

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

REPORT

**THE THIRD REGIONAL WORKSHOP
ON GENDER STATISTICS IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES
TUNIS, 5-7 JUNE 2001**

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I. WORKSHOP

A. OVERVIEW

1. The Third Regional Workshop on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries was held in Tunis from 5 to 7 June 2001. The Workshop met under the auspices of the Tunisian Minister of Women and Family Affairs, whose Ministry had sponsored the meeting. It was organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) as part of the regional project to develop national gender statistics programmes in the Arab countries. The Workshop was conducted in cooperation with the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR), with basic financing provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).
2. The regional project currently being carried out in 10 Arab countries, namely, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen, aims to build national capacities with respect to the production of gender statistics and their use and dissemination at national and regional level, in order to promote changes beneficial to women. This programme is expected to expand in 2002 to include Bahrain and Morocco.
3. Two other workshops had already been held: the first in Tunisia in June 1997 and the second in Jordan in November 1999. The objective on both occasions was to exchange national experience of implementing the regional project in each country and provide opportunities for participating countries to review their success in gathering data, identifying problems and preparing national reports (women and men: a statistical portrait). Ways of developing national statistics systems and ensuring mechanisms at both national and regional level for the discussion and proposal of strategies designed to improve gender statistics in all Arab countries were also considered at those workshops.
4. The main objectives of the Third Regional Workshop are set forth below:
 - (a) The identification and discussion of priority policy areas and issues in the Arab region, in which the gender perspective must be taken into consideration;
 - (b) The identification and discussion of a set of common indicators to monitor and compare the progress made by women with that of men in all critical gender-related priority issues in the Arab region;
 - (c) The presentation and review of national and international experience of carrying out a time-use survey;
 - (d) The review and discussion of the proposed structure and contents of a regional web site on gender statistics.

B. ATTENDANCE

5. The representatives of 13 Arab countries participated in the Workshop, as did representatives of statistics-producing institutions, including national statistics offices, other sectoral ministries, research centres and such users of data such as planning departments and women-related non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
6. Experts representing the UNIFEM and UNICEF regional offices and the International Labour Organization (ILO) also attended together with two experts in the field of gender and related indicators from Jordan and Egypt.

C. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

7. The three-day Workshop was divided into plenary sessions and group meetings. At the plenary sessions the participants presented and discussed reports on the progress made in the field of gender statistics since the inception of the project. The results of two working groups were also reported. In the first session, the working groups reviewed the outcome of discussions on priority gender issues in the Arab region, while in the second session they discussed a set of indicators related to gender priorities which had been agreed upon in the first session. Regional experts also presented case studies on priority gender issues and United

Nations experts stressed the importance of gender indicators and theoretical experience in conducting time-use surveys.

8. The Workshop was, basically, conducted in the Arabic language, with simultaneous interpretation provided into English and when necessary, Arabic.

D. DOCUMENTS AND OUTCOMES

9. The documents presented at the Workshop included the following:

(a) Country papers focusing on the progress achieved in the area of gender statistics since the inception of the project;

(b) Papers by regional advisers dealing with case studies of priority gender-related issues and the relevant statistical indicators;

(c) Papers by international United Nations and specialized agency experts.

10. The most important outcome of the Workshop was a list of the highest priority gender-related issues in the Arab region and a number of related indicators. These are listed in chapter V of this report.

II. OPENING AND CONCLUSION OF THE WORKSHOP

A. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

11. Following welcoming speeches from the Tunisian Minister of Women and Family Affairs, the Chief of the ESCWA Statistics Division and the Director of CAWTAR, the chief of the ESCWA Statistics Division stressed the importance of building relevant statistical databases and indicators with a dimension that is compatible with concepts of gender for the purposes of planning and evaluation. The importance of such concepts was confirmed during the review of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action during the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly held in June 2000. Furthermore, the Workshop held at ESCWA headquarters in November 1999 considered that the basic focal points which should be included in the framework were the following: trends and practices, governance, alliances and partnership, social and economic justice and peace-building. The speaker also referred to the challenges to complete application of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and to the situation in the Arab region in terms of improving the status of women and the need for the creation of specific mechanisms.

12. The Chief of the ESCWA Statistics Division reviewed the objectives of the regional project and work mechanisms at national and regional level and stressed the importance of providing data for all users and exchanging experiences through the establishment of a regional web site for gender statistics, similar to that provided by the Economic Commission for Europe. In closing, he referred to the need to institutionalize gender statistics, and stressed that all official statistics must have a perspective that is in harmony with concepts of gender. Given this situation, the project could be considered to be a temporary arrangement for narrowing gaps and filling in blanks in gender statistics.

13. The discussions revolved around the following points:

(a) The need for qualitative indicators and analysis;

(b) The harmonization of definitions and concepts for the purpose of comparison;

(c) The agreement that all statistics must have a perspective that is in harmony with concepts of gender and need not necessarily be issued only by gender statistics units if they are to be of lasting value;

(d) The need for a specific mechanism or an institutionalized system for gender mainstreaming and to determine how to link national statistics and gender statistics;

(e) The need to convince officials of the importance of this approach and persuade both producers and users of data to adopt it.

B. CONCLUSION OF THE WORKSHOP

14. At the conclusion of the Workshop the representative of the Tunisian Ministry of Women and Family Affairs expressed appreciation to ESCWA for the choice of Tunis as the location of the Workshop. The director of CAWTAR thanked governmental and non-governmental organizations for their support and expressed the hope that the Workshop would increase support for the CAWTAR data bank. The Chief of the ESCWA Statistics Division was optimistic about joint cooperation in the future and affirmed that what had been achieved during the Workshop sessions and, in particular, agreement on a set of indicators, required additional work at national level to ensure continuity. He indicated that it would be useful to open channels of communication by using modern technology, such as a web site.

III. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

15. Four sessions were held during the Workshop and the following four different subjects were considered:

- (a) Gender issues of priority in the Arab region;
- (b) Gender statistics and related indicators;
- (c) New measurement methods: time-use surveys;
- (d) Dissemination using a regional Internet site.

A. GENDER ISSUES OF PRIORITY IN THE ARAB REGION

16. This subject was discussed at the first session, the objective of which was to identify and discuss policy matters of priority in the Arab region in which consideration should be given to the gender perspective. After the participating countries had presented their country reports, regional experts presented case studies and the participants were divided into working groups.

17. The first paper, which aimed to identify the most important gender issues in Jordan on the basis of the Beijing Platform for Action, was presented by a Jordanian expert. The speaker referred first to the gender issues of special interest at Arab level, which have three focal points, namely, economic, social and political. Follow-up of these three points showed that the indicators used were insufficient and in most cases were quantitative. Furthermore, there was no agreement between the Arab countries on the indicators to be used in order to observe developments. With respect to Jordan, the paper dealt with achievements to date in relation to the identification of gender issues by studying the relevant basic documents in Jordan. The most important issues and relevant indicators had already been identified. The paper concluded by identifying the significant gender issues that had been specified within the documents and confirming the importance of determining both qualitative and quantitative indicators. It further stressed the need for an action mechanism and sectoral plans of action to provide data required and ensure constant follow-up. Lessons learnt must be taken note of and gender gaps must be defined by age group, geographical distribution and economic and social levels.

18. The second paper was presented by the representative of the Lebanese National Committee to Follow up Women's Affairs and discussed Lebanon's experience of mainstreaming the gender perspective in all strategic planning activities and programmes. The speaker referred to the need for additional qualitative indicators on the awareness of people of a specific subject and the impact of culture on the presence of certain phenomena in society.

19. Following presentation of the papers, a discussion took place on the need to influence national public policy and make gender an inalienable part thereof. Participants affirmed that certain critical issues, including violence and female circumcision, will only be overcome through increased education and economic participation and an increased number of options for both men and women. There must therefore be a commitment at political and institutional levels, and indicators must be formulated to reflect future aspirations and progress achieved in the field of gender.

20. The participants were divided into three working groups in order to discuss the matters set forth below (each group was given a number of gender issues and related strategies, see annex IV):

(a) The priorities of general policies and other fields which must be dealt with from a gender perspective;

(b) The sub-issues and various aspects of each of the areas specified above.

21. After the discussions of the working groups, the outcomes were reviewed in a plenary session (see annex IV).

B. GENDER STATISTICS AND RELATED INDICATORS

22. This subject was considered at the second session, the main objective of which was to identify and discuss a number of indicators to be used in order to monitor the progress achieved by women in comparison with men, on the basis of the gender issues of priority in the Arab region previously identified in the first session. Once CAWTAR had reported its experiences, United Nations experts and the Chief of the ESCWA Statistics Division presented papers. Participants then formed working groups.

23. The Director of CAWTAR presented a paper on the evaluation of the status of the available statistics on Arab women in the light of CAWTAR's experience preparing the report on globalization, gender and the economic participation of Arab women. The paper focused on the importance of the available statistics, which helped researchers to analyse Arab women's economic participation. It also focused on the gaps and the statistical complications encountered while preparing the report, in a bid to draw the attention of the statisticians who were participating in the Workshop to the obstacles which continue to exist at Arab statistical system level, which reduce experts' ability to analyse certain issues in a detailed, objective and integrated manner and to make comparisons with other Arab countries. Finally, with a view to making up for such shortcomings, a number of recommendations were made, of which the most important was that use of statistics related to Arab women should be harmonized, evaluated and monitored on a regular basis and that detailed and raw data should be provided. Efforts must be made to develop indicators and methods capable of expressing the situation of Arab women.

24. The representative of UNICEF presented a paper on the use of gender-disaggregated data and stressed its importance. The paper dealt with UNICEF's uses of gender-sensitive data and statistics and the kind of information which is needed in order to have a comprehensive understanding of the situation, including the gender dimension.

25. The UNIFEM speaker discussed gender indicators and the point of using them. With respect to their dissemination at national level, such indicators support both the gender approach and the development that promotes equality between men and women rather than focusing solely on women. The speaker referred to the questions related to analysis which could supplement the indicators and noted that qualitative indicators could facilitate popular participation in their use.

26. The Chief of the Social Statistics Section presented a paper on gender indicators in the Arab region based on the experiences of the countries participating in the regional project to prepare country papers on men and women. The paper focused mainly on the ability of such reports to cover statistics and indicators relating to the issues of special importance which were identified at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in 1995. It also dealt with shortcomings and gaps in respect of requirements, and the need to measure progress achieved in implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. In conclusion, the speaker urged producers and users of statistics to work together to provide the necessary indicators, using the framework proposed in the paper for gender indicators in the Arab countries.

27. The discussion that followed presentation of the papers centred on the following points:

(a) The identification of indicators to measure certain subjects for which it is difficult to secure data;

(b) The identification of subjects, taking into consideration the roles of women and men and, for example, maternity and paternity leave;

(c) The exchange of experiences related to scientific research indicators.

28. The participants divided into the same three discussion groups as before and each group was assigned a proposed framework for gender indicators in the Arab countries (see chapter V). Discussion covered the following issues:

- (a) The use of indicators to facilitate gender mainstreaming: countries' experiences;
- (b) The indicators needed to monitor change in public policies and systems and to identify gender gaps;
- (c) A proposed framework for gender statistics and indicators in the Arab region.

29. After the working group discussions, the outcomes were reviewed in a plenary session (see chapter V).

C. NEW MEASUREMENT METHODS: TIME-USE SURVEYS

30. This issue was raised at the third session, the main objective of which was to present new methods of measurement, namely, the review of national and international experiences in carrying out time-use surveys.

31. The ILO representative presented a paper on issues related to time-use surveys and the role of such surveys. She spoke of their importance in identifying all workers and, in particular, those who aren't usually included in labour force surveys. Time-use surveys take into consideration the quality, duration and location of all the activities carried out by the subjects of the survey, and have made possible to identify those who perform family-related duties, who are mostly women and are therefore important in increasing the empowerment of women. Time-use surveys also have an important role to play in identifying various activities, the number and arrangement of working hours and the monetary value as compared to productive activities outside the market.

32. After the theory had been expanded, the representative of Oman reported on his country's experience of carrying out time-use surveys, detailing their goals, the plan pursued in the course of implementation, sample design, instructions for data collection and definitions of activities. The UNIFEM representative spoke on behalf of the representative of Palestine who, because of the security situation, was unable to participate in the Workshop. The speaker set forth the goals and methodology of the research, the principal outcomes and their impact on policy formulation.

33. After the presentation, discussions centred on the following points:

- (a) The need to conduct time-use surveys in the remaining Arab countries and compare the outcomes of the surveys, which reflect the role of women in development and production, preparatory for inclusion in the national accounts;
- (b) The need to take into consideration the likelihood that questions are linked to the values of society and therefore one-sided;
- (c) The harmonization of techniques: the United Nations Statistics Division has prepared a manual on time-use surveys;
- (d) The picture given of the political, economic and social life of people by analysis of outcomes;
- (e) The inclusion of time-use surveys in household surveys.

34. The participants agreed that the main objective of the survey was to measure the extent of women's participation in economic activity, in order to estimate the extent of their unpaid labour and discover how people spend their time.

D. DISSEMINATION USING A REGIONAL INTERNET SITE

35. This issue was discussed at the fourth session, the main objective of which was to determine the structure of the proposed regional gender statistics Internet site on the basis of what had been agreed concerning gender issues of priority in the Arab region and the related indicators.

36. The person responsible for the CAWTAR documentation and databases unit presented a plan for the creation of a CAWTAR statistics bank, which aims to establish a comprehensive database on Arab women by gathering data and statistics in a central bank, translating them into indicators, and developing new concepts and classifications in keeping with the specificities of Arab women. The speaker referred to the outputs of this project, which could include statistical reports, publications, booklets and wall charts. In response to a query from one of the participants, the speaker explained that the choice of subjects would depend on the priorities of the Arab countries and determination of concepts would depend on workshops for experts. She noted that CAWTAR is an independent regional organization of which 22 Arab countries are members and that it cooperates with all governmental and non-governmental organizations. The proposed data bank will not begin from scratch but will have the benefit of previous experiences. One of the participants urged CAWTAR to exchange information with the League of Arab States.

37. The representative of the Centre for Research, Documentation and Information on Women (CREDIF) spoke on the methodology used for observatories, which are considered suitable mechanisms for assisting in the transition from data on women to gender-disaggregated data and reviewing the production and use of such data, using gender analysis. Given the conviction that statistical data could play a decisive role in persuading decision makers to amend programmes and projects which are designed to benefit women and achieve equality between men and women, in 1993 an observatory on the status of women was established within CREDIF in Tunisia. This observatory gathers and analyses gender statistics in Tunisia, formulates relevant indicators, and carries out studies and research in order to impress upon decision makers and planners the importance of using gender analysis when formulating development plans and programmes and evaluating the policies adopted.

38. The participants discussed the paper and made the following remarks:

(a) There is a difference between the role of an observatory and that of a research centre in that an observatory follows up ways of improving and/or amending the approaches adopted towards a given subject. This does not deny the importance of studies;

(b) The roles of CREDIF, CAWTAR and the Ministry for Women and Family Affairs were clarified;

(c) An observatory depends on a data bank which is supplied by a number of sources and periodically carries out certain specialized surveys with a view to including them in the information bank.

39. The Chief of the Social Statistics Section presented a paper on the proposed layout and contents of a regional Internet site on gender statistics in the Arab countries, dealing with the objectives of such a site, those responsible for it and those who will benefit from it. He also discussed the layout of the web site, its contents and its links with the relevant Arab and international sites. The site presents the goals of the project on the Development of National Gender Statistics Programmes in the Arab Countries which is being implemented by the ESCWA Statistics Division and the activities that are being carried out in the countries participating in the project. The web site would also give an idea of the components of the gender statistics database which ESCWA is seeking to develop and make available to users. It would, further, present the latest developments in the field of gender statistics. It will contain research mechanisms and a title for each section and will have a map to facilitate the process of accessing it. Some paragraphs of the plans of actions of international conferences related to gender statistics convened by the United Nations during the 1990s will also be quoted.

40. The participants discussed the paper and made the following comments:

(a) It was indicated by ESCWA that the web site would include coverage of all activities and reports carried out and produced by ESCWA and the Arab countries, in consultation with the countries involved;

(b) The way in which statistics are produced and used must be decided;

(c) There is a need to divide the web site into different subject areas and to determine how these are to be used;

(d) A gender-disaggregated qualitative and quantitative analysis field must be added in order to facilitate use;

(e) It is important to use the data currently available and to formulate a mechanism for cooperation and coordination with all Arab countries in order to benefit from that data;

(f) There is a need for integrated data that can assist the planning process and have an impact on policies for filling the qualitative gaps and using data for planning;

(g) It is important to secure the necessary questionnaires, respond to them and add them to the project;

(h) It is difficult to identify indicators, especially qualitative indicators, and as a result, it is necessary to exchange information and cooperate on how to specify such indicators. This underlines the importance of the existence of mechanisms and methodologies for ensuring communication between producers and users of data;

(i) It is necessary for the site to serve both government and non-governmental parties;

(j) Reliance should be placed on successful experiences;

(k) Follow-up is important: countries are responsible for updating the information.

IV. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

41. In addition to the specific remarks which were made by the participants during the sessions, the general recommendations included the following:

(a) Each of the parties, namely, ESCWA, CAWTAR, United Nations organizations and the organizations of civil society must formulate methodologies for the implementation of gender-related surveys in all fields, analysis of the data and clarification of the related policies;

(b) Notification must be given by ESCWA, CAWTAR and the relevant United Nations agencies to the appropriate government authorities in Arab countries of any training courses which will be organized and they must be informed of the objectives and the subjects which will be discussed;

(c) The relevant United Nations agencies and CAWTAR were urged to organize training courses for people working in the field of gender statistics in government sectors in the Arab countries, in order to provide training in the formulation of programmes that can be adapted to field work and supervision of the implementation and evaluation of their outcomes;

(d) Each Arab country must build its own Internet web site to focus on the issues and indicators which have been previously identified, and network with all the other countries. This will provide a certain amount of specificity and continuity in providing and updating data. The party in each country responsible for this work will be identified at a later date;

(e) There must be coordination between CAWTAR, ESCWA and the League of Arab States with regard to the exchange of data and the setting up of a web site on the Internet which would include a database for gender statistics;

(f) In cooperation with ILO, ESCWA must organize a special seminar on time-use surveys.

In response to certain recommendations, the Chief of the ESCWA Statistics Division said that there is already coordination between ESCWA and the League of Arab States and that a number of recommendations for national capacity-building exist.

V. THE PRINCIPAL OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

A. THE HIGHEST PRIORITY GENDER-RELATED ISSUES IN THE ARAB REGION AND RELATED INDICATORS

42. As mentioned above, a proposed framework for gender indicators in the Arab countries was distributed to the working groups. After discussions, it was agreed that each group would add certain indicators, which were underlined.

Subject	Proposed indicators
0 <i>The general background of the population, household, human settlements</i> 0/1 Population distribution	0/1/1 Percentage of population aged under 15 0/1/2 Percentage of population aged under 5 0/1/3 Percentage of population aged 15-24 (youth) 0/1/4 Percentage of population aged 10-19 (adolescent) 0/1/5 Percentage of women aged 65 and over 0/1/6 Percentage of men aged 65 and over 0/1/7 Ratio of women to men in the population aged 65 and over
0/2 Population growth	0/2/1 Total fertility rate 0/2/2 Net population movement rate 0/2/3 Annual population growth
0/3 Family structure (households)	0/3/1 Mean age at marriage among women and men 0/3/2 Divorce rate per 1,000 marriages 0/3/3 Crude divorce rate per 1,000 population 0/3/4 Percentage of widows aged 65 and over 0/3/5 Percentage of widowers aged 65 and over
0/4 Migration and residence	0/4/1 Percentage of non-national population by gender 0/4/2 Urban and rural population by gender 0/4/3 Population in large cities by gender 0/4/4 Percentage of households with running water in urban and rural areas 0/4/5 Percentage of households supplied with electricity in urban and rural areas 0/4/6 Average number of persons per household in urban and rural areas
1. <i>Women and poverty</i> 1/1 Empowerment of women: ownership <u>and disposal</u> of assets and income	1/1/1 Average female income from employment as compared with average male income from employment

Subject	Proposed indicators
1/1 Empowerment of women: ownership <u>and disposal</u> of assets and income (<i>continued</i>)	1/1/2 Average female property income as compared with average male property income 1/1/3 Percentages of women and men who own their own business 1/1/4 Percentages of women and men who manage their own business (<u>economic activity</u>) 1/1/5 Percentages of women and men who carry out unpaid domestic work 1/1/6 Percentages of women and men unemployed 1/1/7 Percentages of women and men with access to credit 1/1/8 <u>Percentages of women and men who control their financial reverses</u>
1/2 The social empowerment of women	1/2/1 Percentage of poverty in households with a female head of households compared to those with a male head of households 1/2/2 Dependency ratio among families with a female head of household compared to families headed by a man 1/2/3 Percentage of girls aged 15-19 in families with a female head of household who are full-time students compared with those in families headed by a man
2. <i>The education and training of women</i> 2/1 School enrolment	2/1/1 Gross enrolment ratios at all levels of elementary (basic), secondary and higher education for girls and boys 2/1/2 Enrolment ratios in those stages for girls – E.R. for boys
2/2 Illiteracy	2/2/1 Percentage of illiteracy for women and men 2/2/2 Percentage of female illiteracy/percentage of male illiteracy 2/2/3 Percentages of illiteracy for boys and girls aged 15-24 2/2/4 Percentage of illiteracy for girls/percentage of illiteracy for boys (aged 15-24)
2/3 Access to specialized education and information technology	2/3/1 Percentage of females enrolled in higher education and specializing in scientific subjects (science and technology)/percentage of males 2/3/2 Women as percentage of total number of students enrolled in scientific institutes, by specialty 2/3/3 Ratio of women to men among foreign grant beneficiaries

Subject	Proposed indicators
2/3 Access to specialized education and information technology (<i>continued</i>)	2/3/4 Ratio of women to men among Internet users 2/3/5 <u>Ratio of women to men among those with access to a computer</u> 2/3/6 Ratio of women to men in journalism (graduates or enrolled) 2/3/7 Ratio of women to men (enrolled/graduates) in specializations related to the mass media and documentation
2/4 Education administration	2/4/1 Ratio of women to men teachers at all levels 2/4/2 Percentage of women involved in education administration
3. <i>Women and public reproductive health</i>	
3/1 Early reproduction	3/1/1 The availability of national standards on reproductive health 3/1/2 The prevalence of early reproduction (women aged under 20) 3/1/3 The prevalence of contraception 3/1/4 Percentage of modern contraceptive use 3/1/5 Maternal death 3/1/6 Percentage of births attended by qualified health professionals
3/2 Venereal diseases	3/2/1 Percentage change in number of reported cases of HIV/Aids contracted by men and women
3/3 Health issues of importance to women	3/3/1 Rate of accidents in the workplace 3/3/2 Average number of women tested for cervical cancer 3/3/3 <u>Percentage of women who attend health centres during pregnancy</u> 3/3/4 <u>Percentage of women and men with an awareness of sex-related issues</u> 3/3/5 Rates of breast cancer among women 3/3/6 Rates of testing for breast cancer 3/3/7 Prevalence of female circumcision
3/4 Health needs for various age groups	3/4/1 Prevalence of malnutrition among children (girls and boys) (a) Stunted growth (b) Marasmus (c) Poor correlation between weight and height 3/4/2 Infant mortality rate by gender 3/4/3 Child mortality rate by gender 3/4/4 Life expectancy at birth by gender

Subject	Proposed indicators
3/4 Health needs for various age groups (<i>continued</i>)	3/4/5 The demographic gap between elderly women and men 3/4/6 The availability of health care programmes for the elderly
3/5 General health	3/5/1 The percentage of women and men smokers and the gap between them 3/5/2 The percentage of youth (male and female) smokers 3/5/3 The availability of preventive health programmes for selected diseases (immunization rates by gender)
4. <i>Violence against women</i> 4/1 Crime	4/1/1 Relative distribution of those convicted, by crime (men and women) 4/1/2 Women as a percentage of all those convicted of a crime
4/2 Violence	4/2/1 Availability of information on violence 4/2/2 Percentage of girls and women subjected to physical violence (in recent years) 4/2/3 <u>Percentage of women who have used the services of centres for the protection of women victims of violence</u> 4/2/4 Death among women and girls caused by domestic violence
4/3 Existing legislation to protect women from domestic violence	4/3/1 The number of annual human rights awareness activities which are related to the issue of domestic violence 4/3/2 The legal punishment imposed on those guilty of domestic violence 4/3/3 Expenditure on programmes to protect women from domestic violence
5. <i>Women, conflicts and wars</i> 5/1 The protection of women and men from the dangers of local and regional wars and armed conflict	5/1/1 The number of programmes which provide relief for refugees, with the focus on women 5/1/2 Total amount of assistance allocated to women 5/1/3 <u>The percentage of experienced women and men in government and non-governmental organizations/percentage of men</u> 5/1/4 <u>The percentage of women and men in conflict-resolution committees by qualifications, degrees and experience/percentage of men</u> 5/1/5 <u>The extent of legislation and legal procedures in place to protect victims</u>

Subject	Proposed indicators
5/1 The protection of women and men from the dangers of local and regional wars and armed conflict (<i>continued</i>)	5/1/6 <u>The extent to which countries have ratified international human rights agreements and the Geneva Convention</u> 5/1/7 <u>Advocacy organizations in place as a percentage of the total number of organizations</u> 5/1/8 <u>The percentage of women in decision-making positions in advocacy organizations (legal and humanitarian)</u> 5/1/9 <u>Rate of decline in human rights violations</u> 5/1/10 <u>A comparison of military and other expenditure</u> 5/1/11 <u>The number of refugee programmes which focus on women</u> 5/1/12 <u>The percentage of victims with access to such programmes</u>
6. <i>Women and the economy</i> 6/1 Equal salaries for women and men	6/1/1 Legal measures 6/1/2 Average pay received by women compared to that of men for the same work 6/1/3 The opening to women of professions previously reserved for men and to men of professions previously reserved for women 6/1/4 <u>Number of women with access to credit and the extent of that credit</u>
6/2 Administrative and specialized positions	6/2/1 Percentage of women in executive positions/percentage of men 6/2/2 Percentage of women in administrative professions/percentage of men 6/2/3 Percentage of women in specialized professions/percentage of men 6/2/4 <u>Percentage of women disaggregated by sector/percentage of men</u> 6/2/5 <u>Percentage of women who have been promoted, disaggregated by group and sector/percentage of men</u> 6/2/6 <u>Average number years served before promotion by women and men</u> 6/2/7 <u>Percentage of women in decision-making positions</u> 6/2/8 <u>Measures in place to protect women from harassment</u>
6/3 Work opportunities and unemployment	6/3/1 Male and female participation in economic activity by level and sector 6/3/2 Unemployment rates among women and men 6/3/3 The gap in unemployment rates between women and men

Subject	Proposed indicators
6/3 Work opportunities and unemployment (continued)	6/3/4 The percentage of women working in the agriculture, services and industrial sectors 6/3/5 <u>The percentage of working women by marital status and number of children in the family</u> 6/3/6 The percentage of women who leave work after marriage
7. <i>Women in positions of authority</i> 7/1 Public positions	7/1/1 Systems to prevent discrimination on the basis of gender in employment 7/1/2 Actual employment practices in the State apparatus 7/1/3 The percentage of women in the judiciary 7/1/4 The percentage of women lawyers 7/1/5 The percentage of women at ministerial level 7/1/6 The percentage of women at the level of consul 7/1/7 The percentage of women at ambassadorial level
7/2 Participation in elections	7/2/1 Opportunities for women and men to be nominated for parliamentary elections 7/2/2 Opportunities for women and men to be nominated for local government elections 7/2/3 The percentage of parliamentary seats occupied by women 7/2/4 The percentage of local government positions occupied by women
7/3 The economy and finance	7/3/1 The percentage of women managers in the banking and finance sector 7/3/2 The percentage of women who are in top administrative and decision-making positions in national central banks positions
8. <i>Institutional mechanisms to improve the status of women</i> 8/1 The integration of women	8/1/1 The number of ministries, departments and institutions in which special sections for women have been established 8/1/2 Total allocations for the support of women as a percentage of the budgets of those ministries and departments
9. <i>Women and human rights</i> 9/1 Education and narrowing the gender gap	9/1/1 The extent of planning for programmes directed towards the education of women 9/1/2 Allocations to women's education programmes as a percentage of total allocations to education 9/1/3 <u>The percentage of laws which have been amended in order to become compatible with human rights instruments and, in particular, those related to the rights of women</u>

Subject	Proposed indicators
9/2 Training and awareness of the rights of men and women	9/2/1 The number of annual activities for training women in and raising their awareness of their human rights 9/2/2 The number of annual activities for training men and raising their awareness of women's human rights
10. <i>Women and the media</i> 10/1 Providing equal opportunities for men and women	10/1/1 Number of women in administrative positions in national television 10/1/2 Number of women in administrative positions in daily and weekly national mass-circulation newspapers 10/1/3 <u>The percentage of women who occupy decision-making positions in the media</u> 10/1/4 <u>The percentage of women working in the media/as compared to percentages of men</u> 10/1/5 <u>The percentage of all media programmes devoted to gender-related issues</u> 10/1/6 <u>The percentage of women graduating from media institutes</u> 10/1/7 <u>Unemployment rates among media institute graduates by gender</u> 10/1/8 <u>Number of media institute graduates working in the media by gender, compared with the number of women working</u> 10/1/9 <u>The percentage of those working in the media who have received training in gender-related issues, disaggregated by gender</u>
11. <i>Women and the environment</i> 11/1 Gender and the environment	11/1/1 Number of women in administrative posts in environment-related institutions and organizations 11/1/2 Number of women in environment-related voluntary organizations 11/1/3 <u>The percentage of women with access to basic services (fresh water, health services, sewerage and electricity) as compared to percentage of men</u> 11/1/4 <u>The number of environmental awareness programmes concerned with environmental protection and safeguarding human beings from negative impacts</u> 11/1/5 <u>The percentage of studies and research relating to the environment and its impact on women and men</u> 11/1/6 <u>The sums allocated to environmental activities as a percentage of total public spending disaggregated by sector (Government, private and civil society)</u>

Subject	Proposed indicators
11/1 Gender and the environment (<i>continued</i>)	11/1/7 <u>Number of male and female teachers who have benefited from environmental training programmes</u> 11/1/8 <u>Environment-related subjects as a percentage of all subjects on school curriculums</u> 11/1/9 <u>Number of voluntary organizations working in the field of environment</u>
12. <i>The girl child</i>	12/1/1 The percentage of girls aged 15-19 who are enrolled at school
12/1 Education	12/1/2 The percentage of girls aged 6-14 who are enrolled at school
12/2 Health and early reproduction	12/2/1 The percentage of girls aged under 20 who have begun their reproductive life (have children or are pregnant for the first time) 12/2/2 The prevalence of malnutrition among girls as compared to boys aged under 5 12/2/3 <u>Percentage of married girls aged under 18</u>
12/3 Subjection to violence and sexual abuse	12/3/1 The number of girls who are subjected to violence and sexual abuse 12/3/2 The number of girls who die as a result of being subjected to violence and sexual abuse
12/4 Rights to welfare	12/4/1 The existence of laws and mechanisms which grant the children of working women welfare rights 12/4/2 <u>The percentage of working children aged under 18 by gender</u> 12/4/3 <u>Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</u> 12/4/4 <u>The percentage of women who are working in civil society organizations that are involved in fields relating to women and children</u>

B. COMMENTS AND PROPOSALS

43. The participants put forward the following comments and proposals:

- (a) Indicators related to women and poverty should be reviewed;
- (b) It is preferable to use percentages rather than absolute figures;

(c) New gender-related indicators including, for example, the percentage of total public spending on the environment, with the focus on the contribution of women in this field should be added;

- (d) It is difficult to obtain data on household budgets disaggregated by gender;
- (e) Attention must be given to qualitative indicators and, in particular, the gender perspective;
- (f) Indicators on height and protein consumption must be added in the area of health and nutrition;
- (g) An indicator on scientific research must be added in the field of education;
- (h) Indicators on the role of women in environmental protection and family health must be added;
- (i) It is difficult to determine the number of women who have benefited from certain health services;
- (j) Additional media-related indicators are required in order to cover audio-visual and written media and, possibly, scenario-writing, programme production, television programme preparation and the purchase of advertising companies.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. ESCWA MEMBERS AND ARAB COUNTRIES

Bahrain

Ms. Hanan Hassan Al-Khalifa
Head of Labour Studies Section
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
P.O. Box 32333
Tel.: 973-688608
Fax: 973-686934
E-mail: hananhassanali@yahoo.com

Ms. Haya Hussein Al-Shameli
Director of Community Development
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
P.O. Box 32333
Tel.: 00 973 684900
Fax: 00 973 870268
E-mail: hayas@bahrain.gov.bh

Egypt

Ms. Ghada Mostafa Abdalla
Senior Researcher in Population Studies
and Research Center
CAPMAS Egypt
Salah Salem Street - Nasr City - Cairo
Tel.: 4024393

Iraq

Mr. Ibrahim J. Kadom
Statistical Director
Central Statistical Organization
Planning Commission
Fax: 8001

Jordan

Ms. May Yousef Shahatit
Statistician
Department of Statistics
P.O. Box 2015 Amman
Tel.: 962-6-5342171
Fax: 962-6-5333518
E-mail: stat@dos.gov.jo

Lebanon

Ms. Lara Badre
Specialist in Sociology (social statistics sector)
Central Administration of Statistics
Trade and Finance Building
Beirut
Tel.: 961-1-373169
Fax: 961-1-373164
E-mail: lara_badre@hotmail.com
lara_badre@yahoo.com

Oman

Mr. Khalifa Abdullah Al-Barwani
Director of Population and Housing Statistics
Ministry of National Economy
P.O. Box 881, Muscat 113
Tel.: 968-695813
Fax: 968-698909
E-mail: khalife64@yahoo.com

Mr. Yacoub Al-Zadjal
Director of Social Survey
Ministry of National Economy
P.O. Box 881, Muscat 113
Tel.: 968-698825
Fax: 968-698909

Qatar

Mr. Saeed A. Al Hajri
Social Researcher
Council of Planning
Tel.: 974-4381455
Fax: 974-4452222

Mr. Sultan Ali Al Kuwari
Statistics Researcher
Council of Planning
Tel.: 974-4381250
Fax: 974-4452222

Yemen

Ms. Egtehad Ali
Director
Ministry of Planning and Development
Central Statistical Organization
Tel.: 250617/8
Fax: 250664

Algeria

Mr. Tahar Hocine
Director of Studies
CENEAP
Tel.: 542149
Fax: 213-21-543085
E-mail: ceneap@wissal.dz

Mr. Mohemmed Zian Rahmani
Director of Studies
Statistician - Informatician
CENEAP
Tel.: 213-21-542982
Fax: 213-21-542149
E-mail: ceneap@wissal.dz

Mr. Omar Ben Bella
Project Manager
National Office of Statistics
Tel.: 213-21-639974/5/6

Ms. Leila Laribi
Statistician
National Office of Statistics
Tel.: 213-21-639974
Fax: 213-21-639974

Mauritania

Ms. Maye Mint Haidy
Consultant - Statistical Engineer
National Office of Statistics
Tel.: 5253070
E-mail: maye@ons.mr

Morocco

Ms. Namima Ben Wakrim
Conseillère au Cabinet du Ministre Chargé de
la Femme
Ministère Chargé de la Condition de la Femme
Tel.: 212-37-770509
Fax: 212-37-770509
E-mail: naima409@caranail.com

Mr. Jamal Guennouni
Chargé de l'Etude de Qualité et de
Ressemblance
Direction de la Statistique
Ministère de la Provision Economique
Tel.: 212-37-773606
E-mail: jguennouni@statistics.gov.ma

Mr. Teto Abdel Kader
Chef de Service
Direction de la Statistique
P.O. Box 178 Rabat
Tel.: 212-37-773606
E-mail: ateto@statistics.gov.ma

Ms. Fatima Kanbeesh
Chef de Service des Affaires de la Femme
Ministère Chargé de la Condition de la Femme
Tel.: 671373
Fax: 671348

Sudan

Ms. Mona Abdeen Sid Ahmed
Assistant Manager
Census Office
Central Bureau Statistics
Tel.: 770585
Fax: 249-11-771860
E-mail: cbs@sudanmail.net

Tunisia

Ms. Aida Gorbai
Member in the Administrative Committee
Tunisian Association for the Children's Right
Tel.: 234316
Fax: 766340

Mr. Sondes Hadhri
Statistical Technician
Ministry of Women and Family Affairs
Tel.: 336721/252514

Mr. Abderrahman Jmour
General Director of Programs and Planning
Tel.: 336721/252514
Fax: 216-1-341902

Ms. Najwa Essefi Rebaaoui
Director of Communication
Ministry of Women and Family Affairs
Tel.: 332113
Fax: 350202
E-mail: nr-essefi@t.planet.tn

Mr. Abdel Hamid Bin Mrad
Director, National Office of Statistics
70 Nahj Al-Sham 1002 Tunis
Tel.: 782580

Ms. Samia Al-Lawati
Responsible for Preparation and Media
Programming
Ministry of Women and Family Affairs
Tel.: 252514

B. ORGANIZATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

UNIFEM

Ms. Shirin Jabir Shukri
Post Beijing Follow-up Operation Project
UNIFEM/Arab States Regional Office
P.O. Box 830896 Amman
Tel.: 5674689
Fax: 5678594
E-mail: unifem@nets.com.jo

CREDIF

Mr. Senim Ben Abdullah
Researcher in Social Studies and Head of
Department Responsible for the Tunisian
Women's Condition
Tel.: 883931 – 885322
Fax: 887436
E-mail: senimbena@yahoo.fr

ILO

Ms. Adriana Mata
Statistician
International Labour Office
4, Rue des Morillons
1211 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel.: 41-22-7996040
Fax: 41-22-7996957
E-mail: mata@ilo.org

UNICEF

Ms. Lucia Elmi
UNICEF Regional Researcher
Regional Office for the Middle East and North
Africa
P.O. Box 1551
Amman 11821
Tel.: 962-6-5539977 ext. 703
Fax: 962-6-5538880
E-mail: lelmi@unicef.org

C. EXPERTS

Ms. Azza Abdel-Aziz Soliman
Director of Regional Planning Center and
Coordinator of GPPU
I.N.P. Egypt
Salah Salem Street - Nasr City - Cairo
Tel.: 4017390 – 6327330
Fax: 2621151

Ms. Fahimet Charafeddine
Professor
Lebanese University
Tel.: 961-3-815820
Fax: 961-5-950204

Ms. Eman Said Nimri
Director of Development Information Unit
Queen Zein Al Sharaf Institute for
Development
P.O. Box 230511 Amman 11123
Tel.: 962-6-5052431
Fax: 00 962-6-5052435
E-mail: emnan.n@zenid.org.jo

D. ORGANIZERS

CAWTAR

Ms. Soukaina Bouraoui
Executive Director
44, Rue de Pologne 1005 El Omrane - Tunis
Tel.: 216-1-1571945/571867
Fax: 216-1-574627

E-mail: cawtar@planet.tn
Ms. Atidel Mejbri
Communication and Information Officer
44, Rue de Pologne 1005 El Omrane - Tunis
Tel.: 216-1-1571945/571867
Fax: 216-1-574627
E-mail: cawtar@planet.tn

CAWTAR (continued)

Ms. Lobna Najjar
Journalist
44, Rue de Pologne 1005 El Omrane - Tunis
Tel.: 216-1-1571945/571867
Fax: 216-1-574627
E-mail: cawtar@planet.tn

Ms. Houyem Gaaloul
Communication and Information Assistant
44, Rue de Pologne 1005 El Omrane - Tunis
Tel.: 216-1-1571945/571867
Fax: 216-1-574627
E-mail: cawtar@planet.tn

Ms. Najiba Hamrouni
Journalist
44, Rue de Pologne 1005 El Omrane - Tunis
Tel.: 216-1-1571945/571867
Fax: 216-1-574627
E-mail: cawtar@planet.tn

Ms. Hedia Bel Haj Youssef Sebai
Documentation and Information Officer
44, Rue de Pologne 1005 El Omrane - Tunis
Tel.: 216-1-1571945/571867
Fax: 216-1-574627
E-mail: cawtar@planet.tn

Ms. Hekmat Zouari
Administrative and Financial Officer
Tel.: 216-1-1571945/571867
Fax: 216-1-574627
E-mail: cawtar@planet.tn

ESCWA Statistics Division

Mr. Hussein A Sayed
Chief
Statistics Division
P.O. Box 11-8575
Beirut
Tel.: 961-1-981301 (ext. 1549)
Fax: 961-1-981510
E-mail: hsayed@escwa.org.lb

Mr. Ahmed Hussein
Chief
Social Statistics Section
Statistics Division
P.O. Box 11-8575
Beirut
Tel.: 961-1-981301 (ext. 1539)
Fax: 961-1-981510
E-mail: ahussein@rescwa.org.lb

Ms. Nadine Shaar
Statistics Assistant
Social Statistics Section
Statistics Division
P.O. Box 11-8575
Beirut
Tel.: 961-1-981301 (ext. 1548)
Fax: 961-1-981510
E-mail: nshaar@escwa.org.lb

Ms. Nada Moudallal
Statistics Assistant
Social Statistics Section
Statistics Division
P.O. Box 11-8575
Beirut
Tel.: 961-1-981301 (ext. 1545)
Fax: 961-1-981510
E-mail: nmoudallal@escwa.org.lb

Annex II

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Tuesday, 5 June 2001

8.30 – 10 a.m.	Registration
10 – 10.30 a.m.	Opening ceremony
10.30 – 11 a.m.	Break
11 – 11.30 a.m.	Main themes of gender-related concerns and their implications for the national and regional statistical systems. The Workshop's objectives and expected outcomes (Hussein A. Sayed, ESCWA)
11.30. – noon	Discussion

Session I: Priority gender issues

(Main outcome: a list of priority gender issues for the Arab region that reflects the outcome of the discussions on the critical gender issues and their mainstreaming within national policies and plans. The list will provide a flexible common framework that can be adapted to suit the specific circumstances of each country)

Noon – 1.30 p.m.	National reports: focus on priority gender issues (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen)
1.30 – 2 p.m.	Break
2 – 3 p.m.	Priority gender issues and related statistical indicators: case studies (Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco)
3 – 4 p.m.	General discussion
4 – 5 p.m.	Division into three working groups to discuss the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Priority policy areas and issues where the gender perspective must be taken into consideration- Sub-issues and various aspects of the previously specified areas

Wednesday, 6 June 2001

Session I: Priority gender issues *(continued)*

8.30 – 9.30 a.m.	Presentation of group work and establishment of a consensus on the list of priority gender issues for the Arab region and various related aspects
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Wednesday, 6 June 2001 (continued)

Session II: Gender statistics and related indicators

(Main outcome: a list of indicators for monitoring women's progress relative to men in all critical areas that are relevant to the priority gender issues in the Arab region. The list will provide a flexible common framework that can be adapted to suit the specific circumstances of each country)

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9.30 – 9.45 a.m. | Evaluation of the status of the available statistics on Arab women in the light of CAWTAR's experience preparing the report on globalization, gender and economic participation of Arab women
(Soukaina Bouraoui, CAWTAR) |
| 9.45 – 10.15 a.m. | The use and importance of gender-sensitive data and information within UNICEF
(Lucia Elmi, UNICEF MENARO) |
| 10.15 – 10.30 a.m. | What are gender-sensitive indicators and why are they useful?
(Shirin Shukri, UNIFEM Arab States Regional Office) |
| 10.30 – 10.45 a.m. | General discussion |
| 10.45 – 11 a.m. | Break |
| 11 – 11.30 a.m. | Gender indicators in the Arab region: outcome of experiences in preparing reports on women and men in countries participating in the project (Ahmed Hussein, ESCWA) |
| 11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Division into three working groups to discuss the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The use of indicators to facilitate gender mainstreaming: the experiences of countries- The indicators required in order to monitor the change in public policies and systems and identify gender gaps- A proposal for a framework on gender statistics and indicators in the Arab region- Proposals for a plan of work |
| 1 – 2 p.m. | Presentation of group work and establishment of a consensus on the list of gender indicators of priority in the Arab region |
| 2 – 2.15 p.m. | Break |

Session III: Statistics on time-use

(Main outcome: gaining theoretical and practical expertise in the fielding of time-use surveys)

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|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2.15 – 2.45 p.m. | Conducting time-use surveys: Oman |
| 2.45 – 3.00 p.m. | Discussion |

Thursday, 7 June 2001

Session III: Statistics on time-use (*continued*)

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|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 – 9.15 a.m. | Statistics on working time arrangements: issues and the role of time-use surveys (Adriana Mata, ILO) |
| 9.15 – 9.30 a.m. | Conducting time-use surveys and the results attained: Palestine |
| 9.30 – 10 a.m. | General discussion |
| 10 – 10.30 a.m. | Break |

Session IV: National databases and a gender statistics web site

(*Main outcome:* a proposed structure and content of a gender statistics web site based on the agreement concerning priority gender issues and related indicators for the Arab region)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10.30 – 10.45 a.m. | A proposal for a database for the Arab countries (Hedia Belhage, CAWTAR) |
| 10.45 – 11 a.m. | The methodology of databases: better production and use of gender statistics, the Tunisian women database as an example (Snaim Abdallah, CREDIF) |
| 11 – 11:30 a.m. | A proposal for the structure and content of a regional web site on gender statistics (Ahmed Hussein, ESCWA) |
| 11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. | General discussion and proposals for the structure and content of the web site |
| 12.30 – 1 p.m. | Closing ceremony |

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Annex IV

ACTION TAKEN BY WORKING GROUPS

Introduction

The Beijing Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women specified 12 areas of basic concern as priorities for action, and called for the commitment of all parties concerned with those basic areas, which are of necessity interlinked and of the highest priority. Set forth below are those basic areas of concern which, will be studied and reviewed by each group, together with the inherent gender dimensions, presented in the form of strategic objectives, and judged with respect to their relevance to the Arab region. Each working group is also being asked to add whatever issues and goals reflecting the specificity of the Arab region. Subsequently, proposals will be made for qualitative and quantitative indicators to be used in assessing the accomplishments realized and confronting the challenges that were highlighted by the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

A. FIRST WORKING GROUP

1. Women and poverty

Strategic objectives related to women and poverty included the following:

(a) Administrative laws and practices must be revised in order to ensure equal rights for women and their access to and control of economic resources;

(b) The general living conditions of women must be improved, and they must be empowered to obtain housing.

2. The education and training of women

Strategic objectives related to the education and training of women included the following:

(a) Action to achieve equal educational opportunities, including taking measures designed to eliminate discrimination against women in education at every level, and increase rates of enrolment in the educational system;

(b) The elimination of female illiteracy;

(c) The improvement of women's access to vocational training in science and technology and continuing education, and making of compulsory education a reality;

(d) The preparation of school curriculums and non-discriminatory explanatory materials, and training teachers in their role in this process.

3. Women and health

Strategic objectives related to women and health included the following:

(a) To increase women's access to health care and to related information and services;

(b) To allow women access to social security systems throughout their lives on a basis of equality with men;

(c) To ensure that girls have continuing access to health and nutrition information and services as they grow older;

(d) To record health issues which impact particularly on women, including breast and cervical cancer and female circumcision;

(e) To meet the health needs of girls and women and ensure that elderly women are also served;

(f) To pay special attention to reproductive health, health awareness and sexual education.

4. Violence against women

In this context, the term “violence against women” means any act of gender-related violence. A number of relevant strategic objectives are set forth below:

(a) To take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women;

(b) To study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures;

(c) To eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence resulting from prostitution and trafficking;

(d) To take cognizance of women who are victims of violence.

B. SECOND WORKING GROUP

1. Women and armed conflict

There is widespread recognition of the destructive consequences of armed conflicts on both women and men in our region, and of the importance of adopting an approach which takes into consideration the gender perspective in the implementation of international human rights laws.

Strategic objectives related to women and armed conflict included the following:

(a) The empowerment of women and their increased participation in conflict resolution, decision-making and the protection of casualties and, in particular, women living in situations of armed or other conflicts or those living under foreign occupation;

(b) The promotion of non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduction in the incidence of human rights abuses in conflict situations;

(c) The reduction of excessive military expenditure and of the availability of arm and promotion, with the participation of women, of a culture of tolerance and reconciliation;

(d) The provision of protection, assistance and training to refugee and displaced women in need of international protection and to internally displaced women and men and those who live in colonies and other regions which do not enjoy self-rule.

2. Women and the economy

There is an increasing awareness of the need to reconcile work and family responsibilities and of the reproductive implications of such arrangements as maternity leave, paternity leave, and the availability of family support services.

Set forth below are some of the strategic objectives related to women and the economy:

(a) To strengthen women’s economic rights and independence, including employment opportunities, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources;

- (b) To facilitate women's equal access to resources, employment, markets and trade;
- (c) To provide business services, training and access to markets, information and technology, particularly to low-income women;
- (d) To gradually eliminate occupational segregation and all forms of employment discrimination in a manner compatible with capacities and skills;
- (e) To promote the harmonization of work and family responsibilities for women and men.

3. *Women in positions of power and decision-making*

There is increasing recognition of the importance of the full participation of women in decision-making and power at all levels and in all circles, including the government and non-governmental sectors.

Strategic objectives related to women in positions of power and decision-making included the following:

- (a) The empowerment and training of women to participate in public life;
- (b) The taking of measures, at legal, institutional and media levels, to facilitate women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making processes;
- (c) The amendment of prevailing attitudes and culture in order to increase women's access to decision-making positions.

4. *Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women*

There is a deep understanding of the importance of strengthening the national bodies concerned with the advancement and empowerment of women. Certain strategic objectives related to the institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women are set forth below:

- (a) To create or strengthen national apparatus and other government bodies;
- (b) To create mechanisms for the integration of gender perspectives into all development programmes and projects and their follow-up and evaluation;
- (c) To generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for awareness-raising, planning and evaluation purposes.

C. THIRD WORKING GROUP

1. *Women and human rights*

While it has recently become evident that the equality of the sexes is accepted in many Arab countries, a number of laws and regulations continue to ignore that fact. Set forth below are some of the strategic objectives related to women and human rights:

- (a) To promote and protect the human rights of women through the full implementation of all human rights instruments and, in particular, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- (b) To ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and facilitate litigation measures;
- (c) To spread familiarity with legal principles and international conventions at all levels, using every available means;

(d) To ensure that national laws are harmonized with international conventions and that the gender perspective is mainstreamed;

(e) To ensure that planning is carried out for the partnership of government structures and community-based organizations.

2. Women and the media

The establishment of local, national and international women-oriented media networks has contributed to the spread of information, the exchange of viewpoints and support for women's organizations that are active in the media. Some of the strategic objectives related to women and the media included the following:

(a) To increase the participation of women and increase their opportunities for self-expression and decision-making in and through the media and new communication technologies;

(b) To promote a balanced and non-stereotypical portrayal of women in the media, by eliminating erroneous social concepts and practices;

(c) To prepare a media plan that includes environmental and gender dimensions.

3. Women and the environment

A general lack of public awareness still persists of the environmental hazards faced by women and of the capacity of equality between women and men to strengthen environmental protection. Certain strategic objectives related to women and the environment are set forth below:

(a) To actively involve women in environmental decision-making at all levels;

(b) To integrate gender-related concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development;

(c) To strengthen or establish mechanisms at national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women;

(d) To strengthen a patriotic spirit among women and men in order to encourage protection of the environment and mitigate the dangers it poses to the family and society;

(e) To regard the environmental dimension in exactly the same way as the gender dimension and include it as part of development in every country.

4. The girl child

Continued poverty, discrimination against women and girls and cultural practices with negative implications for girls are factors that have, collectively, restricted the opportunities and possibilities open to girls that would enable them to become independent. Set forth below are certain strategic objectives related to the girl child:

(a) To eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child;

(b) To eliminate cultural attitudes and practices with negative implications for girls;

(c) To promote and protect the rights of the girl child and raise awareness of her needs and potential;

(d) To eliminate discrimination against girls in education, skills development and training;

- (e) To eliminate discrimination against girls in respect of health and nutrition;
- (f) To eliminate the economic exploitation of child labour and protect young girls in the workplace;
- (g) To eradicate violence against the girl child;
- (h) To strengthen the girl child's awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life;
- (i) To strengthen the role of the family in improving the status of the girl child;
- (j) To harmonize national laws with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- (k) To enhance the role of community-based organizations in the formulation of policies dealing with children and the search for and access to financing;
- (l) To strengthen planning by involving government structures, civil organizations and the private sector.

Annex V

PARTICIPANT EVALUATION OF WORKSHOP

The Third Regional Workshop on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries was held over three days. Of the 30 participants, 24 filled in an evaluation form. The outcome of that evaluation is set forth below:

A. OVERALL EVALUATION OF WORKSHOP

The majority of participants, namely, 92 per cent of those who filled in the evaluation form, said that they had benefited from the Workshop, while 21 per cent indicated that they had received no previous training in gender matters; 33 per cent had not participated in national workshops; and 36 per cent had not participated in previous regional workshops held as part of the regional project to develop national gender statistics programmes in the Arab countries. A total of 79 per cent of the participants indicated that the Workshop had presented them with information of which they had no previous knowledge, and 58 per cent said that it had suggested new methods and means of research. At the end of the Workshop, the participants were unanimous in their conviction that the Workshop had achieved its objectives.

All participants classified the subjects raised during the Workshop as “on the level needed only”. A full 71 per cent of the participants described the working sessions as “only long enough to meet the need”, whereas 17 per cent described them as “too short” and 12 per cent said “it would have been better if they have been shorter”.

B. PROGRAMME OF WORK

In assessing the content and quality of the papers presented at the Workshop, an evaluative range of 1 to 5 (1: weak, 5: very good) was used. The assessments are given in annex table 1.

ANNEX TABLE 1. CONTENT AND QUALITY OF PAPERS PRESENTED

Papers	Content	Quality
Country papers	3.3	3.4
Case studies	3.4	3.3
Papers of regional experts	3.8	3.8
Time-use survey	3.9	3.9

The participants commented on the time allocated to each part of the sessions, including presentations and group discussions (see annex tables 2 and 3).

ANNEX TABLE 2. EVALUATION OF TIME ALLOCATED FOR WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS
(Percentage)

Subject	Too long	The right length	Too short
Gender priorities	4	62	25
Gender statistics and related indicators	4	62	25

ANNEX TABLE 3. EVALUATION OF TIME ALLOCATED FOR GROUP DISCUSSIONS
(Percentage)

Subject	Too long	The right length	Too short
Gender priorities	0	67	25
Gender statistics and related indicators	8	42	42

Note: 8 per cent did not specify.

C. PARTICIPANT PROPOSALS

The participants made a number of proposals with regard to the Workshop programme. It was suggested that the methodology for mainstreaming the gender perspective into development plans, programmes and social and economic projects could best be identified by gaining familiarity with previous national experiences and experiments. It was imperative for mechanisms to be found in order to maintain the continuity of this methodology and bridge the existing gap between producers and users of gender statistics. One proposal called for increased concentration on qualitative indicators and on attempts to make them measurable, while another stressed the need to concentrate on such new measurement methods as time-use surveys.

Most participants called for cooperation and coordination between the Arab countries with a view to studying ways of unifying statistical concepts, terms, indicators and methods in order to be able to make comparisons. Participants also urged that attention should be given to the circumcision of Arab girls, which had a negative impact on women and the family. In the Sudan, it constitutes a real danger to the lives of women, especially during childbirth.

Some participants stressed the need to discover new techniques, methods and analytic approaches for dealing with violence against women and domestic violence. Others felt that there should be a unified system throughout the Arab world in order to measure women's activities in the informed sector. One participant called for a study of the situation of women living in unstable circumstances. He also considered that the gender concept should form part of a scholastic education.

D. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

The participants evaluated various organizational aspects of the Workshop on a scale of 1: weak to 5: very good. The results are given in annex table 4.

ANNEX TABLE 4. EVALUATION OF ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS

Organizational aspect	Evaluation	Percentage (good/very good)
Overall organization	4.3	83
Preparatory work	4.0	95
Travel arrangements ^{a/}	3.9	80
Registration formalities	4.8	100
Accommodation ^{b/}	4.9	100
Conference facilities	4.75	100

^{a/} Travel arrangements did not apply to 13 per cent of the participants.

^{b/} Accommodation did not apply to 13 per cent of the participants.

The participants commented positively on the Workshop in general, especially with respect to the topics discussed. Those topics, including the time-use survey, were considered to be very important to all the Arab countries. It was stressed that the disparity in cultural development within Arab societies must be taken into consideration, and greater attention given to the societies which need it most. Appreciation was expressed for various aspects of the Workshop, including the fact that expert producers and users were evenly divided between the working groups. One participant believed that the project should be extended to all Arab countries.

Some participants felt that it was essential that the same people should always attend such workshops, in order to develop and complement their expertise and follow up work in this field. One participant said that the papers presented at such workshops should be distributed in advance, while another said that abstracts of country papers should have been circulated in order to give working groups sufficient time to discuss gender priorities and their related indicators in the Arab countries. One of those present suggested that time could have been allocated to allow participants to get acquainted with the host country.

Most of the participants stressed that it was imperative to set up an Internet web site, in order to place Arab countries at world level and make it easier for users to secure data or information on each country.