

UN Women - Statement for Committee on Statistics, on Agenda Item 2 – Gender statistics

The world's governments, through the 2030 Agenda, committed to leave no one behind; to achieve sustainable development for women and men of all ages, ethnicities and economic backgrounds, living in urban and in rural areas. To keep the world accountable for this promise, we need quality statistics, including gender data and data disaggregated at multiple levels. Sadly, only 26% of the data necessary to monitor the gender-related SDGs is currently available, and most of the available data pertains to social statistics, meaning we know very little about the differences in the lives of women and men when it comes to the economy and the environment. This is why UN Women recently established its global Flagship Programme titled "Making Every Woman and Girl Count", an initiative that includes direct support to countries for the production, dissemination and use of gender statistics.

Through this programme, UN Women is building strong partnerships with many international actors to overcome some of the key challenges to the production and use of gender statistics. Firstly, and as tabled for your consideration today, UN Women has reached out to ESCAP's Statistics Division with the expectation to participate in each of the Committee's thematic workstreams. I am happy to hear some support for this proposal today, as this would enable us to mainstream a gender perspective through workstreams beyond social statistics and to assess whether the creation of an intergovernmental group on gender statistics is needed in the region.

In addition, UN Women has begun work with national governments and regional partners to ensure national strategies and laws are conducive to the production and use of gender statistics. For instance, in collaboration with SPC we are convening Pacific Island countries to design a roadmap on gender statistics, which will include a review of the normative environment for the production of gender statistics, and strategies to enhance the availability and use of gender statistics in countries in the Pacific.

We also support gender data production through training, technical advice, support for surveys, reprocessing of existing data and civil registration and vital statistics. We do this in coordination with different partners that have expertise in different areas. For instance, we work with ESCAP-SD, ILO and the World Bank to support the implementation and analysis of Time Use Surveys and various forms of Economic Empowerment Statistics, and we collaborate with UNFPA to ensure the countries we support benefit from their leadership and expertise on Violence Against Women data.

Finally, we also want to make sure that the gender data that is available actually gets used. To achieve this, we support countries in organizing dialogues between data users and producers, we train national statisticians on how to effectively communicate statistics to the media and to policy makers, and we collaborate with UNSD to build national statistical capacity on using SDMX for exchanges of gender data and metadata.

We want to make sure that quality gender statistics are widely available and extensively utilized in every country in Asia and the Pacific, so please get in touch with us. We want to hear your needs and help you in any way we can. Thank you.