Information Note for Participants

Workshop on Developing National Gender Statistics Programmes in the Arab Countries
Istanbul, 19-21 May 2015

1. BACKGROUND
Recognition of the centrality of gender equality to social and economic development has led to an increase in the demand for gender statistics and indicators for monitoring and planning. Although considerable effort and resources have been invested towards the development of gender statistics worldwide, significant gaps remain. In particular, there are still many critical areas of concern for gender equality for which little or no gender statistics exist. With global and regional frameworks well established UN ESCWA has been implementing a series of activities to assist countries to develop their national frameworks since April 2014. After one year eight countries have finalized or at final steps of finalizing their frameworks and conducted assessments of existing gaps in gender indicators. These countries are Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Palestine and Tunis.

This workshop comes as a second step to utilize these assessments to develop customized national programmes for improving gender statistics at the country level. The workshop will also enhance the capacities of member countries to either start or strengthen an existing gender statistics programme through following specific steps and actions.

2. Expected Accomplishment and Workshop Objectives
The workshop will enhance the capacities of member countries to develop customized national programmes for improving gender statistics at the country level.

The workshop is expected to accomplish the following:

a) Exchange experience among the participating countries
b) Enhance the capacities of member countries to either start or strengthen an existing gender statistics programme through following specific steps and actions;
c) Develop draft national plans of action to improve the production of gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data;

3. Activities during the workshop
- Workshop activities will include working sessions on reviewing specific steps and actions to either start or strengthen an existing gender statistics programme, conducting analysis and assessments of strengths and weaknesses to come up with a set of recommendations for planning the development of gender statistics.

4. Requirements
The workshop is based on group discussions and working sessions, participants are therefore required to make the following preparations:

- bring their own laptops to complete the electronic drafts of their national plans.
- prepare presentations following the outline presented in Annex I
5. Workshop time and venue
- The three-day workshop will commence on the 19th of May and will be held in Room “SEMENDER” at the Central Palace Hotel in Istanbul. The morning sessions will start @9:00 a.m. and the workshop will end daily @4:00 p.m.

- The address of the Central Palace Hotel:

  Lamartin Caddesi 34437
  No:18 Taksim/Istanbul
  Turkey
  Phone: +90 212 313 40 40, Fax: +90 212 313 40 39
  Website: www.thecentralpalace.com

6. Working language
- The workshop will be conducted in the Arabic language.

7. Accommodation
ESCWA has a group offer for all participants. Please note the following:

- All participants are requested to stay in the Central Palace Hotel as group deal has been negotiated. ESCWA will make advance booking for reservation of single rooms for all the participants at the Central Palace Hotel. Please advise the Hotel if you prefer otherwise. (single 100 Euro or double 120 Euro per night);

- Participants will receive equivalent of daily allowance subsistence US$268 in Istanbul as per UN Rules and Regulations;

- Participants are requested to kindly present their credit cards or leave a deposit upon arrival at the Hotel reception desk.

- Participants are requested to settle their bills directly with the Hotel once they receive their daily allowance (room rate, lunch, dinner, telephone calls, room orders, etc…) 

- Participants may benefit from the group discounted lunch and dinner (15% from menu rates) which will be à la Carte to be paid directly or charged to their rooms;

8. Transportation
- All participants may benefit from the Hotel transportation at 45 Euro (One way from AHL Airport up to 3 persons);
- Participants may benefit as well from the airport public transportation. There is an airport shuttle to down town that stops at a walking distance (30 meters) away from the hotel.

9. Visa and tickets
- UNESCWA will issue the tickets for all participants.
- UNESCWA will also send personal invitation letters to participants to facilitate the issuance of their VISAs, if needed.
- Participants are requested to obtain their visas as soon as possible.

10. Currency
- The exchange rate is 1.00US$= 2.6 TRY (Turkish Lira)
  1.08US$= 1Euro
11. Weather

- The weather in Istanbul begins to improve in May as spring is in full bloom. Temperatures can reach a mild 18°C during the day, dropping to a cool 12°C in the evening. The conference room where the workshop is to be held is air-conditioned and the temperature is maintained in the range of 23-24 degrees Celsius (72-73 degrees Fahrenheit).

Contact Information

For further information on the workshop kindly contact:

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