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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Group of Experts on Gender Statistics

Fourth session

Geneva, 11-13 September 2006

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**REPORT OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GENDER STATISTICS**

Note by the secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The fourth UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics was held on 11-13 September 2006 in Geneva, at Palais des Nations. It was attended by participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Republic of Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States and Uzbekistan. The European Commission was represented by Eurostat. The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (UNDAW), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Office (ILO), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI), and the World Bank were also represented. Experts from London Metropolitan University (UK), Tilburg University (Netherlands), Lancaster University (UK), University of Osnabrueck (Germany) and NGO "Club of Women in Politics 50/50" (Republic of Moldova) participated at the invitation of the UNECE secretariat.

2. The Work Session was organized in collaboration with UNDP, UNFPA and the World

Bank. A number of participants could attend the Work Session thanks to the financial support provided by UNDP, UNFPA and UNIFEM.

3. Ms. Victoria Velkoff (United States) was elected as Chairperson of the meeting.

## II. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

4. The following substantive topics were discussed at the meeting:

- A. Promotion and development of time-use survey
- B. Violence against women
- C. Gender Sensitization Training for Statisticians
- D. Gender and minorities
- E. Dissemination, marketing and use of gender statistics

5. The following participants acted as Discussants:

- Ms. Saskia Keuzenkamp, Social and Planning Office of Netherlands
- Ms. Maria Giuseppina Muratore, ISTAT, Italy
- Ms. Guguli Magradze, Member of Parliament, Georgia and Ms. Tahere Noori, Statistics Sweden
- Ms. Bohdana Hola, Czech Statistical Office
- Mr. Petteri Baer, UNECE Statistical Division

6. The discussion at the meeting was based on invited and supporting papers. The papers are available on the UNECE website at the following address:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.09.gender.htm>

7. The participants adopted the report of the meeting at its closing session.

## III. SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS

Item A: Promotion and development of time-use survey.

Documentation: Invited papers by Kazakhstan and United States, presentation by UNECE.

Supporting paper by Estonia.

8. Time use surveys are a unique source of information on the different gender roles in the households. Surveys of this type are carried out in a large number of countries, particularly in Western Europe and North America, where they are used for a wide variety of purposes. However, there are still many countries where time use surveys have not yet been conducted, often because of lack of funds or technical expertise, or due to insufficient interest on the political agenda of policy makers.

9. Several aspects related to time use surveys were discussed in the session, including methodological issues, the promotion of the surveys, the type of users and the different uses made of the survey results.

10. The invited papers presented the experiences of some countries, describing different methodological approaches (survey design, personal vs. telephone interviewing, etc.), their possible implications on the survey results, and the main applications of the results in different fields.

11. From the methodological point of view, the importance of definitions and classifications used for time use surveys was discussed. In particular, what activities are included in paid work and in unpaid work is a very important issue, because difficult practices may affect the results and in particular international comparisons. The role of internationally agreed classifications to improve harmonization was discussed, but it was also observed that full harmonization will be difficult to reach. Acknowledging the difficulties in harmonization, it was noted that analytical tools and indicators should be developed to make statistics derived from time-use surveys more comparable. Another methodological issue discussed was the imputation of monetary value to unpaid work and the different approaches used for this purpose.

12. With regard to the users of the surveys, and the uses made of their results, it was noted that initially time use surveys were promoted by gender equality advocates as a tool to study gender roles and the division of labour in the households. There is now an increased awareness about the richness of the information that time-use surveys can produce. Time use statistics are used in an increasingly wide spectrum of fields, including social policy making, household satellite accounts, income and expenditure statistics, child employment, business (marketing) and legal applications, etc. The participants stressed that time use statistics can provide the relevant data to allow for gender analysis in areas such as National Accounts that are traditionally approached in a gender-blind manner, as for example in the case of health accounts where time use statistics can provide a more gender sensitive picture through data on informal care-givers and care-takers. The need was expressed to link data to policies, and to liaise with policy makers to better capture those indicators that are relevant for them.

Item B: Violence against women.

Documentation: Invited papers by UNDAW, London Metropolitan University, WHO, Lancaster University (United Kingdom), Canada, University of Osnabrueck (Germany) and UNECE Task Force on measuring violence against women.

13. Participants acknowledged that, in the decade following the Beijing Conference, enormous progress has been made in documenting the extent and nature of violence against women (VAW). While a great deal has been accomplished already, significant challenges and gaps in developing knowledge on this issue persist in all parts of the world.

14. In 2003 the UN General Assembly asked the Secretary General to prepare an in-depth study on violence against women to include a discussion of causes, consequences and costs,

availability of data and challenges in data collection as well as promising practices in addressing VAW. This report will be discussed at the forthcoming 61<sup>st</sup> session of the UN General Assembly and it is expected that follow up measures will be taken also in the field of data collection on violence against women. The UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences is also preparing a report on indicators to measure VAW and state responses to it.

15. WHO has published a report on the results of its multi-country studies on VAW. The International Violence Against Women Surveys (IVAWS) have been conducted in about 12 countries and the summary report will be published in 2007.

16. At regional level, the UNECE Task Force on measuring VAW has reviewed national surveys carried out in the region to measure VAW and analyzed differences and commonalities in their methodology. The UNECE Task Force on VAW showed the extent to which methodologies could be compared among countries and suggested appropriate areas for standard definitions and recommendations. The commonalities among surveys conducted in the region included: type of violence covered, wording of the questions, and avoidance of general definitions; preferred reference periods; role of National Statistical Agencies in the regular conduct of national surveys; identified perpetrators; accessibility and distribution of results especially via the internet.

17. The research network CAHRV (Co-ordination Action on Human Rights Violations) has also reviewed the major European surveys and analyzed the comparability of the results. The work carried out by CAHRV shows that data on VAW produced by surveys from different countries is comparable in selected areas.

18. The meeting noted that the review work carried out by the two groups, the UNECE Task Force, and CAHRV, was complementary. It also suggested improving synergy between the two groups, which have similar objectives but different constituencies<sup>1</sup>.

19. The meeting stressed that population-based surveys on VAW are the most reliable method for collecting information on the extent of violence perpetrated against women in particular domestic violence, in a general population. At the same time it also noted constraints such as difficulties in capturing particular population groups or certain forms of VAW. Different issues connected to VAW surveys were discussed in the session, including the need for and the desirability of involving of official statistical systems and other government agencies in the measurement of VAW. Methodological issues and gaps in data collection were also discussed.

20. The discussion highlighted the fact that, in order to have sustainable programs on population-based surveys on VAW, it is crucial that National Statistical Agencies be involved in implementing the surveys. It is equally important that work on VAW surveys continues to be undertaken by research institutes and is coordinated with policy makers and service providers.

21. Based on the presentations and discussions of the experience of different countries on the

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<sup>1</sup> The UNECE Task Force operates under the framework of official statistics while CAHRV operates within the research community.

collection of data on VAW, the meeting identified a number of issues to be further addressed:

- a) desirability and necessity to develop global indicator(s) on VAW and indicators on gender-based violence against women (as well as men);
- b) the need to focus on a broader range of forms of violence, in addition to intimate partner violence and domestic violence;
- c) the need to initiate work toward a minimum survey module on VAW, taking into consideration the experience accumulated in designing national surveys and research projects developed at international level such as the WHO Multi-country studies and the IVAWS;
- d) the need to better assess VAW among particular population groups (such as minority groups, immigrants, homeless, people in shelters as well as households without fixed phone line, people in emergency/crisis/conflict situations);
- e) review the most appropriate periodicity to measure VAW;
- f) further address ethical and confidentiality issues;
- g) methodology for monitoring and assessing causes and consequences of violence in the households and at community level, and factors that strengthen prevention;
- h) addressing issues related to the telescoping effect.

22. The meeting recommended that the Task Force on measuring VAW continue its work under the mandate of the Conference of European Statisticians toward its objectives of defining common concepts, developing a core set of indicators and identifying a minimum set of questions. It was also suggested that the Task Force increase collaboration with the research community and other players active in improving the country reporting of VAW. This will have the advantage of taking stock of the experience accumulated in the measurement of VAW in all spheres and will have a greater impact on the implementation of standard methodology. It was also suggested that the Task Force consider undertaking follow-up activities to the SG Study on VAW.

Item C: Gender Sensitization Training for Statisticians.

Documentation: Invited papers by the Republic of Serbia, the World Bank Institute and UNECE Task Force on gender sensitization training for statisticians.

23. The importance of gender statistics and gender sensitization training of statisticians was the main focus of this session. It was stressed that most statistical offices have achieved a first level of attention towards gender statistics, such as producing sex-disaggregated data in most statistical areas and disseminating gender statistical products. However, further work is necessary to fully adopt a gender sensitive approach at all levels of data production and dissemination as well as in terms of organizational settings of National Statistical Offices. Inter-agency collaboration within the UNECE region has been and continues to be important in improving and strengthening Member states' capacity to produce, analyze and disseminate gender statistics.

24. A project proposal funded by the World Bank for the period of 2007-2009 was presented. Under the scope of this project, activities within the East European, Caucasus and Central Asian (EECCA) and South East European (SEE) countries will be carried out by

UNECE, World Bank, UNDP, UNFPA and FAO. Potential activities discussed for the coming years include i) completion of the manual on gender sensitization training for statisticians; ii) regional/national training and sensitization activities as discussed; and iii) formation of national level committees to integrate policy makers with other interested players.

25. The UNECE Task Force on gender sensitization training for statisticians presented the outline of the “Manual for gender sensitization training of statisticians”. The need to consider gender sensitization training of statisticians as an interactive process, in which all players are working in a partnership, was stressed. For example, there are key players beyond the statistician who can help to formulate the training. Gender sensitization training should not just be the particular training event, but should include follow-up of the process, which is then useful for representatives of statistics, governmental or nongovernmental organizations, mass media and university.

26. The meeting noted that lack of adequate data is frequently mentioned as a concern by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women when it reviews implementation of the Convention in state parties. Scarcity of relevant data is also a concern in conjunction with efforts to achieve the MDGs. The meeting emphasized that, to strengthen the use of gender statistics, it is necessary to ensure that data respond to the needs of end users such as policy makers, especially data to track trends and assess the impact of the measures taken. Users also need help in interpreting and analyzing the data. While sensitizing statisticians to the practice of collecting gender statistics data is important, it is equally important to emphasize the need to focus on the intended use of data and include consideration of the purpose of the data to drive the formulation of training and other events. It was noted that support of institutional users is needed in order to have a sustained support to improve gender statistics. It was suggested to encourage the establishment of national working groups on gender statistics with the participation of official statisticians, policy makers, NGOs.

27. During the discussion of the manual, it was suggested:

- to go beyond just translation by integrating local examples which include cultural stereotypes;
- to include convincing examples of where and how to incorporate gender into statistics which are currently gender insensitive;
- to consider health as a strategic area.

Item D: Gender and minorities.

Documentation: Invited papers by the Netherlands (2 papers), UNDP and UNECE.

28. The gender dimension, crucial to fully understanding national societies and economies, becomes even more relevant for specific population groups within countries, in particular for minority groups where gender roles and attitudes are often different from mainstream population. Data available at national level do not adequately reflect specific gender issues that exist in minority groups and specific efforts have to be made to produce gender sensitive data for minority groups.

29. The meeting stressed, also on the basis of some available data, that it is important to jointly address gender and minorities because women belonging to minority groups might experience a double disadvantage or discrimination: as women as well as being members of a minority group.
30. Though acknowledging that minorities can be defined in different ways, the discussion focused on population groups with specific ethnic-cultural characteristics. The following statistical challenges involved in increasing and improving the production of gender sensitive data on minorities were discussed:
- a) data gaps;
  - b) different criteria used to define minority groups;
  - c) data quality.
31. In order to increase data availability on minority groups, especially in more gender sensitive subjects such as labour participation, time use and VAW, it is necessary to make proper arrangements (i.e. specific questions, adequate sample frames, etc.) to identify and report on minority groups in all relevant statistical surveys, including population censuses and regular household surveys such as the Labour Force Survey (LFS).
32. Different criteria are used to identify minority groups because of different national contexts and sensitivities. Two main approaches can be identified:
- a) subjective approach: based on self-declaration of ethnic affiliation;
  - b) objective approach: based on criteria such as country of birth, parents' country of birth, citizenship, citizenship at birth.
33. It was stressed that much attention has to be devoted to definitions since they can produce very different data. However, taking into account that very different contexts and regulations exist at national level, it is not possible to give general recommendations on the best approach to define minority groups. The meeting recommended that, once an approach is adopted at national level, this should be used consistently across all data production.
34. Given the sensitivity of minority issues, much attention must be paid to ensure the highest possible quality of statistical data. Measures to increase trust of respondents have to be taken, such as involvement of minority representatives when organizing statistical data collections and ensuring data confidentiality. It is also important that respondents' freedom in declaring their ethnic affiliation is ensured, possibly providing for open-ended questions and allowing multiple affiliations. Sample size and stratification must also be adequately addressed, given the size and geographical distribution of minority groups.
35. Specific attention was devoted to measuring discrimination, which can be directly measured by asking respondents whether they feel discriminated against or, indirectly, comparing social and economic outcomes of minority groups vs. overall population. Data and analyses presented showed that the two approaches can produce different results. It was stressed that different individual perceptions of being discriminated against should be taken into account when interpreting data that directly measure discrimination.

Item E: Dissemination, marketing and use of gender statistics.

Documentation: Invited papers by Canada, Eurostat, Italy, OECD, Portugal, Russian Federation, Switzerland, UNECE.

Supporting papers by Czech Republic and Germany.

36. In this session, various countries and international organizations presented the historical development of the dissemination of gender statistics. As gender equality gained importance in the political agenda, the production of gender statistics emerged and developed in the respective institutions.

37. The participants stressed the importance of disseminating gender statistics and other gender related information for advocating and promoting gender equality policies and to monitor their implementation and their effectiveness.

38. Different dissemination products and tools were described and commented on, including various types of publications, databases and more innovative tools like gender statistics websites and portals. The ongoing work on the UNECE Gender Statistics Database, which is now available also in Russian, was presented. The participants praised the database as an important dissemination tool, but it was noted that further work is needed and more resources should be invested to regularly update the database and present more complete and updated information on sources and metadata.

39. The meeting recommended that data collection and dissemination activities of international organizations be better coordinated.

40. During the discussion, the need was stressed to identify the different categories of users and to interact with them from the beginning of the production process. In order to understand their needs and provide them with the right products and the right dissemination channels. A proactive dissemination strategy of this type should be developed and accompanied by systematic marketing activities.

#### IV. FUTURE WORK

41. The meeting recommended undertaking the following activities to be presented at the next work session on gender statistics scheduled for 2008.

42. Work of existing Task Forces:

- (a) Time Use: this Task Force has successfully completed its objectives and, thus, can end;
- (b) Violence Against Women: the initial work of this Task Force was well received by the Work Session and it is recommended that the Task Force work continue under



the same Terms of Reference which include:

- (i) defining common concepts;
- (ii) developing a core set of indicators on VAW;
- (iii) identifying a minimum set of measures.

This Task Force should also consider dealing with the following issues:

- (iv) harmonization of data collection instruments to the extent possible;
  - (v) increase collaboration between the Task Force, research community and other actors active in improving the country reporting of VAW;
  - (vi) consider undertaking follow-up activities to the Secretary General's Study on VAW.
- (c) Gender Sensitization Training for Statisticians should continue to work under the same Terms of Reference, which includes:
- (i) finalizing the manual and using it as a tool in workshops;
  - (ii) implementing regional training of trainers and several national level workshops under the framework of the World Bank funded project.

43. Other future activities:

- (a) The meeting recommended to create a Task Force on the UNECE Database to:
- (i) foster collaboration and discussion with National Statistical Offices and other international organizations working on similar databases;
  - (ii) provide suggestions on new indicators or modifications to the UNECE database;
  - (iii) improve tools for updating the UNECE database;
  - (iv) develop a marketing strategy to outreach users;
  - (v) coordinate/produce publications using data from the UNECE database on a regular basis, possibly in collaboration with national agencies and international organizations.
- (b) The following topics should be considered for discussion in future meetings:
- (i) gender and minorities<sup>2</sup>:
    - identification of specific gender issues;
    - current and future availability of data;
    - data collection and measurement issues;
    - analysis of inequalities and discrimination;
    - methods for presentation of main results;

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<sup>2</sup> This topic should also be discussed by the Steering Group to assess if additional work is needed.

- (ii) graphic tools and creative ideas for presentation of gender-specific data in publications and websites;
- (iii) measurement, analysis, and presentation of indicators on gender disparities in power and decision making (including the glass ceiling), as well as in rural/urban settings and in relation to population ageing;
- (iv) reconciliation of work and private life:
  - gender differences;
  - structural situation in countries that have an impact on how women and men manage work and family life (e.g. childcare facilities, part-time work, etc.);
  - attitudes/social norms that promote or hinder balance of work and family life;
  - statistical data on child care (formal and informal) and the use of regulations on leave (parental, caring, etc.);
- (v) data collection on gender aspects in emergencies and crisis situations;
- (vi) gender indicators/data in MDG framework.

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