



**Technical Committee of Experts on
“Gender Related Issues”**

**Third Session of OIC Statistical Commission
10 - 12 April 2013
Ankara - Turkey**

BACKGROUND

- During the past three decades, there has been a growing concern about gender equality and the empowerment of women in all walks of life.
- Consequently, more gender-oriented policies have begun to be developed at both national and international level.
- As decision makers should rely on reliable data to implement sound policies, production of related statistics in gender related issues is highly critical in order to accurately assess the existing situation of women and monitor the progress over time.

BACKGROUND (cont'd)

- The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) established the Inter Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics to identify the core set of indicators related to gender aspects of development with a special emphasis on measuring different forms of **“violence against women”**.
- Within this framework, one of the featured studies was also to launch country surveys to measure different existing practices which will allow making the cross-country comparisons. With the contributions and comments provided by the experts and outcomes of the surveys carried out by countries the respective guidelines have been developed and will be published in 2013.

BACKGROUND (cont'd)

- Owing to the critical importance of this issue, the NBS of UAE had proposed to the Second Session of the OIC-StatCom to work on gender related issues, particularly on concepts and definitions.
- The Commission agreed to express the common view of the member countries on newly formed themes and indicators such as gender statistics in a coordinated manner so as to enhance studies of global statistical community in these areas by reflecting values of OIC countries.
- In this regard, it was decided establish a TCE with an aim to follow up the studies carried out at the international level on gender related issues.

OBJECTIVE

- The major objective of the TCE is to review the existing concepts and definitions on gender related issues from all aspects.
- This is to be undertaken by drawing up concrete proposals which will be presented to the global statistical community to broaden the available concepts and definitions and to adequately reflect the situation considering different cultural practices.
- In this respect, the proposal is also aimed to contribute to the developments at the international level by giving justification to the UN Questionnaire on *Violence Against Women*.

TASKS

- examine concepts and definitions related to gender statistics including the international manuals, guidelines and special questionnaires
- identify the priority topics of gender statistics to be studied by the TCE through reviewing the existing practices of OIC Member Countries in terms of differences in gender related issues and role of women in different spheres of the community
- evaluate the data collection practices of OIC Member Countries about gender related issues and determine whether statistical training could be provided

TASKS (cont'd)

- review the existing practices of member countries related to measuring violence against women and identify the points that are not parallel with the concepts and definitions of the international guidelines
- prepare a report to be submitted to the international statistical community to facilitate the review of the concepts and definitions that exist in various diverse cultural environments in order to achieve a more inclusive approach

MEMBERS OF TCE

Lead Country: UAE (NBS)

Country Members: Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Maldives, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Tunisia and Turkey

Permanent Members: SESRIC and IDB

TCE MEETING

- To discuss the related tasks and emerging issues of TCE in detail with the designated experts of the member countries , SESRIC organised the OIC-StatCom TCE Meeting on Gender Related Issues on 21 – 22 January 2013 at the SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Turkey.
- The Meeting brought together experts from the NSOs of OIC countries including Egypt, Indonesia, Nigeria, Oman, Sudan, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates. The delegation of UAE chaired the Meeting. The experts representing various international organisations including IDB, UNESCWA, UNFPA Turkey Country Office also attended the Meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The delegations participating in the OIC-StatCom TCE Meeting on Gender Related Issues recognized that the content, scope and profile of gender statistics, including statistics on violence against women, vary from country to country due to economic, cultural and traditional differences as well as differences in policy objectives.

Considering the above, the TCE agreed on the following recommendations:

- 1) The performance of OIC Member Countries in statistical processes concerning gender related data has still room for improvement to reach the desired level. In this regard, SESRIC and IDB in collaboration with UNESCWA should scale-up capacity building efforts in that area.

RECOMMENDATIONS (cont'd)

2) The NBS of the UAE, in consultation with the interested members of TCE, should prepare a draft report highlighting its perspective on the concepts and definitions of “*violence against women*” indicators brought forward by the international statistical community. To have a broader view, the draft report may also be extended to cover the common perspectives of other GCC countries.

3) As the Secretariat of OIC-StatCom, SESRIC should circulate NBS’s draft report to the NSOs of OIC Member Countries to collect their feedback before the Third Session of OIC-StatCom.

4) The final report should be submitted to the Third Session of OIC-StatCom to invite the participants from NSOs and international organisations to take note of the concerns of respective OIC Member Countries.

RECOMMENDATIONS (cont'd)

5) By considering the previous efforts of UNESCWA exerted for the Arab Gender Indicator List and VAW toolkit, a short questionnaire should be prepared and sent to the NSOs of OIC Countries by the Secretariat of OIC-StatCom to assess the relevance of the UN minimum set of gender indicators. The outcome of the survey should be shared with Members of OIC-StatCom.

6) OIC Countries should participate and take an active role in all relevant expert group meetings of the UN and voice their perspectives and concerns about specific issues directly during those meetings.

7) SESRIC and IDB are encouraged to participate in the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS).

A world map is shown in the background, with several regions highlighted in green. These regions include parts of Europe, Africa, and Asia. A dark blue horizontal banner is overlaid across the middle of the map, containing the text 'THANK YOU!' in white, bold, serif capital letters.

THANK YOU!

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