a common platform so that other members may benefit from such information.

5. Session 5: Other business

31. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific updated the Network on the progress of the subgroup on economic statistics, specifically on the development of the standard curriculum for economic statistics.

C. Organization of the meeting

1. Opening of the meeting

32. The 4th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific was held in Chiba, Japan, on 12 September 2018.

33. The Chair of the Network, Ms. Zita Albacea officially opened the 4th Meeting of the Network.

2. Attendance

34. The meeting was attended by 25 participants from: Albania, Bangladesh, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Thailand, United Nations Statistics Division, UN-Women and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific including the Chair of the Network.

3. Adoption of the agenda

35. The meeting adopted the agenda as presented in the attached Annex I.

II. The 5th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific

36. The 5th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific was held in Chiba, Japan on 10 December 2019, attended by forty-nine participants from 25 countries and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Pacific Community (SPC), United Nations Statistics Division, UN-Women, Statistics Division of ESCAP and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific including the Chair of the Network.

A. Decision and recommendations of the meeting

37. The Network recommended the creation of a small group to initiate discussion on accreditation and standardization of the training curriculum and report to the Network during its meeting in 2020 for further consideration. The modalities of the work of the small group need to be further discussed. This would be done via electronic meetings. Members were encouraged to participate in the small group. This discussion could start in the development of the gender statistics training.

38. The Network had a consensus that the Subgroup on Economic Statistics continue to perform its activities in the future as it was observed that many countries were still facing challenges in implementing fundamental principles of key economic statistics, e.g. System of National Accounts (SNA) and also, there was huge demand of statistics relating to newly emerging economic frameworks (digital economy, maritime Gross Domestic Product (GDP), green economy, creative GDP, Gross Domestic Knowledge Product, etc.).

39. The Network recommended that the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific should continue developing the database of training information to include information from other similar initiatives (i.e. trainings being conducted by the Subgroups on Economic and Gender Statistics). Although the development of the database was still at the initial stage, it was believed that through this database effective coordination of trainings would be possible which would avoid duplication of efforts

40. The Network supported the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific endorsed by its Governing Council. The Network decided to support implementation of relevant activities identified in the Work Programme and Financial Plan of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific for 2020 as endorsed by its Governing Council. In addition, suggestions made by participants during the meeting as listed in the proceedings of the meeting would also be taken into account during the implementation phase of the plan.

B. Summary of proceedings

1. Session 1: Report of the subgroup on gender statistics

41. UN-Women reported activities of the Subgroup in 2019 highlighting priority activities for 2020 and long-term plan for capacity building on gender statistics.

42. Indonesia stressed the need to provide gender statistics training to higher and managerial level staff.

43. United Nations Statistics Division, Philippines and other member States raised the need of accrediting the training curriculum on gender statistics and other similar training curricula. The following additional suggestions were made:

(a) The Philippines suggested certification of the 'minimum or core' gender statistics training program modules;

(b) United Nations Statistics Division supported certifying the curriculum by taking a corporate and systematic approach to reach out to the other similar training networks at global level in long term;

(c) The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and United Nations Statistics Division noted that international standards should be reflected to national standards in consideration of national context and the Network should play the role of implementing the internationally agreed standards to different stakeholders. In addition, training needs and curriculum should take into account specific requirements of target participants (policymakers, national statistical office staff);

(d) United Nations Statistics Division suggested that UN-Women could initiate the work of developing standard training curriculum at the international level and countries may continue discussion on certifying such curriculum and implementing it at national level;

(e) The Secretariat noted that members of the Network discussed possible modalities for accrediting courses on official statistics in the region during the previous Network meeting and the Network recommended that the accreditation was not obligatory, and that accreditation was only being discussed as a possibility;

(f) The Philippines favored experimenting accreditation scheme of gender statistics training curriculum in a few countries or institutions. Others could follow the lead by benchmarking success stories;

(g) Indonesia sought clarification on whether certification proposed would refer to simply appreciation of participation or it would include quality measures such as standard tests. It was informed that it would include completion of tests as prescribed as part of the process.

44. Members expressed that tests would be useful for accreditation but expressed some concerns in conduct of such tests. Specific concerns raised and solutions suggested were the following:

(a) It was expressed that there might be instances of cheating in conduct of tests and sharing of test questions when these come in public domain via online courses. Potential solutions to these concerns include supervision of exams and random selection of questions from the pool of questions (data bank);

(b) Republic of Korea expressed difficulties in finding visible benefits of accrediting the curriculum and introducing standardized test in the training which would lead to low level of satisfaction on the part of participants;

(c) Mongolia pointed out that standardized test would only create barriers for potential trainees to participate in the training where on the contrary the focus should be engaging as many people as possible to participate in the training;

(d) UN-Women proposed to experiment the idea of introducing “assessing” scheme to trainers through training of trainers and explore gradually further possibility of expanding the scope to other participants.

45. The Chair proposed the creation of a small group to initiate discussion on accreditation and standardization of the training curriculum and report to the Network in 2020 for further discussion. Her proposal was supported by participants of the meeting. The modalities of the work of the small group need to be further discussed. This could be done via electronic meeting. Members were encouraged to participate in the small group. This discussion could start on the gender statistics training.

46. FAO suggested collaborating with the academe to integrate the gender statistics curriculum into regular university curricula to provide gender statistics training at early stage. UN-Women noted that the Subgroup was exploring options with universities in Hong Kong and Mongolia to integrate the training modules into their own curricula.

47. Nepal suggested to assess the possibility of including a set of gender related questions in census or other major household surveys. UN-Women noted that gender cuts across all topics in the survey and 'sex' was included in most of the surveys. Using other socio-economic variables in the survey further disaggregation by sex could be performed under the condition that sample size was sufficient.

48. Republic of Korea highlighted the need for translating the training curriculum into local languages if it was to be implemented effectively.

2. Session 2: Report of the subgroup on economic statistics

49. ESCAP Statistics Division reported recent activities of the Subgroup on Economic Statistics and shared key lessons learned from economic statistics training programmes conducted in Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives and Nepal. It also raised questions to the Network for future direction on the activities of the Subgroup:

(a) The Network discussed whether the Subgroup should continue to perform its activities in the future. There was consensus that many countries were still facing challenges in implementing fundamental principles of key economic statistics, e.g. System of National Accounts (SNA) and there was huge demand of statistics relating to newly emerging economic frameworks (digital economy, maritime GDP, green economy, creative GDP, Gross Domestic Knowledge Product, etc.). Therefore, training institutions in the region would need further assistance of this Subgroup;

(b) The Statistics Division of ESCAP acknowledged the importance and relevance of current economic analytic frameworks such as System of National Accounts, Supply and Use Table, and Balance of Payment. It also mentioned about increasing relevance of satellite accounts, such as ocean accounts, water accounts and others that lead up to environment and ecosystems account;

(c) United Nations Statistics Division suggested an upstream approach of developing global standards which should be a regionally led initiative. One or two good cases of new initiatives on innovative ideas (for example measuring digital economy) could be incubated by bringing countries and agencies in the region together (possibly also engaging private sector). The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (and the Subgroup) could play a role in this experimental process and bringing it to the global level to share its outcome and experiences;

(d) FAO noted that, like the Subgroup on Economic Statistics, the Subgroup on Agricultural and Rural Statistics also needs to transform its activities by shifting its focus on the use of information and communications technology and big data in agricultural and rural statistics;

(e) The Russian Federation requested the Subgroup on Economic Statistics to develop new areas of statistics (big data, digital economy, satellite accounts) building from existing materials.

50. ESCAP consultant presented a prototype of the proposed training portal which could be used for making the training materials developed for Economic Statistics for making it available to member countries.

3. Session 3: Development of database of training resources

51. The Secretariat presented the status of the development of database and requested members to populate the database with relevant training materials.

52. The Network recommended the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific to continue developing the database of training information to include the information from other similar initiatives (i.e. training conducted by the Subgroups on Economic and Gender Statistics). Even though the database development was still at the initial stage, its importance in effective coordination to avoid duplication should not be underestimated.

53. China questioned whether there was any specific standard for uploading the materials to the database. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific explained that items of information to be uploaded were listed in the menu of the

database and they could upload the materials (regardless of the length of the training periods) directly by logging into the database.

54. Nepal requested further clarifications whether local training information should also be uploaded to the database. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific explained that the scope was limited to international training information.

55. United Nations Statistics Division stressed that all training information in the database should be open and accessible to all 193 countries in the United Nations.

4. Session 4: Development of the 2020–2024 strategic plan of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

56. The Network supported the 2020–2024 Strategic Plan of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific endorsed by its Governing Council. The following suggestions made during the meeting would be considered for implementation:

(a) Chair expressed that the Network had an important role of providing guidance for coordinating the work of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and national training institutes. For example, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific provided training of trainers of training institutes and then the institutes were expected to implement training programmes in their own national context;

(b) Representative from Philippines suggested that the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific should focus on training of trainers and should collaborate with universities and colleges;

(c) The Russian Federation expressed its willingness to cooperate with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and others for exchange of ideas and training materials (including translated materials). It also informed about the activities of Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training;

(d) United Nations Statistics Division emphasized the importance of creating an interoperable environment with the help of information technologies that enable sharing of ideas and training materials under the cloud environment. It also suggested use of training material developed by United Nations Statistics Division relating to trade statistics;

(e) FAO informed that United Nations was undertaking a regional review to streamline and coordinate statistical activities of all United Nations agencies;

(f) China mentioned that training of trainers should be the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific's major area of work and expressed willingness to collaborate with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. It also requested that the database being developed should be shared with all the members.

5. Session 5: Work programme of the Network in 2020

57. The Network decided to support implementation of relevant activities identified in the Work Programme and Financial Plan for 2020 which were approved by its Governing Council.

58. In addition, suggestion made by participants would be taken into account during implementation:

(a) FAO stressed the importance of linkage between agricultural census and population census with the use of information technology, tablets and other information technology devices and forging partnership with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Network;

(b) The Statistics Division of ESCAP informed that it would organize Asia Pacific Statistics Week in 2020 which would aim to open up many cross-cutting areas where major innovations were being tested. The members of Network would like to utilize this opportunity to present some of the innovative experiments performed in their countries;

(c) The Pacific Community (SPC) would like to strengthen partnership with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and ESCAP in areas of practically oriented training programs such as census, household surveys and others;

(d) The Philippines would also like to collaborate with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific for training of trainers and other areas of statistical trainings;

(e) Research based training and training for non-statisticians were also discussed among participants.

6. Session 6: Other matters

59. The 6th Network meeting would be held on 1 December 2020, Chiba, Japan.

C. Organization of the meeting

1. Opening of the meeting

60. The 5th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific was held in Chiba, Japan, on 10 December 2019.

61. The Chair of the Network, Ms. Zita Albacea officially opened the 5th Meeting of the Network.

2. Attendance

62. The meeting was attended by forty-nine participants from: Armenia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nepal, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, FAO, ITU, SPC, United Nations Statistics Division, UN-Women, ESCAP Statistics Division and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific including the Chair of the Network.

3. Adoption of the agenda

63. The meeting adopted the agenda as presented in the attached Annex III.

Annex I

Agenda of the 4th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific

Date/Time	Sessions and Events	Presenter
09:00-09:30	Registration	
09:30-09:50	<p>Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome message from the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) • Welcome message from the Chair of the Network • Adoption of the Agenda 	<p>Mr. Ashish Kumar <i>Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</i></p> <p>Ms Zita Villa Juan Albacea <i>Chair of the Network</i></p>
Group Photo and Coffee/Tea Break		
10:10-12:00	<p>Session 1: Development of Gender Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the terms of reference (TOR) of the subgroup • Developing a work programme for the subgroup • Priority activities for 2019-2020 pertaining to gender statistics • Perspective of long-term plan for capacity building on gender statistics in the National Statistical Offices 	<p>Ms. Sara Duerto Valero, <i>Statistics Specialist, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Women</i></p>
Luncheon hosted by the Government of Japan		

Date/Time	Sessions and Events	Presenter
13:30-14:15	<p>Session 2: Training Needs Assessment Tool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaires and reports from countries on agricultural and rural statistics • Future Development 	<p>Mr. Makoto Shimizu</p> <p><i>Deputy Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</i></p>
14:15-15:00	<p>Session 3: Possible Modalities for Accrediting Courses on Official Statistics in the Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of accreditation 	<p><i>Deputy Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</i></p>
Coffee/Tea Break		
15:15-16:00	<p>Session 4: Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of establishment and progress 	<p>Mr. Ralf Becker</p> <p><i>Chief, Statistical Capacity Management Section, United Nations Statistics Division</i></p>
16:00-16:30	<p>Session 5: Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of progress on economic statistics • Others 	<p><i>Deputy Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</i></p>
16:30-16:40	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing message from the Chair of the Network • Closing message from Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific 	<p><i>Chair of the Network</i></p> <p><i>Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</i></p>

Annex II

Terms of reference of the subgroup on gender statistics training; subgroup within the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific

1. Quality gender statistics are essential to ensure accountability towards the commitments made within the 2030 Agenda, including the promise of leaving no one behind. To ensure data users and producers in Asia and the Pacific have the necessary skills to produce, disseminate and use gender statistics widely, including for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) monitoring, members of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific agreed to the creation of a subgroup on gender statistics training.

2. During the “Seventh Workshop on Forging Partnerships for Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific: Effective Collaboration for Increasing Availability, Access and Use of Quality Gender Statistics”, participants identified key training priorities and formulated the terms of reference of the subgroup, as per the paragraphs below. The Terms of Reference will be effective from 2018 to 2020, when the work of the subgroup shall be assessed, and a decision shall be made regarding its continuation or the adjustment of its terms of reference.

A. Roles and responsibilities

3. In line with the key priorities of the Network, which also align with the overall goal of the Making Every Women and Girls account (MEWGC)’s programme^a

4. (Gender statistics are available and analyzed to inform policy making, advocacy, and accountability for delivering gender equality and women’s empowerment in Asia and the Pacific), the subgroup shall support the regional development and implementation of training on gender statistics by:

(a) Setting up the necessary mechanisms for jumpstarting the implementation of the group’s work;

(b) Facilitating information-sharing regarding training on the production, dissemination and use of gender statistics for sustainable development goals monitoring;

^a UN-Women Flagship Programme Initiative: Making Every Women and Girl Count (MEWGC) aims to affect a radical shift in the availability, accessibility and use of quality gender statistics to inform policy, advocacy and accountability for delivering gender equality and women’s empowerment commitments in the sustainable development goals, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action and other national priorities. UN-Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific intends to deliver the regional programme effectively in partnership with other United Nations agencies’ regional offices, intergovernmental organizations and national stakeholders; as well as building up on existing initiatives at the regional and global levels. The project will contribute to the overall goal of gender statistics being available and analyzed to inform policy making, advocacy, and accountability through three key components: 1) supporting a supportive and well-coordinated policy environment to ensure gender-responsive localization and effective monitoring of the sustainable development goals; 2) enhancing the availability of quality, comparable, regular and accessible gender statistics; and 3) supporting users to analyze as well as advocate for data to inform policies and advocacy and to promote accountability.

(c) Promoting coordination among statistics training providers, particularly at national and regional levels, but also with the global statistical system as needed, for providing training on gender statistics. Coordination shall be promoted by facilitating access to:

- i. Available and planned training on the production, dissemination and use of gender statistics especially for sustainable development goals monitoring in Asia and the Pacific;
- ii. Available training resources including financial, experts and trainers and training materials;

(d) Contributing to the development of a training framework on gender statistics following a results-based-management approach;

(e) Contributing to the development and improvement of specific training programmes to address current gaps in training needs in Asia and the Pacific. In particular:

- i. Develop training curricula on gender statistics specifically and training curricula for the integration of gender across existing statistical training;
- ii. Make recommendations on training content, modality and materials on gender statistics;

(f) Promoting collaborative implementation of training programmes on gender statistics among training providers in the Asia-Pacific region.

B. Functions

5. To fulfill the subgroup's roles and responsibilities, its functions shall include:

(a) To convene regularly, in person or remotely, to share information, review updates and discuss progress and challenges regarding the subgroup's work programme and other training initiatives on gender data production, dissemination and use;

(b) To formulate and implement an advocacy strategy to highlight the importance of standalone training on gender statistics, as well as the integration of gender components across existing statistical training;

(c) To develop and maintain repositories of training resources and training experts on gender statistics, which shall be informed and contribute to the Network's existing repository on statistical training;

(d) To assess gender statistics training needs in countries in the region, at national and sub-national levels, including through dialogue with users;

(e) To develop a set of priority areas for training on gender statistics in Asia and the Pacific based on needs assessment;

(f) To carry out a mapping of existing training resources and training needs and priority areas;

(g) To design practical guidelines for the implementation of training on gender statistics in the region. The scope of this work shall include the design of a framework for trainings, as well as establishing various details pertaining to priority training programmes, including content, duration, modality of training, language considerations, level and profile of participants, and potential implementing partners.

- i. The design of these guidelines shall take into consideration existing best practices in each of the thematic areas and on training more broadly.
- ii. A key component of these guidelines should cover training of trainers.

C. Composition

6. The subgroup shall comprise gender data users, producers and trainers/training institutions. Among others, these might include representatives from national statistical offices, training institutes, ministries of women and other relevant ministries, academic institutions, civil society organizations and development partners. In addition, other stake holders involved in the production and use of gender statistics might be invited to advice the subgroup occasionally and based on the topic of discussion.

7. For the selection of members of the subgroup, consideration shall be given to the following criteria:

- (a) Representation of both gender data users and producers;
- (b) A maximum of 15 members, at least three of which should be data users;
- (c) Representatives from Making Every Women and Girl Count pathfinder countries^b should be granted the possibility of membership when requested;
- (d) All existing specialized gender statistics training centers should be granted the possibility of membership if desired, within and beyond the region;
- (e) Members should represent, ideally, all four ESCAP subregions;
- (f) Members shall have expertise on training curriculum development, training delivery, gender data production or gender data use;
- (g) Preferably, institutional members will be expected to have decision-making power within their own organizations, particularly regarding broader training commitments;
- (h) Membership will only be considered if members commit to participate actively on the discussions and work of the subgroup. In connection to this, members will be expected to attend the subgroup's scheduled meetings, make timely decisions, contribute written inputs as required, and take timely action to ensure the work of the subgroup is not held up;
- (i) Other private sector or academic institutions might be invited to participate in discussions of the subgroup on an ad-hoc basis as needed.

D. Modality

8. Similar to other subgroups within the Network, each meeting of the subgroup will be chaired by one of its members in attendance. Modalities for chairing (including rotation frequency, time period between nominations and specific responsibilities of the chair) will be discussed during the subgroup's organizational meeting. Key decisions regarding the subgroup's work shall be made by consensus. In the event of a tie, the assigned chair will intervene to reach an informed and evidence-based decision in line with the subgroup's members' views.

^b Currently, pathfinder countries of the Making Every Women and Girl Count in Asia-Pacific include Bangladesh and Nepal. As the programme evolves in future years, the group of countries might broaden.

9. UN-Women's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific will act as the subgroup's secretariat by convening meetings as needed, supporting some of the subgroup's logistical costs and facilitating information sharing among the members. To achieve its objectives, the subgroup might consider the creation of task teams that will be in charge of key deliverables. All the subgroup's results will be reported to the Network at least once a year, during the annual Network's meeting, to inform Network members on the subgroup's outcomes and to receive guidance and approval for future works.

10. Coordination with other existing groups in the field of gender statistics and of training, including the Inter Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) and the relevant groups within United Nations Regional Commissions, shall also take place to avoid duplication and align efforts. Such coordination efforts could take place within the auspices of the United Nations Statistics Commission.

11. Membership will be established based on country diversity and relevant skills of applicants. Interested countries are expected to nominate/forward the request to either national statisticians, representatives from line ministries, personnel from training institutions, academicians or representatives from civil society organization with experience in producing or using gender statistics.

E. Initial workplan for the subgroup

12. Discussions held during the workshop highlighted a set of activities that should conform the subgroup's initial workplan (to be completed between 2019 and 2021) in an effort to achieve its key responsibilities and functions. Namely,

(a) First meeting of the subgroup: an organizational meeting shall take place on 15 January 2019, where specific assignments for the subgroup and modalities of work will be agreed upon and established;

i. Calendar of events: During its first meeting, the subgroup should further develop a tentative calendar of events and calendar management modalities to ensure periodic coordination meetings of the subgroup take place on a timely manner. Identify the tasks to be done to attain set outcomes and members who could take lead of a particular task.

ii. Training needs and resource mapping: During its first meeting, the subgroup should begin work to develop a questionnaire for distribution across national statistical offices, line ministries, training institutions, academia, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to assess existing training needs pertaining to gender statistics for Sustainable Development Goals monitoring in Asia and the Pacific. The questionnaire should inquire about existing training resources and priority gender statistics-related training needs in each country. Particular attention should be paid to training areas in connection with the Making Every Women and Girl Count programme, ESCAP's Gender Policy-Data Integration programme, and data production, dissemination and use in connection to gender-specific sustainable development goals indicators. A repository of existing training resources for the collection, dissemination and use of gender data should be developed in view of the questionnaire's responses. Similarly, a repository of existing training experts should also be built. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific will support in the dissemination of the questionnaire and UN-Women will support on the management of responses.

(b) Second meeting of the subgroup: in view of the findings distilled from the questionnaire’s responses, a consultation will be set up with the support of UN-Women and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific so members of the subgroup can decide on a key set of priority areas for gender statistics training. During this meeting, the modalities for the development of a training curriculum on gender statistics should also be finalized;

(c) Development of training curriculum on gender statistics: Based on the priority areas and on literature review of existing information, the subgroup should meet (in person or remotely) as needed to design:

i. A comprehensive framework or training strategy for the development and implementation of training on gender statistics. This framework shall cover both general training for non-expert data users, and more technical training for experienced users and producers of gender statistics.

ii. A handbook or a set of documents with specific guidelines on course content for gender statistics training. These guidelines will make up various training curricula: A broader curriculum on gender statistics, and separate thematic curricula with information on how to implement related training for each of the priority areas.

(d) Training implementation plan: the subgroup shall design an implementation plan to ensure the sustainability of utilization of the drafted materials/curricula. The development of the implementation plan shall begin in parallel to the development of the curricula, but will only be finalized after the curricula are completed. Training activities, however, might start taking place before the full completion of the plan, as needed;

(e) Advocacy: the subgroup shall develop an advocacy plan to promote the integration of gender across existing and new statistical training initiatives, and to highlight the need to implement specialized training on gender statistics. The advocacy plan might include participation in existing statistical events, convening of user-producer dialogues, and the organization of a workshop to present a model curriculum for training on gender statistics once finalized.

F. Wider workplan for the subgroup

13. Discussions held during the workshop also highlighted a set of strategic priorities for the subgroup to undertake. Such strategic priorities should inform the overall work of the subgroup, including its initial workplan. Long term strategic priorities shall include:

(a) Integration of gender components across other forms of statistical training: Following a revision of the content of existing training, the subgroup should prepare guidelines for the review of the course content of existing training for possible integration of gender concepts across such training. Once prepared, the guidelines shall be sent to all relevant training institutes to review course outlines. In connection to this and as an ongoing activity, the subgroup should also facilitate the sharing of information across training institutions to share lessons and good practices regarding the integration of gender statistics into course outlines;

(b) Integration of gender across national statistical office training plans: The subgroup shall develop guidance for national statistical offices to integrate comprehensive gender strategies across national statistical office training plans. National training institutes (NTIs) shall support the national statistical office by disseminating guidance materials and providing hands-on training for gender integration in statistics strategies;

(c) Developing a tracking system for emerging areas/changing needs: to respond to changing needs and identify emerging needs regarding statistical training, the subgroup should establish a mechanism for training institutes to submit post-training information regarding challenges encountered and changes identified in training priorities. The subgroup’s secretariat shall consolidate these issues and this information shall be used to guide the subgroup’s workplan;

(d) Establishing a system of training reports: the subgroup should utilize the tracking system for national statistical offices and training institutions to report on the details of gender statistics trainings conducted. This should enable the subgroup to monitor the frequency of such trainings and ensure that at least one gender statistics training is implemented by the national statistical office every year;

(e) Ensuring the implementation of training for gender data analysis for policy making: The subgroup shall work with national statistical offices, policy makers and training institutions to ensure at least one training is conducted in each country regarding gender data analysis and use for policy making. Where national statistical offices are unable to fund such training, the subgroup shall try to suggest partnerships with potential donors to support such training. UN-Women’s training center may facilitate the implementation of some such training, including by utilizing online platforms;

(f) Long term advocacy strategy: with UN-Women’s support, the subgroup shall establish in 2019 an advocacy strategy to ensure the importance of specialized training in gender statistics, as well as that of integrating gender across other statistical training, are fully recognized. The subgroup should also ensure this advocacy strategy is taken forward by countries in the long term by ensuring the issues remain relevant to changing national needs; and thus revising the strategy if and when necessary;

(g) Presenting the subgroups work in future events: the subgroup should seize upcoming opportunities to brief partners and stakeholders on progress made regarding training on gender statistics. Some such events might include future meetings of the Network on Statistical Training, meetings of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific’s Governing Council, and meetings of ESCAP’s Committee on Statistics.

14. Tentative details for the delivery of the initial workplan can be found in the table below. These details are tentative and might be revised at the organizational meeting of the subgroup:

<i>Output</i>	<i>Key activities</i>	<i>Completion date</i>	<i>Lead agency</i>	<i>UN-Women’s contribution</i>
Nominations for participation in the subgroup	Submit nominations	31 Oct 2018	UN-Women/ Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) All entities	Compile nominations and determine membership

<i>Output</i>	<i>Key activities</i>	<i>Completion date</i>	<i>Lead agency</i>	<i>UN-Women's contribution</i>
Organizational meeting of the subgroup	Calendar of events, leading implementers for each task and modalities	15 Jan 2019	UN-Women/ SIAP	Meeting logistics and costs
	Questionnaire for needs/resource mapping	16 Jan 2019		
Training needs and resources mapping	Administer questionnaire	Mid Feb 2019 (End April responses)	SIAP & UN-Women	Support on questionnaire design and management of results (including analysis)
	Analyze data	End May 2019	UN-Women	
Develop repository of experts and repository of resources	Liaison with countries for compilation of resources	End June 2019	UN-Women (consultant)	UN-Women to facilitate engagement of a consultant to build repositories
Promote the integration of gender across existing/planned training initiatives	Draft guidelines for the integration of gender	Feb 2019	Task leaders & UN-Women & SIAP	Set up web meetings and compile contributions in coordination with task leaders;
	Share guidelines with all training institutes and encourage revision of course outlines	March 2019	Chair, UN-Women and SIAP	Liaise with training institutes and provide support with the help of SIAP
	Incorporate related changes by training institutes	Sept 2019	Training institutes	
	Information sharing among training institutions integrating gender statistics into course outlines	Ongoing	Chair & the subgroup to facilitate	

<i>Output</i>	<i>Key activities</i>	<i>Completion date</i>	<i>Lead agency</i>	<i>UN-Women's contribution</i>
Second meeting of the subgroup	Discuss questionnaire results, identify key priorities Establish working groups for each area Finalize modalities for curricula development Discussions about training implementation plan Draft advocacy strategy	End July 2019	Task leaders of the subgroup, UN-Women & SIAP	Meeting logistics, costs and preparation of background materials
Curricula development	Design of a training strategy for gender statistics (for different levels of expertise) Draft guidelines on course content (generally on gender statistics and specifically on key priority areas) Finalize training implementation plan Finalize advocacy strategy	Sept 2019 Dec 2019 Dec 2019 Dec 2019	Task leaders, UN-Women and SIAP (with active participation from members)	Financial support for in-person meetings and secretariat role for coordination, including organizing web meetings and sharing of resources
Integration of gender across NSO training plans	Disseminate guidelines on training strategy among NSOs National statistical offices and national training institutes adopt gender statistics training strategies	Oct 2019 Begin Jan 2020	National training institutes & national statistical offices	Coordinate with SIAP to assess gender content of existing training; coordinate with the subgroup to gather proposals for gender mainstreaming into training activities; support delivery

<i>Output</i>	<i>Key activities</i>	<i>Completion date</i>	<i>Lead agency</i>	<i>UN-Women's contribution</i>
Tracking system to adapt to changing needs	Set up a tracking system for training institutes to submit post-training information The subgroup consolidates the issues and identifies emerging areas	March 2019 Rolling basis	National statistical institutes	UN-Women and SIAP to support coordination with national statistical institute and consolidate issues
Periodic implementation of training on gender statistics	Utilize tracking systems to submit reports to the subgroup to ensure sustainability and enough periodicity Follow up with national statistical institute to ensure at least one gender statistics training workshop is delivered (gender statistics main focus, on gender data production, dissemination or use)	January 2020 Quarterly	Chair of the subgroup and UN-Women	UN-Women and SIAP to coordinate communications and inputs from national statistical institutes, and to liaise with chair for communications regarding quarterly updates
Implementation of international gender statistics training workshop	National statistical office organizes and delivers at least one international workshop on gender statistics	2020	National statistical office / National statistical institute	UN-Women to support national statistical office and national statistical institute to organize international training, enable liaison with partners
Identify events where the work of the subgroup can be highlighted	Share information among the subgroup members regarding upcoming events (Meeting of the Network, Session of the Governing Council of SIAP, ESCAP Committee on Statistics, UN Statistical Commission, etc.)	As relevant	Chair, UN-Women and SIAP to facilitate information sharing	UN-Women to support information sharing

Annex III

**Agenda of the 5th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of
Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific**

Date/Time	Sessions and Events	Presenter
10:30-10:45	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome message from Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) 	Mr. Ashish Kumar <i>Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome message from the Chair of the Network • Adoption of the Agenda 	Ms. Zita Villa Juan Albacea <i>Chair of the Network</i>
Group Photo		
10:10-12:00	Session 1: Report from the subgroup on gender statistics training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of activities in 2019 • Priority activities for 2020 pertaining to gender statistics • Perspective of long-term plan for capacity building on gender statistics 	Ms. Sara Duerto Valero, <i>Statistics Specialist, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Women</i>
Luncheon hosted by Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific		
13:30-13:50	Session 2: Report from the subgroup on economic statistics training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of activities and perspective 	Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen <i>Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP</i>
13:50-14:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training portal 	Mr. Dalisto Adrian Zabula <i>Consultant, ESCAP</i>
14:20-14:35	Session 3: Development of database of training resources	Mr Makoto Shimizu <i>Deputy Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</i>

Date/Time	Sessions and Events	Presenter
14:35-15:45	<p>Session 4: Development of the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan of Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the summary of discussion of the Governing Council of Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific related to the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan of Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific • Comments from members of the Network related to the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan of Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific 	<p>Mr Ashish Kumar</p> <p><i>Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</i></p>
Coffee/Tea Break		
16:05-16:35	<p>Session 5: Work programme of the Network in 2020</p>	<p>Mr Ashish Kumar</p> <p><i>Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</i></p>
16:35-16:45	<p>Session 6: Other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities in Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST) by Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific • The date and venue of the 6th session of the Network • Others 	<p>Mr. Makoto Shimizu</p> <p><i>Deputy Director of Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</i></p>
16:45-16:55	<p>Closing</p> <p>Closing message</p>	<p>Ms. Zita Villa Juan Albacea</p> <p><i>Chair of the Network</i></p>