

Issues Paper
CSW Interactive Panel Discussion on
“Remaining challenges in relation to statistics and indicators, building on the discussions at
the High-level round table organized by the 48th session of the Commission 2004 as well as
available data from the World’s Women: Trends and Statistics (2005) and the World
Survey on the Role of Women in Development (2004)”
8 March 2005, 3-6 p.m.

Background

The Beijing Platform for Action (1995) called upon national, regional and international statistical services and relevant governmental and United Nations agencies, to, inter alia, collect, compile, analyze and present on a regular basis data disaggregated by age, sex, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, and other characteristics. It also called upon national statistical offices to provide national statistical offices with institutional and technical support to collect, compile and disseminate data disaggregated by sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, and other characteristics, in formats that are accessible to the public and to policy makers for analysis, monitoring and impact assessment, and support new indicators, especially in areas where information is particularly scarce.

In its 48th session in 2004, the Commission on the Status of Women, in collaboration with the Statistical Commission, held a high-level round table on gaps and challenges in measuring progress in implementation, in the context of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session in 2005. The round table provided a unique opportunity for an exchange of views and experiences among users and producers of statistics in regard to measuring progress towards the goal of gender equality. Participants agreed on the importance of good, reliable, timely and readily available sex-disaggregated statistics for measuring progress towards the goals of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the

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associated with Goal 3 concern the ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education; the ratio of literate women to men, 15-24 years old; the share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector; and the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments. Providing data disaggregated by sex and qualitative information on gender issues across goals and targets, in the Millennium Development Goals country reports is an effective approach to ensuring attention to gender equality in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The importance of sex-disaggregated data for effective monitoring has also been recognized in efforts at global level.

Achievements and challenges identified

Based on the responses from the questionnaire sent to Member States for the ten-year review and appraisal, many countries recognized the importance of developing gender-sensitive indicators and collecting data disaggregated by sex in order to set priorities, formulate policy and design programmes. Countries reported that data disaggregated by sex were available in some of the critical areas of concern, including education, the economy, and political participation, but there was limited data in sectors related to the environment, information and communication technologies, women in power and decision-making; rural women and violence against women.

Some countries created databases that enhanced possibilities to monitor and evaluate progress in areas such as violence against women, health and the labor market. To meet the x inmie7.67(n)-6.8()6.4(in Tf2-3.t)66 9va 3.6()

Annex

The World Survey on the Role of Women in Development

In its resolution 35/78 of 5 December 1980 on effective mobilization and integration of women in development, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive and detailed outline for an interdisciplinary and multisectoral World Survey on the role of men in development. The *World Survey* is prepared by the Division of Advancement of Women in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Since its first publication in 1986, the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* has been prepared every five years and focused on selected emerging development issues that impact on the role of women in the economy at national, regional and global levels. Updates to the first *World Survey* were prepared in 1989, 1994, 1999 and 2004. The 1999 *World Survey* covered the issue of globalization, women and work. The 2004 *World Survey* focuses on women and international migration.

The need for research and collection of data disaggregated by sex was pointed out in the 2004 *World Survey*. It was noted in the survey that data on international migration are lacking in

The World's Women: Trends and Statistics

The publication *The World's Women: Trends and Statistics* has been prepared since 1991. It is a useful resource that provides information on the situation of women and men worldwide. The Beijing Platform for Action called on the United Nations to promote the further development of statistical methods to improve data that relate to women in economic, social, cultural and political development (208 b) as well as prepare a new issue of *The World's Women* at regular five-year intervals and distribute it widely (208 c). An update was prepared in 2000 and the next publication is due at the end of September 2005.

The World's Women 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics highlighted indicators on women's conditions world-wide, in a form that non-specialists could readily understand. It provided numbers and analyses to inform people everywhere about how much women contribute to economic life, political life and family life. *The World's Women 1995: Trends and Statistics* provided information and analyses to highlight the economic, political and social differences that still separated women and men. It traced changes that had taken place in the last two decades in the situation of women in the areas of health, education, family life, work and public life. New topics included migration and refugees, reproductive health, women in the media and violence against women. Detailed indicators on women's conditions worldwide were highlighted. Work needed to further develop gender statistics was underlined.

The most recent publication, *The World's Women 2000: Trends and Statistics*, comprehensively examined the status of women through the lens of statistical data and analysis. It highlighted the main findings of statistical analysis on women's situation as compared to men's worldwide in a broad range of fields, including families, health, education, work, human rights and politics.

General Assembly resolution 58/148 requested the Secretary-General to provide, by the end of 2004, a compilation of updated and substantiated statistics from Member States and other relevant sources on the situation of women and girls, including older women, in countries around the world, including by issuing a new volume of *The World's Women: Trends and Statistics*.

To monitor progress and guide policy, it is crucial that quality statistics be available. Yet official national data on basic demographic and social topics relevant to gender equality are at times deficient – inaccurate, unreliable, out-of-date, fragmented, inconsistent, incomparable- or simply unavailable. Reliable and comparable data on new and emerging gender issues is scarce. Even when national data are available, its quality may be doubtful or unknown. Much of the trend analysis in the past three issues of *The World's Women* was either limited its coverage to a small number of countries that had reasonable data over time or relied on national and regional estimates prepared by the international statistical system.

The World's Women 2005: Progress in Statistics will analyze the current state of gender statistics at national level, focusing on official statistics relevant to monitoring progress towards achieving gender equality, as mandated by the Beijing Platform for Action and Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The statistical review and analysis of *The World's Women 2005* will assess the availability and quality of statistics for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals from a gender perspective. Improvements in the state of statistics over the years will be highlighted, and