Economic and Social Council

Statistical Commission
Fifty-first session
3–6 March 2020
Item 3 (m) of the provisional agenda*
Items for discussion and decision: gender statistics

Gender statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

> The present report, which was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2019/210 and past practices, provides a summary of the recent activities undertaken by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics under the umbrella of the Global Gender Statistics Programme. The report covers the development by the Statistics Division and a group of subject matter experts of guidelines to improve the production of time-use data in line with the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS 2016), as requested by the Commission (E/2017/24-E/CN.3/2017/35, chap. I.C, decision 48/109). The report also covers the preparation of *The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics*, a comprehensive descriptive review of progress towards gender equality at the global, regional and national levels. Lastly, the report highlights the outcomes of the thirteenth meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and the organization of the eighth Global Forum on Gender Statistics.

> The Statistical Commission is invited to comment on the work undertaken to date to identify options for producing time-use data in a more cost-effective manner and to approve the terms of reference of the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics. The Commission is also invited to express its views on the preparation of *The World's Women 2020*, the organization of the eighth Global Forum on Gender Statistics and other ongoing work and future priorities for the Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics to strengthen gender data in support of Sustainable Development Goal monitoring, under the Global Gender Statistics Programme. Action to be taken by the Commission is set out in paragraph 43.

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* E/CN.3/2020/1.

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I. Introduction

1.   The present report summarizes the work undertaken by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics in 2018 and 2019 to fulfil the requests of the Statistical Commission contained in its decisions 42/102, 44/109 and 48/109, in terms of: (a) developing methodological guidelines for the production and use of gender statistics, including on the measurement of time use and unpaid domestic and care work; (b) reporting on the latest statistics and analysis of progress towards gender equality in *The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics*; (c) serving as the coordination mechanism for the Global Gender Statistics Programme, inter alia, by convening the annual meetings of the Group; and (d) organizing the Global Forum on Gender Statistics every two years. Furthermore, the report describes other ongoing and planned activities by the Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics to strengthen gender data at the national, regional and international levels.

II. Modernizing time-use data collection

2.   Since 2018, the Statistics Division and the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics have been working towards the implementation of the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS 2016) and the modernization of time-use surveys, in the context of updating the *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work*[1] and with the overall objective of further promoting this critical data collection across countries and over time.

3.   The updated Guide aims to provide national statistical offices and policymakers with recommendations and best practices for collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating time-use statistics to inform research and the development of a broad range of policies, including on unpaid work and non-market production, well-being and gender equality. The guidelines will introduce key concepts and definitions related to time-use data and provide national statistical offices with advice on the different phases and processes (data needs, design, build, collect, process, analyse, disseminate and evaluate)[2] when implementing a household survey or appending a module on time-use to a nationally representative household survey. By exploring ways to modernize the collection of time-use data, including through the use of technology, the guidelines will ensure that national statistical offices have access to a sustainable model to institutionalize the systematic collection of those data. The updated Guide will build on the *Guidelines for Harmonizing Time-Use Surveys*, published by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in 2013.

4.   Given the multiple strategies and different methods adopted by countries for collecting time-use data and the recognition that there is no one single solution that would respond to the data needs of all countries, the Group agreed to initially work on a draft conceptual framework proposing a "basket of options". Proposed options will cover different instruments (including full diaries, light diaries and stylized questions) and modes for collecting time-use data (using computer-assisted personal interviews, computer-assisted web interviewing, computer-assisted telephone interviewing or a mixed-mode approach) in line with ICATUS 2016 and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular indicator 5.4.1, and will highlight the advantages and shortcomings of the options, as well as ways to mitigate any

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[1] Available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesf/seriesf_93e.pdf.
[2] In accordance with the Generic Statistical Business Process Model phases.

shortcomings. Recommendations for background questionnaires at the household and individual levels will also be part of the framework. Countries will be able to choose a solution for collecting time-use data depending on their data needs, capabilities and resources. To date, the Group has been working on selected priority components of the conceptual framework that, once finalized, will be at the core of the revised *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use*, namely: (a) policy relevance – making the case for time-use data to respond to policy and research questions, including in support of Sustainable Development Goal monitoring; (b) time-use data and time-use surveys: concepts and definitions; (c) a minimum harmonized instrument for collecting time-use data; (d) quality assurance in the context of time-use surveys. The components will be brought to the attention of the Statistical Commission as background documents for the Commission's comments.

A.   Mandates and background

5.   Different international agreements point to the importance of collecting time-use statistics for evidence-based policies and research. In the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, from 4 to 15 September 1995, Governments requested that regular time-use studies be conducted to measure unpaid work (strategic objective H.3). More recently, in target 5.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, States were called upon to "recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate". The related global indicator, indicator 5.4.1 of the Goals, "Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location", was agreed upon to measure and monitor progress towards improved distribution of unpaid work.

6.   National statistical offices are expected to produce high-quality time-use data that are granular enough to inform policy formulation and respond to other users' needs and that are suitable for trend analysis and cross-country comparisons. However, many countries are facing challenges in conducting time-use surveys as they are complex and costly. Traditional time-use surveys, in particular those requesting respondents to complete leave-behind paper diaries, are facing low response rates owing to the overall "fatigue" of respondents who are tired of engaging in household surveys and the additional high burden of completing paper time diaries. Furthermore, coding and processing time-use data are complex and resource-intensive procedures.

7.   As a direct consequence of the above challenges, there is a lack of time-use data in many countries. On the basis of the data available for indicator 5.4.1 in the global database, compiled by the Statistics Division, only around 90 countries have at least one data point since 2000, of which 56 per cent have only one observation, 29 per cent have two data points and only 15 per cent have three or more data points, thus limiting the possibility of measuring progress. In addition, fewer countries calculate the monetary value of unpaid household service work to complement their national gross domestic product through the compilation of satellite accounts. These figures show the pressing need for higher country coverage and more regular collection of time-use data.

8.   A call to support countries in their efforts to collect and use time-use data to inform policies was also voiced by Member States at the forty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission, in March 2017. On that occasion, Member States endorsed ICATUS 2016 and supported the development of methodological guidelines on how to implement it to produce internationally comparable time-use data, using the latest

technologies, in support of Sustainable Development Goal monitoring, in particular in developing regions (E/2017/24-E/CN.3/2017/35, chap. I.C, decision 48/109).

9.   In response to the above request, the Statistics Division organized the first meeting of the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics, held in New York from 20 to 22 June 2018.[3]

10.   The Group is composed of experts from national and international organizations with extensive experience in time-use surveys in terms of data collection instruments and modes, coding and activity classifications, including ICATUS 2016, and data analysis. The current members of the Group are representatives from statistical offices of countries and organizations (Australia, Canada (Chair), China, Finland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, New Zealand, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), ECE, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and Eurostat) and time-use experts (Margarita Guerrero and Ignace Glorieux). Data2X is contributing financially to the work undertaken by the Group in 2019 and 2020.

11.   After the first meeting, the Group met three times virtually and twice face-to-face (in May 2019[4] and November 2019[5]) to continue the process of developing practical guidance to implement ICATUS 2016 and producing time-use statistics using the latest technologies.

12.   The terms of reference for the Group will be provided as a background document, available on the Statistical Commission portal (https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/).

B.   Proposed priority outputs

13.   The Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics identified the components to be updated in the *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use* as a priority, as described below. Additional information on these components is provided in background documents, available on the Statistical Commission portal.

(a)   Policy relevance – making the case for time-use data in support of Sustainable Development Goal monitoring

14.   The value of time-use data is increasingly acknowledged, in particular for measuring unpaid household service work, well-being and gender equality. Time-use data are also critical to guiding policies and research related to commuting and transportation, as well as education, health, culture, environment and sports. Time-use data analysis is therefore fundamental for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a broad range of public policies, including those required for the achievement of sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, time-use data are necessary and serve as a direct input for monitoring progress towards the achievement of indicator 5.4.1, and they contribute to the evidence needed for monitoring other Goals and targets.

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[3] See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2018/newyork-egm-tus.cshtml.
[4] See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2019/newyork-egm-tus/.
[5] See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2019/newyork-egm-tus-nov.cshtml.

(b) Concepts and definitions

15.   The Group initially reviewed and agreed upon key definitions of terms related to time-use data and time-use surveys to facilitate discussions and common understanding among members of the Group, and to provide and promote consistent and harmonized terminology in the *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use*. This effort was later expanded to include country examples and practices in addition to concepts and definitions related to the collection of time-use data. This has been summarized in a background document for the Commission's attention and will be further developed into a dedicated chapter of the updated Guide.

(c) Modernizing time-use surveys

16.   The traditional time-use survey approach using paper diaries is resource intensive, in particular during the collection and digitalization of information and the coding of activities. In addition to high data collection and processing costs, national statistical offices are also facing challenges in conducting time-use surveys owing to decreasing response rates and delays in the dissemination of survey results. In the context of modernizing their national statistical systems, national statistical offices are exploring alternative ways of collecting time-use data through the use of technology, resulting in the digitalization of data collections. For instance, the adoption of a mixed-mode approach enables the targeting of different population groups and the provision of participation options to selected respondents, as ways to reduce non-response.

17.   Furthermore, the use of technology is becoming an integral part of the production of time-use statistics in many countries for improved efficiency in data collection and increased data quality. Technology can also facilitate the implementation of activity classifications, including ICATUS 2016, during all survey phases and, in particular, the simplification of activity coding during data processing.

18.   While the Group is exploring the use of technology and recommends the digitalization of time-use data collection, it is also identifying and assessing possible challenges, including access to and coverage of technology (for self-completed instruments) and a potential "mode effect" to be accounted for, in particular when countries are mixing modes for data collection. In this regard, the Group is learning from the work undertaken by Eurostat and partners on innovative tools for household budget and time-use surveys, including solutions to lower the burden for respondents, increase response rates and decrease the overall workload of national statistical offices.

(d) Minimum harmonized instrument

19.   In response to countries' requests for support on the collection of time-use statistics, in particular in the context of Sustainable Development Goal monitoring, the Group developed a minimum harmonized instrument for the collection of time-use data, including for the measurement of indicator 5.4.1, in line with ICATUS 2016 (second-level activities) and other international standards, to ensure cross-country comparability. The instrument consists of two parts: a set of questions capturing essential economic characteristics of the respondents through a background questionnaire; and a minimum list of 25 predefined activities (including "other" to account for activities that are not listed), relevant contextual information and additional probing questions. The instrument proposes a minimum set of requirements that can be used by national statistical offices to collect time-use data or as the basis for the design of their data collection approach using either diaries or stylized questions.

Set of questions capturing essential economic and labour characteristics of respondents

20.   Reporting time-use data in line with ICATUS 2016 will require the collection of characteristics of the respondents in background questionnaires to complement the information obtained in the diary. The Group, with direct guidance provided by ILO, one of its members, initially focused on the coding of activities under ICATUS 2016 major divisions "Employment and related activities" and "Production of goods for own final use" and has identified essential economic characteristics of respondents to be captured in a background questionnaire to facilitate the correct coding of those activities.[6] Model questions and sequences to capture those characteristics are provided as examples and are aligned with ILO recommendations for capturing employment and the production of goods for own final use, as defined in resolution 1 of the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization. It is recommended that countries use the approach already established at the national level to capture those characteristics in surveys, in particular labour force surveys, provided that the details required for coding time-use activities are captured, or adapt the national approach in line with the characteristics described above to be suitable for time-use surveys.

Minimum list of activities

21.   The predefined list of activities was agreed by the Group on the basis of: (a) information available in about 15 light diaries used by countries around the world; and (b) activities used in stylized questions in 15 Latin American and Caribbean countries. The predefined list of activities covers all possible activities that could be carried out by a person in a day and consists of 25 activities (including "other" to account for activities that are not listed). This list of activities was developed for use in light diaries and stylized questions and represents the minimum requirements to enable the production of time-use statistics in line with ICATUS 2016 (second-level activities). Nine of the 25 activities relate to unpaid domestic work (seven activities) and care work (two activities) and are recommended for the collection of data to measure indicator 5.4.1.

22.   In terms of mode of data collection, the digitalization of the minimum harmonized instrument will also facilitate the required links between the background questions and the diary.

(e)   **Quality assurance in the context of time-use surveys and statistics**

23.   The quality of a survey is of extreme importance to obtain relevant, accurate and reliable results. Quality assurance procedures should be implemented to prevent unacceptable practices and minimize errors in the production of data. The Group is developing a framework for defining quality in the context of time-use surveys and statistics to guide the collection of data and enable a multidimensional assessment of the quality of the time-use statistics produced. The framework will be anchored in agreed related frameworks, such as the National Quality Assurance Framework, for each survey cycle component and the Generic Statistical Business Process Model phases. It will propose quality standards by identifying a minimum set of elements to

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[6] Identification of employed respondents; for those employed, identification of multiple job-holding status and essential characteristics of the jobs, in particular status in employment, occupation, industry, institutional sector and business incorporation; and identification of persons engaged in own-account farming, animal husbandry and fishing, the main intended destination of the production and the main goods produced.

be ensured, selecting a core set of quality indicators and their acceptable "cut-off" values, and addressing the issue of data comparability across time and countries.

C. Future plans

24. In 2020, the Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics, will continue to consolidate technical inputs on the methodological aspects related to the modernization of time-use surveys, as described above. From 2021, countries will be able to select from proposed options for collecting time-use data in efficient ways. The Statistics Division and the Group will continue to work on the update to the *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use*, which is to be finalized in 2022 and submitted to the Statistical Commission in 2023, taking into account feedback received from countries on their implementation and adaptation of the proposed methods.

III. *The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics*

25. The Statistics Division, in collaboration with key partners, and with guidance from the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, is preparing the seventh edition of the World's Women report, *The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics*, containing statistics and analysis on the status of women and men at the global, regional, national and subnational levels according to the latest available data and highlighting progress since 1995. The publication will cover selected policy areas relevant to addressing gender concerns, in line with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It will contain analysis based primarily on available statistics from national and international statistical sources and inputs and contributions provided by national and international experts, including relevant offices of the United Nations and national statistical offices.

26. The World's Women reports have been prepared by the Statistics Division in collaboration with specialized international agencies and other partners at five-year intervals, as called for in the Beijing Platform for Action.[7] Six reports have been published to date as part of the series. All reports except one (2005) analyse the situation of women compared with that of men worldwide in a broad range of fields. The 2005 edition reviewed and analysed national capacity to collect and report sex-disaggregated data on socioeconomic topics related to gender equality. The seventh edition, *The World's Women 2020*, will be available online only and, consistent with past practices, will contain the latest statistics and an assessment of progress over time on key gender issues. It will consist of multiple online products brought together under a dedicated portal.

27. The online products will include: (a) a searchable and user-friendly data and metadata repository, based on the minimum set of gender indicators,[8] providing access to the latest data and trends through dynamic charts and tables, as well as additional data and metadata provided by custodian agencies for selected indicators; (b) gender story maps linking statistical and geospatial data for selected countries, thus enriching the analysis and improving the level of geographical disaggregation;

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[7] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. IV, para. 208.

[8] The minimum set of gender indicators is available at https://genderstats.un.org/#/home. The set was identified by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and was agreed upon by the Statistical Commission as a guide for the national production and international compilation of gender statistics, through its decision 44/109 in 2013.

(c) a collection of brief stories and two-pagers containing easy-to-read, non-technical narrative on critical gender issues grouped under the following initial themes: economic structures, participation in productive activities and access to resources; education; health and related services; power and decision-making; violence against women; environment; and changes in population and families. Furthermore, the two-pagers will highlight data availability and gaps and relevant methodological developments, where available. It is expected that the portal will be launched in October 2020.

IV. Thirteenth meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics

28. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, comprising representatives of the gender statistics programmes of international, regional and national institutions, was set up in 2007 to promote collaboration among key stakeholders and to discuss and agree upon priority areas to strengthen gender statistics and fill gender data gaps, in a coordinated manner. Its main tasks include taking stock, reviewing progress, challenges and emerging needs, and proposing measures to advance gender statistics at the international, regional and national levels.

29. At its forty-second session, in 2011, the Statistical Commission urged the Statistics Division to enhance its leading role in the development of gender statistics globally and acknowledged the strategic role of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics. In its decision 42/102, the Commission recommended an expansion of the work of the Group to include: (a) reviewing gender statistics with the aim of establishing a minimum set of gender indicators; (b) guiding the development of manuals and methodological guidelines for the production and use of gender statistics; (c) serving as the coordination mechanism for the Global Gender Statistics Programme; (d) continuing to hold annual meetings of the Group; (e) convening biannually the Global Forum on Gender Statistics; and (f) offering technical support for the enhancement of gender statistics programmes in countries.

30. Current members of the Group include the national statistical offices of 20 countries, namely, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, South Africa, Uganda, the United States, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, and the following organizations: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, ILO, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the International Telecommunication Union, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Population Division, the United Nations regional commissions, the Statistics Division, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization and the World Bank Group.

31. The thirteenth annual meeting of the Group was organized by the Statistics Division and held in New York on 7 and 8 November 2019. A total of 57 gender experts and statisticians attended the meeting, including 23 participants from 20

national statistical offices, [9] four regional commissions [10] and 15 international organizations consisting of custodian agencies of all gender-relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators. [11] The meeting was chaired by Statistics Finland and the Office of the Director General for Policy Planning on Statistical Standards, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan. The Division served as the secretariat of the Group.

32.   During the meeting, the Group took stock of and provided feedback on selected components of the ongoing methodological work undertaken by the Statistics Division and the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics to produce high-quality time-use data in line with international standards and using the latest technologies (see sect. II).

33.   In addition, methodological developments for measuring and monitoring specific areas of gender concerns were reviewed and discussed, including: statistics on femicide and trafficking in persons and the gender relevance of statistics on drugs (UNODC); the collection and use of administrative data on violence against women (UN-Women); the nexus between gender and environment statistics (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Women and UNEP); measurement of poverty gaps within the household (World Bank); and measurement of the impact of trade on gender equality (UNCTAD).

A.   Advisory Group on Strengthening Administrative Systems to Close Gender Data Gaps

34.   Given the limited research on the current and potential use of administrative data systems to inform gender analysis and policies, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics formed an Advisory Group on Strengthening Administrative Systems to Close Gender Data Gaps in 2018. Chaired by UNICEF and comprising self-nominated representatives from eight member countries [12] and 11 partner agencies, [13] the Advisory Group has the overall objective of providing guidance on how administrative data systems can be maximized as a source of sex-disaggregated and gender-specific indicators required to monitor global and national policy commitments and inform development programmes.

35.   To date, activities carried out by the Advisory Group include: (a) a comprehensive literature review, which documents previous and ongoing work [14] and

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[9] Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, South Africa, Uganda, United States of America, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

[10] Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

[11] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization (ILO), Development Centre of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, Population Division, Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, United Nations Development Programme, Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), World Health Organization and World Bank.

[12] Brazil, Canada, Ghana, India, Jordan, Morocco, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

[13] UNICEF (Chair), ILO, OECD Development Centre, UNFPA, UNODC, World Bank, ESCAP, ECLAC, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Statistics Division and UN-Women.

[14] Including ongoing research on data on violence against women and femicide from administrative systems, undertaken by UN-Women and UNODC, respectively.

broadly describes the sex-disaggregated and gender-specific indicators that can be sourced from administrative data systems, including analysis of common barriers and issues when sourcing gender data from administrative systems and priorities for improvement; (b) consultations with members of the Advisory Group to better understand the availability and quality of gender data and statistics sourced from administrative systems in member countries and respondents' views on the use of these systems as a source of gender data; and (c) a series of semi-structured interviews with national statistical offices and key line ministries from three Advisory Group member countries (Brazil, Canada and Ghana) to better understand opportunities for leveraging system improvements to yield better gender data. In particular, the interviews focus on key questions such as which administrative systems should be prioritized for gender data and why, basic disaggregation tabulations that should be built into administrative systems and how gender statisticians can engage in the broader administrative data landscape to ensure that gender data needs are reflected. It is anticipated that final products will include a country guidance document and a peer-reviewed paper on the key challenges and future opportunities for the use of administrate data to improve gender statistics.

36.   Key findings to date on the use of administrative data systems for gender data among member countries of the Advisory Group highlight broad and general challenges such as digitization, protection of personal information, standardization of concepts and definitions, lack of metadata and uncoordinated systems. However, selected gender-specific challenges, such as the fact that women and girls are less likely to have identification documents or the ability to access services, decreasing their chances of being captured by administrative systems, were also pointed out by some countries. Furthermore, while many commented on the relative ease of collecting "sex" compared with other disaggregation variables, there was consensus that if gender-sensitive information beyond sex is needed, it is challenging to include new questions on administrative data collection forms.

B.   National practices in measuring and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals from a gender perspective

37.   During the meeting, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics also took stock of and discussed national practices in measuring and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals from a gender perspective and in interacting with policymakers and coordinating with other national agencies to inform gender-relevant policies, on the basis of the experiences shared by the national statistical offices of Georgia, Jordan and Kazakhstan. The Group praised the decade-long contribution of Jordan to the Group's work and took note of the improvement in gender statistics in the country and of the efforts made to measure intersectionality dimensions, including gender and migrant status. The Group was also informed of and welcomed the efforts of Kazakhstan to measure the quality of life of women with disabilities and to disseminate data in Braille and through audio recordings, and the progress made by Georgia in integrating gender into all functions and domains of the national statistical system to meet statistical needs within available resources.

C.   Coordination of regional and international work programmes and initiatives on gender statistics

38.   The Group reviewed and discussed ongoing regional and international initiatives to provide technical assistance and build statistical capacity at the country level. The Group took stock of lessons learned in the implementation of the gender statistics and indicators component of the Programme on Statistics and Data under

the tenth tranche of the United Nations Development Account,[15] regional initiatives and international activities on gender statistics, and findings from internationally produced reports using gender data. The Group also discussed results from a mapping exercise conducted within the Group to better understand "who is doing what" and to identify opportunities for collaboration, strengthen partnerships, reduce overlaps, avoid duplication of efforts and ensure coordination within the Group and a shared strategy to strengthen gender data.

D. Contribution of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics to the preparation of *The World's Women 2020*

39.   At the session dedicated to *The World's Women 2020*, a group exercise was conducted to identify and discuss assessments of gender equality undertaken by members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, many of whom expressed interest in contributing to the global assessment of progress towards gender equality since 1995 and being featured in the publication. Examples of gender narratives proposed by countries to be disseminated at the global level include: the living arrangements of girls and boys living in two homes in Finland; reading, numeracy and information and communications technology skills of girls and boys in urban and rural areas in Zimbabwe; young women and men who are not in employment, education or training in Morocco; work-life balance of women and men by race and ethnicity in Brazil; situation of homeless women and men by migrant status in Italy; and the economic security of older women and men who are not in the labour force in Australia. Contributions could also include countries' gender story maps,[16] building on those developed by Ireland, Mexico and the State of Palestine in 2018, as a tool to direct users to specific population subgroups and subnational areas.

40.   The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics agreed upon its 2020 annual work programme, which includes the following:

(a)   The Statistics Division will ensure collaboration between the Group and the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics, in particular among member countries who are in the process of conducting time-use surveys. ECLAC, as member of both groups, will ensure alignment between the global methodological guidelines for time-use statistics and the guidelines developed in the region;

(b)   The Group will review and comment on the background paper produced by UN-Women and the recommendations emanating from the UN-Women Expert Group Meeting on the collection and use of administrative data on violence against women;

(c)   The World Bank will report on its progress in measuring poverty gaps within the household, and the Group will remain available to provide feedback on assumptions made for modelled data from a statistical perspective using a gender lens;

(d)   The Group will review advances made by UNCTAD on the nexus between gender and trade statistics;

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[15] The tenth tranche of the United Nations Development Account covers the period 2016–2019. The Programme on Statistics and Data is a comprehensive project centred on strengthening national statistical systems to measure, monitor and report on the Sustainable Development Goals. It is jointly implemented by 10 entities: Statistics Division, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNODC, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Economic Commission for Europe, ECA, ESCAP, ECLAC and ESCWA.

[16] Available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/gender/storymap/index.html.

(e)   The Advisory Group on Strengthening Administrative Systems to Close Gender Data Gaps (chaired by UNICEF) will extend its work to cover additional interested member countries and will report on the progress achieved to support gender analyses using gender data from administrative data sources;

(f)   The Advisory Group on Gender Indicators (chaired by Jordan) will revisit the 80 Sustainable Development Goal indicators previously identified by the Group as gender-relevant and the 54 indicators prioritized by UN-Women, following potential changes that could result from the 2020 comprehensive review of the Sustainable Development Goals. Once agreed, the list of gender-relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators will be officially submitted by the Group's co-chairs (Finland and Japan) to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to contribute to its work stream on data disaggregation;

(g)   ECE and partner countries will report on the progress in their preliminary work on measuring gender identity;

(h)   The Statistics Division will follow up with the Group's members wishing to contribute to *The World's Women 2020* by providing their gender stories and supporting data that will be published in this global document in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

(i)   The Group will provide inputs and contribute to the organization of the eighth Global Forum on Gender Statistics, to be held in Switzerland;

(j)   The fourteenth annual meeting of the Group will be convened in 2020.

V.   The way forward

41.   In 2020, under the Global Gender Statistics Programme, the work of the Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics will cover the activities agreed upon by the Group at its thirteenth meeting. Priority will be given to the preparation of *The World's Women 2020*, the review of and agreement on gender-relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators, and the work of the Advisory Group on Strengthening Administrative Systems to Close Gender Data Gaps, including on violence against women.

42.   Furthermore, the Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Government of Switzerland and relevant international agencies and development partners, and under the guidance of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, will organize and convene the fourteenth meeting of the Group, to be held on 17 October 2020, and the eighth Global Forum on Gender Statistics, to be held in Bern on 15 and 16 October 2020 on the margins of the third United Nations World Data Forum.

VI.   Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission

43.   **The Commission is invited:**

(a)   **To endorse the work of the Statistics Division and the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics, and to comment on the selected components of the conceptual framework to modernize time-use statistics brought to the attention of the Commission;**

(b)   **To take note of the workplan to update the *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use*: *Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work*, and to express interest in using the proposed methods and contributing to their finalization;**

(c)   **To express its views on and approve the terms of reference for the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics;**

(d)   **To comment on and express interest in contributing to the preparation of** *The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics***, which will provide a descriptive analysis of progress towards gender equality at the global, regional, national and subnational levels and highlight gender gaps over the life cycle and across vulnerable population subgroups, through short gender narratives and related gender story maps, among other online products;**

(e)   **To take note of and support other work priorities of the Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics under the umbrella of the Global Gender Statistics Programme, including the preparation, in collaboration with Statistics Switzerland, of the eighth Global Forum on Gender Statistics, to be held in Bern on 15 and 16 October 2020.**

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