



**Region Workshop on Integrating a Gender Perspective in the
Production of Statistics**

Amman, Jordan
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Opening Remarks

Stefan Schweinfest, Director
United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

Delivered by
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Distinguished Participants,

On behalf of Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division, I would like to welcome you to the Region Workshop on Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Production of Statistics.

I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and in particular to the Jordan Department of Statistics under the leadership of Dr. Qasem Al Zoubi, the Director General, for kindly hosting this workshop.

Let me start by highlighting that progress towards achieving gender equality is mixed. Whilst much progress has been made in some fields, there remain areas of concern: According to the latest UNSD global assessment, women's representation in positions of power and decision-making continues to increase in most countries but is still far from parity. Women's status in the labour market has improved, but gender disparity persists in wages, occupations and access to social protection. Women remain the primary caretakers of the family, which calls for family-friendly policies to support greater women's participation in the labour market.

Violence against women continues to affect women in all regions of the world, with an estimated 35 per cent of all women experiencing physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.

On a positive side, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment continues to be at the forefront of global policy concerns, as recently reaffirmed by the inclusion of a stand-alone goal on "*achieving gender equality and*

empower all women and girls” in the outcome document of the Open Working Group (OWG) for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in New York in July 2014. We anticipate that this will translate into an increased demand for gender statistics that are regularly produced and provide solid and objective evidence.

So let me turn to the topic of data and statistics now.

We are fully aware of the existence of many data gaps for national and international monitoring particularly in less traditional areas of official statistics. Countries are facing many challenges in mainstreaming the gender dimension into data production, analysis and dissemination. For instance, time use data and statistics on time spent on domestic chores and caring are available in around a third of countries of the world. An even smaller proportion of countries “value” this unpaid work through satellite accounts for household production. As another example, only half of countries produce statistics on violence against women. Yet this extreme form of discrimination affects women everywhere in the world. Existing country-level data are not yet fully comparable, but we expect great improvements after the recent adoption of agreed international statistical methods on measuring violence against women.

Additional efforts are also needed to develop new methods to measure important areas of gender equality and women’s empowerment like *poverty* from a gender perspective and the unequal intra-household distribution of power and resources. Finally, a significant challenge relates to the need to address gender equality and women’s rights for different demographic and social groups.

Lifecycle analyses of gender equality suggest that women and girls face different constraints that can be age-specific or may be specific to different socioeconomic groups. Disaggregated statistics along these lines should be promoted as well as a renewed effort to fully analyse existing survey data, and to explore other data sources, including administrative records.

Work programme of UNSD in the area of gender statistics

Dear colleagues,

It is in this context that I am happy to restate UNSD firm commitment to bring gender statistics programmes forward and lead the development of gender statistics globally.

As many of you already know, UNSD has been actively working on the production and monitoring of gender statistics since the early 1980s. Of particular importance to our work is the fact that the UN Statistical Commission in February 2013 *“agreed to use a minimum set of gender indicators”*, identified by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, *“as a basic set for international compilation and national data collection”*. We believe this is an important step towards the harmonization of gender statistics across countries.

Important methodological work is also underway on selected gender indicators for which internationally agreed concepts and comparable data are not currently available. An example of such work is the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project implemented by the UN Statistics Division and

UN-Women, in collaboration with the World Bank, OECD, FAO, Asian Development Bank and African Development Bank, whose aim is to develop and test methodologies to measure asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective by 2016.

Dear colleagues, I'm happy to report that UNSD is finalizing the publication

World's Women 2015: trends and statistics that will provide the latest analysis on the status of women compared to men in all critical areas identified in the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action.

Finally,

We, at the United Nations Statistics Division, are honoured to serve the global statistical community and remain committed to foster the development of gender statistics, promote collaboration among national, regional and international statistical agencies and to assist national statistical systems to fully integrate a gender perspective in their work.

Let me conclude by expressing our appreciation for your participation in this workshop, and by thanking once again the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, for their kind hospitality and expert participation. The UN Statistics Division looks forward to working with you all to promote the advancement of gender statistics.

Thank you and I wish you a very successful meeting.