

## GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION MECHANISM (E.G., INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE OR TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS)

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### RATIONALE

1. With the decentralized nature of a gender statistical system (that is, gender statistics is being produced and (should be) used across all ministries and other private and non-government institutions), an inter-agency coordination mechanism becomes an indispensable element towards a well-coordinated and supportive GSS.
2. Similar to the PSC, the establishment of an inter-agency committee or technical working group on gender statistics (IAC-GS or TWG-GS, respectively) also presents a strategic opportunity for COs to leverage on this mechanism for effective programme management and execution, as well as sustainability of the achieved objectives. Thus, having them set up as early as possible is deemed necessary for the CO to have access to them – and seek advice and/or recommendations as MEWGC activities are being implemented.

### SUGGESTED REQUIREMENTS<sup>1</sup>

3. *On the organization,*
  - 3.1 *Co-Chairs.* Suggested co-chairs are the NSO and MoW as it may be deemed ideal that the IAC-GS will be led by the MoW (with the NSO serving as co-lead) to indicate its leadership as well as sense of ownership of the IAC-GS' thrusts.
  - 3.2 *Members.* May include representatives of other key implementing/partner government and non-government agencies, representatives from selected key stakeholders, and gender statistics experts or representatives from other agencies.
4. Further, on the composition of the IAC-GS, it is important to take into account two things – profile and size.
  - 4.1 *On the profile of the IAC-GS members,* considering that the IAC-GS will not only focus on data production, representatives from the users side (aside from Ministries) should also be deliberately considered (e.g., representatives from the crisis center, academe, research institution).
  - 4.2 *On the size of the IAC-GS,* CO needs to take into account the possible challenges of managing and coordinating a very big group (e.g., majority rules when decisions are needed; quorum; competing priorities, etc.). Thus, one option that may be considered is to identify key/major institutions (say, 15 institutions) then identifying on-call agencies, depending on the thematic topic of discussion/deliberation.

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<sup>1</sup> But not limited to those listed.

5. *On the coordination*, Secretariat support should be provided by the NSO (together with MoW, if needed). Thus, this role of NSO should also be reflected in the GSFP functions. (See para. 23.)

## SUGGESTED FUNCTIONS OF THE IAC-GS<sup>2</sup>

6. The following are the suggested functions of the IAC-GS:
  - 6.1 Lead the development, implementation, and monitoring of the country's gender statistics programme.
    - 6.1.1 *Important consideration.* The directions/thrusts of the IAC-GS work should be aligned with the country's gender statistics programme, as may be outlined in the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), National Development Plan (NDP), Statistics Act, among others. This then ensures that the thrusts of the IAC-GS will take into account earlier agreed and identified programs on statistical coordination and management; data production; subnational statistics; data dissemination and communication; research and development; national cooperation; and international cooperation.
  - 6.2 Work on the following tasks – going *beyond work on gender data production*:
    - 6.2.1 Setting statistical policies and standards (e.g., development of a statistical framework on gender and development (i.e., identifying the country's minimum set of gender indicators or national priority gender indicators (NPGI));
    - 6.2.2 Formulating statistical concepts and definitions to ensure standardization of statistical tools when various data-producing agencies (e.g., Ministries, local government authorities (LGAs)) collect data for their own purpose (e.g., standard and consistent concepts on gender-based violence (GBV) should be used by the police, ministry on social welfare and NSO);
    - 6.2.3 Developing estimation methodologies to address emerging concerns on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) (e.g., estimation of Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)); and
    - 6.2.4 Establishing mechanisms for systematic and institutionalized user-producer dialogues (e.g., regular statistical appreciation seminars), among others.

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

7. The Philippines Statistical System (PSS) organized an IAC-GS back in 2002, chaired by the Commission on Women and Co-Chaired by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB). It continues to be active to date. Considering this long experience of the PSS, COs may find the following links useful:
  - 7.1 ToR of the IAC-GS when it was first created in 2002: <http://nap.psa.gov.ph/aboutus/board/memoOrders/2002/3.asp>; and
  - 7.2 Latest ToR of the IAC-GS (as of 2017): <https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/13-IAC%20on%20Gender.pdf>.

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<sup>2</sup> But not limited to those listed.

8. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) facilitates the coordination of international statistical activities and promote the development of national statistical systems. It has developed a central repository of country profiles of statistical systems, which includes the *Good Practices Database* (<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/searchgp.aspx>). The Database provides reference materials on countries' policies and practices, including on national statistical coordination. The latter is further divided into two sub-topics: 1) organizational arrangements for producing statistics; and 2) coordination of statistical activities.

### SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES IN 2018, INCLUDING EXPENDITURE ITEMS THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED

9. Below is a table providing possible activities as well as corresponding expenditure items in relation to the establishment of an IAC-GS.

Activity	Expenditure item	Remarks
1. Meeting among CO, NSO, and MoW re: establishment of an IAC-GS, as well as plans for its organizational meeting	Meeting costs	To consider the following, among others: - their respective agencies' plans on gender statistics; - the directions/thrusts of the country's GSS (as indicated in the NSDS, NDP, Statistics Act, etc.)
2. Organizational meeting of the IAC-GS	Meeting costs <i>Optional:</i> Service allowance or honoraria	Some of the things to be prepared: i) Agenda ii) Overview of the country's GSS programme (based on remarks above) iii) Overview and progress report on the status of the MEWGC programme – highlighting common priority activities/areas of interventions iv) Organization of the IAC-GS (e.g., ToR, structure, regular schedule of meetings, expectations/ initial feedback) v) Plans and implementation of the priority activities of the IAC-GS in 2018 – propose specific (immediate) tasks that may be undertaken by a Task Force, if possible vi) Other agenda items/documents to be considered at the meeting (if any)
3. De-briefing meeting among CO, NSO, and MoW	Meeting costs	Based on the discussion during the organizational meeting, to also discuss ways on how to better leverage strategic partnerships with IAC-GS members to facilitate execution and/or involvement of their respective agencies in the MEWGC programme
4. Preparation of end-of-year report on this activity by CO, NSO, MoW through a writeshop (to include	Writeshop costs	To be provided to HQ; may also be shared with donors

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expenditure item</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
accomplishments, issues/challenges, lessons learned, next steps, etc.)		