Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

3rd Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries
Beirut, 14-16 November 2011

Implications of the UN Statistical Commission 42nd session on Gender Statistics at the global and regional work programmes

Summary

The current report presents the programme review of gender statistics in 42nd session of the Statistical Commission held from 22 to 25 February 2011, and its regional implications. The report aims to inform participants about latest developments in gender statistics at the global agenda. It also aims to open discussion on the direction for implementation of the Regional and Global Programmes coordinated by ESCWA and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), respectively, and on the ways in which regional and global initiatives can be coordinated and strengthened.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The current report presents briefly the programme review of gender statistics in 42nd session of the Statistical Commission held in New York, from 22 to 25 February 2011, and its regional implications. The report aims to inform participants of the 3rd Meeting of the Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries about latest developments in gender statistics at the global agenda. It also aims to open discussion on the direction for implementation of the Regional and Global Programmes coordinated by ESCWA and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and in collaboration with United Nations agencies, and on the ways in which regional and global initiatives can be coordinated and strengthened.

2. The excerpts of the programme review on gender statistics and implications on the global and regional work Statistical Commission are presented hereafter.

I. PROGRAMME REVIEW: GENDER STATISTICS (42/102) IN THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION REPORT

3. The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the programme review contained in the report on gender statistics and the informal background documents, and expressed its appreciation to the Ghana Statistical Service for the work it had carried out as programme reviewer;

(b) Noted with appreciation the work of the United Nations Statistics Division on gender statistics, especially publication of The World’s Women 2010: Trends and Statistics, and the work of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission, led by Mexico, on indicators on violence against women;

(c) Urged the United Nations Statistics Division to strengthen its leadership role in charting the path for the development of gender statistics globally;

(d) Expressed its appreciation for the work on gender statistics carried out by the regional commissions and other entities such as the World Bank and the United Nations Population Fund and requested them to further strengthen their work in this area, and asked the United Nations Statistics Division to take the results into account in efforts to strengthen the global programme;

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(e) Agreed to the tasks specified in paragraph 46 and the proposals contained in paragraph 50 of the report of the Ghana Statistical Service but asked that appropriate priority be established;

(f) Acknowledged the strategic role of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on gender statistics and requested the expansion of its scope of work to include:

   (i) Review of gender statistics with the aim of establishing a minimum set of gender indicators;

   (ii) Guiding the development of manuals and methodological guidelines for the production and use of gender statistics;

   (iii) Serving as the coordination mechanism for the global programme on gender statistics;

(g) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division, the regional commissions, the World Bank and the United Nations Population Fund to work intensively with Member States to develop appropriate in-country support and to assist them in establishing a sound national programme on gender statistics;

(h) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to consult with the United Nations translation services to provide appropriate translations of the term “gender”, taking into account the work that has been carried out by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in this regard;

(i) Recognized that additional resources will be required for the gender statistics programme proposed, and requested the donor community to devote adequate resources to this important area;

(j) Requested that the United Nations Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group report to the Commission at its forty-third session on their proposed work plans and strategies aimed at strengthening the global gender statistics programme.
## II. REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

4. The following are the main implications of the UN Statistical Commission 42nd session on Gender Statistics at the regional work programme.

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<th>Selected paragraphs with direct implications at the regional work programme</th>
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<td>PARA (d)</td>
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Expressed its appreciation for the work on gender statistics carried out by the regional commissions and other entities such as the World Bank and the United Nations Population Fund and requested them to further strengthen their work in this area, and asked the United Nations Statistics Division to take the results into account in efforts to strengthen the global programme |
|  | Appreciation of ESCWA work at the global level is an achievement to the members of the Arab IAEG on Gender Statistics. This appreciation has translated into effective networking and collaboration at the international level. 
ESCWA will continue through its IAEG on Gender Statistics to strengthen its work in this area through close consultation with its various stakeholders. The results of this consultation will be taken into account for developing a regional programme that responds to emerging needs and the development and strengthening of national capacities. |
| PARA (f) | Acknowledged the strategic role of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on gender statistics and requested the expansion of its scope of work to include: 

i. Review of gender statistics with the aim of establishing a minimum set of gender indicators; 

ii. Guiding the development of manuals and methodological guidelines for the production and use of gender statistics; 

iii. Serving as the coordination mechanism for the global programme on gender statistics; |
|  | ESCWA is a member of the IAEG is effectively contributing to the :
- Synergizing the global minimum set of gender indicators with Arab GIsIn Framework
- Continuous consultation in the development of methodological handbooks and guidelines at the global and regional level with UNSD and UN agencies
- Contributing to the development and streamlining of the global programme on gender statistics at the regional level. 
Recognition of regional commission’s important role and networking at the regional level is resulting in effective streamlining and synergizing of work with global efforts. |
<p>| PARA (g) | Requested the United Nations Statistics Division, the regional commissions, the World Bank and the United Nations Population Fund |
|  | ESCWA invites the global and regional agencies to collaborate together in developing national programmes on gender statistics through further |</p>
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<th>PARA (h)</th>
<th>Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to consult with the United Nations translation services to provide appropriate translations of the term “gender”, taking into account the work that has been carried out by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in this regard; The Statistical Commission recognized ESCWA effort to unify and correct the use of the Arabic related gender terms and requested the commission to present its Dictionary officially to the translation services at the secretariat in New York.</th>
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<td>PARA (i)</td>
<td>Recognized that additional resources will be required for the gender statistics programme proposed, and requested the donor community to devote adequate resources to this important area; Additional resources are needed at the regional level to be able to continue and deliver quality work. Global and regional donor community are requested to devote adequate resources to gender statistics to the regional programme.</td>
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