

BACKGROUND NOTE

Technical Committee of Experts on Gender Related Statistics

(Draft)

Lead Country: United Arab Emirates

Members of the Technical Committee of Experts: United Arab Emirates, IDB, SESRIC, all OIC member countries will be invited to participate

Background:

During the past three decades, there has been growing concern about the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in all walks of life which have also inspired the production of relevant statistics and indicators to assess the existing situation both within countries and at international level. It is generally accepted that gender issues are complex, multi-dimensional and politically controversial subjects, which necessitates the adoption of a wider perspective, particularly in the negotiations conducted at international level.

Within this framework one of the featured studies was the development of the core set of indicators on the violence against women and correspondingly launching a survey specific to this topic to measure the practices at country level, which will allow making the cross-country comparisons. Debates on this issue are continuing and, based on these negotiations it can be concluded that there is an urgent need for further methodological developments and the establishment of common operational definitions on gender related issues that are accepted by all stakeholders.

Due to the growing importance of this issue the National Bureau for Statistics (NBS) of United Arab Emirates had proposed to the Second Session of the OIC-StatCom to work on the gender related issues particularly going through the concepts and definitions, in contributing to the developments in this respect at the international level, by giving justification to the UN Questionnaire on Violence Against Women which has to be completed by the countries.

Objective:

This TCE was established based on the proposal of the National Centre for Statistics United Arab Emirates to follow the studies of global statistical community on gender related issues with the aim of reflecting the common values of OIC Member Countries. The major objective of the establishment of this expert committee is to review the existing concepts and definitions on gender related issues from all aspects. This is to be undertaken in order to draw up concrete proposals to present to the global statistical community to broaden the available concepts and definitions to be adequately reflected within different cultural practices.

Taks:

The TCE will undertake to;

- examine concepts and definitions related to gender including international questionnaires developed for this purpose
- review the existing practices of OIC Member Countries regarding gender differentials as well as women's role in different spheres of the community
- prepare a report to be submitted to the international statistical community to facilitate the review of the concepts and definitions that exist in various diverse cultural environments in order to achieve a more inclusive approach

Expected Outputs:

- Interim/final reports

Modalities of Work:

The key activities and functions of the Working Group should focus on the following fields:

- In order to enhance the participation and get the opinions of the Member States in the TCE more directly, the TCE Lead Country and member countries are expected to give inputs with the assistance of the OIC-StatCom Secretariat. The documents prepared by the participating Member States will be used as inputs to the Interim/Final Reports of the TCE.
- A meeting will be convened by the Lead Country in collaboration with the OIC-StatCom Secretariat to discuss the issues regarding the tasks of the TCE and finalisation of the reports to be submitted to other members of the OIC-StatCom by the end of February 2013 the latest.

Tentative Time Table:

The Technical Expert Committee will prepare a tentative time table in accordance with the tasks defined above, on the activities that will be undertaken.

| - | Task | Responsible/s | Deadline |
|---|---|--------------------|----------------------|
| - | - ... | - ... | - ... |
| - | - ... | - ... | - ... |
| - | - ... | - ... | - ... |
| - | - ... | - ... | - ... |
| - | Submission of the Final Report to the OIC-StatCom Members | Members of the TCE | End of February 2013 |