



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 December 2013

Original: English

Statistical Commission

Forty-fifth session

4-7 March 2014

Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda*

Items for information: gender statistics

Gender statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2013/235. It provides a summary of the recent activities undertaken by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics under the umbrella of the Global Gender Statistics Programme, including the online dissemination of the minimum set of gender indicators and the implementation of the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Initiative, jointly executed by the Statistics Division and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). It also contains information on the results of capacity-building efforts to strengthen gender statistics programmes in countries and on the organization of the 7th meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics. The Statistical Commission is invited to take note of the ongoing work and future priorities in respect of gender statistics.

* E/CN.3/2014/1.



I. Introduction

1. In its decision [44/109](#), adopted at its forty-fourth session, in 2013, the Statistical Commission commended, inter alia, the work carried out by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics in 2012 to comply with Commission decision [42/102](#) and supported the proposed next steps under the Global Gender Statistics Programme for 2013, including: (a) work on the minimum set of gender indicators agreed by the Commission as a guide for the national production and international compilation of gender statistics; (b) methodological developments on gender statistics, including on the measurement of asset ownership and entrepreneurship under the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Initiative, and (c) provision of training and assistance to strengthen the capacity of countries to produce and disseminate gender statistics for policymaking.

2. The present report presents the activities carried out by the Statistics Division and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics during 2013 to comply with Statistical Commission decision [44/109](#).

II. Online dissemination of the minimum set of gender indicators

3. Following the recommendations by the Statistical Commission (see decision [42/102](#)), and as reported to its forty-fourth session (see [E/CN.3/2013/10](#)), the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, through its Advisory Group on Global Gender Statistics and Indicators Database, including experts from national statistical systems and international agencies, identified a minimum set of gender indicators composed of 52 quantitative indicators grouped into three tiers and 11 qualitative indicators covering norms and laws on gender equality.

4. In its decision [44/109](#), the Commission agreed on the use of the minimum set of gender indicators as a guide for the national production and international compilation of gender statistics. The list of gender indicators is presented in the annex to the present report and reflects some modifications made at the 7th meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, held in September 2013.

5. The Statistics Division has developed a portal/platform to disseminate the minimum set online (see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/default.html>). As at December 2013, the 35 tier I indicators, consisting mainly of gender indicators on education, employment and health, for which agreed concepts and definitions exist and data are available at the international level, are disseminated through the portal. The Advisory Group on Emerging Issues is currently reviewing the tier II indicators and considering the possibility of disseminating them online in 2014, even if data are available only for selected countries.

6. The minimum set of gender indicators is based on data produced by countries, compiled by specialized agencies and forwarded together with appropriate metadata to the Statistics Division. For certain series, specialized agencies adjust the data to ensure international comparability; for others, specialized agencies develop their estimates based on country data. Detailed metadata with the explanation on the sources of data and methods used by the specialized agencies are provided on the dedicated portal maintained by the Statistics Division together with the relevant data.

III. Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Initiative

7. The Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Initiative is a project executed jointly since the end of 2012 by the Statistics Division and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), aimed at accelerating existing efforts to generate internationally comparable gender indicators on education, employment, health, entrepreneurship and assets. The initiative builds on the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and is being implemented over three years (2013-2015).

8. During its first year of implementation, the Initiative focused on: (a) compilation and online dissemination of international data and metadata on education, employment and health; (b) development of international definitions and methods for measuring entrepreneurship and asset ownership; and (c) identification of countries that will pilot the newly developed methods to collect data on entrepreneurship and assets. In addition, part of the project team was established with the hiring of the project manager and a statistician/researcher.

9. Under the data dissemination component of the Initiative, a platform has been developed to disseminate the indicators on education, employment and health, in line with the minimum set of gender indicators, agreed upon by the Commission in its decision 44/109. The data/metadata platform is available online from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/default.html>.

10. The identification of pilot countries for the collection of data on assets according to the Initiative methodology is ongoing. As at October 2013, the following countries had expressed interest in being part of the project: Georgia, Ghana, Mexico, Mongolia, the Philippines and Uganda. Confirmation is pending for Maldives and Rwanda.

11. To advance the development of international methods to measure asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective, four technical meetings (New York, 24 February; Bangkok, 30 July to 2 August; New York, 21 and 22 November; New York, 5 and 6 December 2013) were held with national and international statisticians and other stakeholders to discuss technical aspects of the methods proposed and their applicability in countries.

12. The first technical meeting on measuring assets, held in New York on 24 February, set the stage for the preparation of the Technical Report on Measuring Individual-Level Asset Ownership and Control.

13. A second meeting on measuring assets was held in Bangkok from 30 July to 2 August 2013, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The participants stressed the importance of developing methodologies for data collection focusing on the gender aspect of asset ownership that are cost-effective and sustainable and can be integrated into existing national data collection mechanisms through the addition of a module or a list of questions. The proposed methodology should also be based as much as possible on concepts and definitions in line with other international standards such as the System of National Accounts. The methodology should be aimed at providing detailed asset data, relevant at the

country level and sensitive to countries' context and norms, as well as data that are internationally comparable, at least at a certain level of aggregation.¹

14. The participants discussed extensively the importance of measuring asset ownership and control from a gender perspective, which assets to consider owing to their relevance for gender analysis and how to collect gender-sensitive asset data in an effective and sustainable way. Different mechanisms were discussed in terms of whom to interview when collecting asset ownership data at the individual level, including: (a) the principal couple in the household interviewed together; (b) the principal couple in the household interviewed separately; (c) two people, consisting of a principal man and woman or the most knowledgeable man and woman in the household; (d) the head of household or the most knowledgeable person in the household; and (e) one person (man or woman) selected randomly from households.

15. It was agreed that different interview settings (whom to interview) would be tested; the results of those tests will contribute to the internationally agreed methodology to collect asset ownership data at the individual level in nationally representative household surveys. The meeting, held in New York on 21 and 22 November 2013, brought together statisticians and other experts to identify and develop statistical tools (questionnaires and different scenarios for interview settings) to be used in the testing/experimenting phase.

16. In addition, a technical meeting on measuring entrepreneurship from a gender perspective was held in New York on 5 and 6 December 2013. Statisticians and other experts from national statistical offices, regional commissions, international agencies and academia took stock of existing international efforts to measure entrepreneurship from a gender perspective. Current practices in countries and recent research undertaken by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and selected scholars were reviewed and the applicability of proposed research methods was discussed with national statistical offices.

17. Lastly, two virtual steering committee meetings were held, on 19 August and 3 December 2013, to update the members on the project implementation and agree on future workplans.

IV. Development of manuals, guidelines and classifications

18. Following the request made by the Statistical Commission at its forty-second session for the development of manuals and methodological guidelines for the production and use of gender statistics, the Statistics Division produced the *Gender Statistics Manual: Integrating a gender perspective into statistics*, available online from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/genderstatmanual/> (unedited version) and finalized and disseminated online the *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women: Statistical Surveys*, available in electronic format from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/default.html>.

19. The Statistics Division continues to work on the finalization of the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics based on: (a) the

¹ The final report of the meeting with the presentations, conclusions and additional supporting material is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/Thailand/2013/list_of_docs.htm.

outcomes of the Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of the Trial International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics, held in New York from 11 to 13 June 2012; (b) the adoption of the new resolution on work statistics, employment and labour underutilization at the Nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, held in Geneva from 2 to 11 October 2013; and (c) comments received from national statistical offices. Once finalized, the International Classification will be reviewed by the Expert Group to ensure that it is in line with the criteria for international classifications as well as other relevant international classifications. It is expected that the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics will be presented to the Commission at its forty-sixth session, in 2015, for adoption as the International Classification for Time Use Statistics.

V. Strengthening capacity in gender statistics

20. In 2013, the Statistics Division held two regional workshops to strengthen the capacity of national statisticians in producing relevant and accurate gender statistics.

21. The regional Workshop on Improving the Integration of a Gender Perspective into Official Statistics was held from 16 to 19 April 2013 in Chiba, Japan. The workshop was organized by the Statistics Division and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan. Representatives from the statistical offices of 14 countries and experts from the World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific participated in the meeting. The meeting covered the process of mainstreaming gender in national statistics, how to identify gaps in gender statistics and develop coherent and comprehensive plans for the production of gender statistics, how to avoid gender biases in measurement by ensuring that survey and census designs take gender issues into account and how to improve data analysis and presentation to communicate results that are accurate and easy to understand.²

22. The International Seminar on Gender Statistics, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 12 to 14 November 2013 and organized in collaboration with Statistics Korea, focused mainly on the production of time use statistics, including measurement and monitoring women's work discontinuity, and statistics on violence against women, based on the latest guidelines on the topic. More than 40 participants from 19 national statistical offices and experts from research institutes and United Nations organizations attended the meeting and discussed best practices and challenges faced in producing and disseminating gender-relevant data on the selected priority areas covered by the seminar.³

² The final report of the meeting with the presentations, conclusions and additional supporting material is available from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Japan/2013/default.htm>

³ The final report of the meeting with the presentations, conclusions and additional supporting material is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Korea/2013/list_of_docs.htm.

VI. Seventh meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and meeting of the Advisory Group on Emerging Issues

23. The Advisory Group on Emerging Issues of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics held a meeting on 11 September 2013 in New York to review the terms of reference of the Group; discuss and agree on how to reconcile the minimum set of gender indicators with the new *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women: Statistical Surveys*; take stock of progress in the implementation of the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Initiative; and agree on future priority areas of work. In a follow-up conference call on 29 October 2013, the Group agreed to work on time use statistics, initially by assessing data availability for the two indicators on domestic work, caring and total work (domestic and paid work) in the minimum set of gender indicators. The Group will also assist the Statistics Division in the finalization of the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics.

24. The 7th meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics was held in New York on 12 and 13 September 2013. A total of 40 participants from international agencies, regional commissions and national statistical offices attended the meeting. The Group reviewed the work accomplished by the Statistics Division and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics since the establishment of the Group in 2006 and, in particular, since the beginning of the mandate given to the Group by the Statistical Commission in 2011. It also took note of the many initiatives that the Group members are undertaking to strengthen gender statistics at the international, regional and national levels.

25. The Group discussed extensively the minimum set of gender indicators and the related data compilation and protocols for data exchange between specialized agencies and the Statistics Division, new methodological guidelines and related plans for strengthening capacity on gender statistics and the results of the global review of gender statistics programmes in countries.

26. The Group also reviewed the work of the Advisory Group on Emerging Issues and took note of the request of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics to be part of the Group. Lastly, it discussed the preparation of the fifth Global Forum on Gender Statistics, to be held in Mexico from 3 to 5 November 2014, back-to-back with the Regional Conference on Gender Statistics organized annually by the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics of Mexico.

27. The Group agreed on its annual programme of work, which includes:

(a) For the Statistics Division (secretariat), drafting and circulating for comment the terms of reference of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics;

(b) For the Statistics Division, making available online the results of the global review of gender statistics programmes in countries;

(c) For the specialized agencies concerned (International Labour Organization, Inter-Parliamentary Union, International Telecommunication Union, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, United Nations

Children's Fund (UNICEF), Population Division and World Health Organization), providing data/metadata for their respective tier I indicators of the minimum set (both quantitative and qualitative indicators-norms table) and agreeing on the schedule/frequency and format of data exchange with the Statistics Division; for the Statistics Division, disseminating tier I indicators online. Agencies are to provide written confirmation of changes requested in tier classification and in indicator labelling in order for the Statistics Division to finalize the list of indicators;

(d) For UNICEF and UN-Women, initiating work to compile country data for the indicators on violence against women of the minimum set;

(e) For the Advisory Group on Emerging Issues, assessing the possibility of starting to disseminate online selected tier II indicators; continuing the methodology work for tier III indicators and ensuring coordination between activities of the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Initiative and those undertaken by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics to improve synergies and avoid duplication;

(f) Continuing capacity-building activities at the country level, particularly to expand the data coverage for tier II indicators;

(g) Completing the work of the Advisory Group on Gender Statistics Training Activities and Curricula;

(h) For the Statistics Division and the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics of Mexico, initiating the preparation of the fifth Global Forum on Gender Statistics (Mexico, 3 to 5 November 2014);

(i) Convening an annual meeting in 2014.

VII. The way forward

28. In 2014, under the Global Gender Statistics Programme, the work of the Statistics Division and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics will include the ongoing online dissemination of the minimum set of gender indicators and the other activities agreed upon by the Inter-agency and Expert Group; the activities under the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Initiative; the organization of regional workshops on gender statistics, including on the production of statistics on violence against women; and the preparation of "World's Women 2015: Trends and Statistics since Beijing", presenting the latest data and trends on the situation of women and men in the 12 priority areas identified in the Beijing Platform for Action. World's Women 2015 will be launched in 2015.

29. The Statistics Division, with experts from national and international agencies and research institutes, will finalize the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics.

30. Lastly, the Statistics Division, in collaboration with relevant agencies, development partners and the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics of Mexico, will convene the 8th meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and the fifth Global Forum on Gender Statistics in November 2014.

VIII. Points for information

31. The Commission may wish to take note of the work done by the Statistics Division and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics during 2013 in implementing the requests made by the Commission at its forty-second session on the improvement of gender statistics.

Annex

Minimum set of gender indicators, by domain*

Table 1
List of gender indicators, by domain

<i>Indicator number</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>References to the strategic objectives in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals and targets</i>	<i>Tier</i>	<i>Leading agencies</i>
I. Economic structures, participation in productive activities and access to resources				
1	Average number of hours spent on unpaid domestic work by sex (Note: separate housework and child care if possible)	C.2, F.1, H.3	2	ILO
2	Average number of hours spent on paid and unpaid domestic work combined (total work burden), by sex	F.1, H.3	2	ILO
3	Labour force participation rate for persons aged 15-24 and 15+, by sex	F.1, H.3	1	ILO
4	Proportion of employed who are own-account workers, by sex	F.2; Goal 1, target B	1	ILO
5	Proportion of employed who are contributing family workers, by sex	H.3; Goal 1, target B	1	ILO
6	Proportion of employed who are employer, by sex	F.1	1	ILO
7	Percentage of firms owned by women, by size	F.1, F.2	3	ILO
8	Percentage distribution of employed population by sector, each sex (Sectors here refer to Agriculture; Industry; Services)	F.5, H.3	1	ILO
9	Informal employment as a percentage of total non-agricultural employment, by sex	F.2, H.3	2	ILO
10	Youth unemployment rate for persons aged 15-24, by sex	F.1	1	ILO
11	Proportion of population with access to credit, by sex	F.1, F.2	3	WB/FAO/OECD
12	Proportion of adult population owning land, by sex	A.1, A.2	3	WB/FAO/OECD
13	Gender gap in wages	F.1, F.5	3	ILO
14	Proportion of employed working part-time, by sex	F.5	2	ILO
15	Employment rate of persons aged 25-49 with a child under age 3 living in a household and with no children living in the household, by sex	F.6	3	ILO
16	Proportion of children under age 3 in formal care	F.6	3	OECD
17	Proportion of individuals using the Internet, by sex	F.3; Goal 8, target F	1	ITU
18	Proportion of individuals using a mobile-cellular telephone, by sex	F.3; Goal 8, target F	1	ITU
19	Proportion of households with access to mass media (radio, TV, Internet), by sex of household head	F.3	3	ITU
II. Education				
20	Youth literacy rate of persons (15-24 years), by sex	B.2, L.4; Goal 2	1	UIS
21	Adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education, by sex	B.1, L.4; Goal 2	1	UIS
22	Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education, by sex	B.1; Goal 3	1	UIS

* The minimum set of gender indicators listed here differs from the list presented at the forty-third session of the Statistical Commission. It has been updated to reflect the agreements made at the 7th meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and of its Advisory Group on Emerging Issues.

<i>Indicator number</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>References to the strategic objectives in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals and targets</i>	<i>Tier</i>	<i>Leading agencies</i>
23	Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education, by sex	B.1	1	UIS
24	Gender parity index of the enrolment ratio in primary, secondary and tertiary education	B.1, L.4; Goal 3	1	UIS
25	Share of female science, engineering, manufacturing and construction graduates at tertiary level	B.3, B.4, L.4	2	UIS
26	Proportion of females among tertiary education teachers or professors	B.4, L.4	2	UIS
27	Adjusted net intake rate in the first grade of primary education, by sex	B.1	1	UIS
28	Primary education completion rate (proxy), by sex	B.1	1	UIS
29	Gross graduation ratio from lower secondary education, by sex	B.1	1	UIS
30	Effective transition rate from primary to secondary education (general programmes), by sex	B.1	1	UIS
31	Educational attainment of the population aged 25 and older, by sex	B.1	1	UIS
III. Health and related services				
32	Contraceptive prevalence among women who are married or in a union, aged 15-49	C.1, C.2; Goal 5, target B	1	UNPD
33	Under-five mortality rate, by sex	C.1; Goal 4	1	UNICEF/UNPD/WHO
34	Maternal mortality ratio	C.1; Goal 5, target A	1	WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA
35	Antenatal care coverage	C.1; Goal 5, target B	1	UNICEF
36	Proportion of births attended by skilled health professional	C.1; Goal 5, target A	1	UNICEF
37	Smoking prevalence among persons aged 15 and over, by sex	C.2	1	WHO
38	Proportion of adults who are obese, by sex	C.1, C.2	1	WHO
39	Women's share of population aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	C.3; Goal 6, target A	1	UNAIDS
40	Access to anti-retroviral drug, by sex	C.3; Goal 6, target B and Goal 8, target E	1	WHO
41	Life expectancy at age 60, by sex	C.1, C.2	1	UNPD
42	Adult mortality by cause and age groups	C.1, C.2	1	WHO
IV. Public life and decision-making				
43	Women's share of government ministerial positions	G.1	1	IPU
44	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	G.1; Goal 3	1	IPU
45	Women's share of managerial positions	F.1, F.5, G.1	1	ILO
46	Percentage of female police officers	I.2	2	UNODC
47	Percentage of female judges	I.2	2	UNODC
V. Human rights of women and girl children				
48	a. Total rate of partnered women subjected to physical violence in the last 12 months by an intimate partner	D.1, D.2	2	UNICEF
	b. Total rate of partnered women subjected to sexual violence in the last 12 months by an intimate partner			
49	a. Total rate of women subjected to physical violence in the last 12 months by persons other than an intimate partner	D.1, D.2	2	UNICEF

<i>Indicator number</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>References to the strategic objectives in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals and targets</i>	<i>Tier</i>	<i>Leading agencies</i>
	b. Total rate of women subjected to sexual violence in the last 12 months by persons other than an intimate partner			
50	Prevalence of female genital mutilation/cutting (for relevant countries only)	I.2	1	UNICEF
51	Percentage of women aged 20-24 years old who were married or in union before age 18	L.1, L.2	1	UNICEF
52	Adolescent birth rate	L.1, L.2; Goal 5, target B	1	UNPD

Abbreviations: FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; ILO, International Labour Organization; IPU, Inter-Parliamentary Union; ITU, International Telecommunication Union; OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; UIS, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics; UNAIDS, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UNICEF; United Nations Children's Fund; UNODC, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; UNPD, Population Division; WB, World Bank; WHO, World Health Organization.

Table 2
List of gender indicators related to national norms, by domain

<i>Indicator number</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>References to the strategic objectives in the Beijing Platform for Action</i>	<i>Tier</i>	<i>Leading agencies</i>
I. Economic structures, participation in productive activities and access to resources				
1	Extent of country commitment to gender equality in employment	F.1, F.5	1	ILO
1a	Whether or not ratified ILO Convention No. 100 on equal remuneration for women and men	F.1		
1b	Whether or not ratified ILO Convention No. 111 on discrimination in employment and occupation	F.1, F.5		
2	Extent of country commitment to support reconciliation of work and family life	F.1, F.5, F.6	1	ILO
2a	Whether or not ratified ILO Convention No. 156 on workers with family responsibilities	F.6		
2b	Whether or not ratified ILO Convention No. 175 on part-time work	F.5		
2c	Whether or not ratified ILO Convention No. 177 on home work	F.5		
2d	Whether or not ratified ILO Convention No. 183 on maternity protection	F.1, F.6		
3	Length of maternity leave	F.1, F.6	1	ILO/UNSD
4	Percentage of wages paid during maternity leave	F.1, F.6	1	ILO/UNSD
IV. Public life and decision-making				
5	Presence of a gender quota for parliament (reserved seats and legal candidate quotas)	G.1	1	IPU
6	Presence of a gender quota for parliament (voluntary party quotas)	G.1	1	IPU
7	Existence of law on gender statistics		2	UNSD
V. Human rights of women and girl children				
8	Whether or not reservation to article 16 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	I.1	1	UN-Women
9	Existence of laws on domestic violence	D.1	1	UN-Women
10	Whether or not inheritance rights discriminate against women and girls	F.1, L.1	2	UN-Women
11	Legal minimum age at marriage, by sex	L.1	1	UNSD

Abbreviations: ILO, International Labour Organization; IPU, Inter-Parliamentary Union; UNSD, Statistics Division; UN-Women, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.