

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

Background document
Available in English only

**Modernization of the production of time-use statistics:
Linking priority components of the conceptual framework*
(Draft as of 14 February 2020)**

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in collaboration with the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics¹

* This document has not been formally edited.

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Website: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/time-use/time-use-expert-group/>

Introduction

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 Work² and with the overall objective of further promoting this critical data collection across countries and over time.

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)³ 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.

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 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) Towards defining quality for data and statistics on time use; (d) Modernization of the production of time-use statistics (applying latest technologies); (e) Minimum Harmonized Instrument for the collection of time-use data. **Please click on each box under “Solutions: current focus” for additional information on each background document.**

² Available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesf/seriesf_93e.pdf.

³ In accordance with the Generic Statistical Business Process Model phases.

Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics

Policy relevance of Time-Use data

Environment



Health



Travel



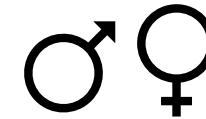
QUALITY OF LIFE

- Life balance
- Time poverty
- Well-being

UNPAID WORK



- All productive activities
- Satellite accounts
- Unpaid care and domestic work



GENDER

- Women's contribution to the economy
- Work distribution
- Work/Life balance

Education



Paid work



Culture



Sports & Leisure



Current challenges

Financial and human resources cost increase



Declining response rate

Respondent burden



Data expectations



- High quality
- Granularity
- Usability

Expert Group developing solutions to modernize time-use data collections in line with ICATUS 2016 and SDGs

Solutions: current focus



[Making the case for time-use data](#)



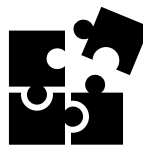
[Promoting consistent concepts and definitions](#)



[Ensuring high-quality data](#)



[Applying latest technologies](#)



Promoting more frequent collections ([Minimum harmonized instrument](#))

Output



New UN Guidelines on the production of time-use statistics

Outcome

More:

- Relevant
- High-quality
- Reliable
- Comparable
- Frequent
- Timely
- Cost-effective
- Accessible
- Consumable time-use data in all countries