

**United Nations Statistical Commission
United Nations Statistics Division
Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía de México**

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I. Introduction

Background and objective of the meeting

1. The Meeting of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on Statistical Indicators on Violence against Women

Opening session

15. Conclusions and recommendations
16. Closing

8. Most of the sessions -except sessions 4, 12 and 13 which involved a presentation- were plenary floor discussions that provided the participants with a forum for debates, sharing of experiences and exchange of views. Sessions 4, 12 and 13 were presentations introducing background papers.

9.

- v. The variability of surveys measuring violence against women and the indicators produced thereof points to the need to move beyond indicators.

pregnancy, youth, elderly, for example) and measure frequency within each of those periods.

22. Relationship to the perpetrator is a key element of violence against women. Consequently, this is a crucial variable that has to be included in all surveys on violence against women. The classification of relationshi

abortion that carry particular consequences and may or may not be considered as acts of sexual violence. Therefore, the Friends of the Chair concluded that in the development of the *Guidelines on Producing Statistics on Violence against Women*, the classification of acts of sexual violence and their breakdown by severity require special consideration, taking into account psychological effects and other kinds of consequences to the victim.

29. Following the same approach as with physical violence, the Friends of the Chair recognized that the risk of sexual violence differs according to women's life cycles. It was suggested that an approximation of frequency of sexual violence during lifetime be explored on the basis of life periods/segments/phases (such as pregnancy, youth, elderly, for example) and measure frequency within each of those periods.

30. The Friends of the Chair reflected on what age threshold to consider, given that, even if the target population is defined as women of 15 years of age and over, they might have been subjected to sexual violence at younger ages. Consequently, the meeting decided to have two different approaches depending on the relationship to perpetrator. In the case of indicators considering sexual violence perpetrated by the partner, the issue would be solved as follows: any event of sexual violence would be recorded, regardless of whether the victim was below or above 15 year of age at the time of the event, given that she is above the threshold at the time of the survey. On the other hand, in the case of indicators of sexual violence perpetrated by a non-partner, the meeting decided to consider events occurring after 15 years of age with a view of avoiding confusion with child abuse, which falls outside the scope of violence against women.

31. As for the classification of relationship with the offender and the frequency in the last 12 months, the same approach as for the indicators on physical violence applies to the sexual violence indicators. In addition, the Friends of the Chair recommend distinguishing the events where the acts of sexual violence are inflicted by a group of perpetrators, rather than by a single one.

Session 7. Indicators on Psychological Violence

32. The Friends of the Chair concluded that the indicator on psychological violence – total and age specific rate of women subjected to psychological violence in the past 12 months by an intimate partner – should be incorporated in the core set of statistical indicators on violence against women.

33. The meeting discussed at length whether to expand the indicator on psychological violence to a lifetime period, in addition to the past 12 months. A powerful argument against this was the bias introduced by the inaccuracy of reporting facts that occurred in the far past, termed recall bias in statistical settings. Consequently, the Friends of the Chair agreed to collect data only on the past 12 months for as many partners declared by the respondent.

34. It was agreed that threats, humiliation, mocking and controlling behaviors are some of the modalities of psychological violence. This form of violence more often than not

accompanies physical violence and is a precursor of it. The Friends of the Chair exchanged views on the methodological challenges that this inherent association of physical and psychological violence pose to the development of statistical instruments. Therefore, the meeting saw the need for a review of available data on psychological and emotional violence in order to develop a classification of acts, severity and frequency that provide guidelines to national statistical authorities in designing surveys on violence against women.

Session 8. Indicators on Economic Violence

35. The Friends of the Chair concluded that the indicator on economic violence – total and age specific rate of women subjected to economic violence in the past 12 months by an intimate partner – should be incorporated in the core set of statistical indicators on violence against women.

36. The Friends of the Chair exchanged views on the importance of providing researchers and policy makers with micro and macro data on economic violence, as it is phenomenon that often precedes other types of violence, especially within households. Furthermore, it is inherently associated with poverty measures that do not take into consideration the increased vulnerability of women, as they often perform unpaid work.

37. The meeting discussed at length the settings where economic violence against women can occur as opposed to acts of discrimination and which of these settings fall under the field of action of the Friends of the Chair group. In this regard, the meeting agreed to focus on economic violence perpetrated by an intimate partner, broken down by the same categories as physical, sexual and psychological violence. Other settings such as the work environment, specifically issues like harassment at work resulting in abandoning employment; discrepancies in salaries based on gender and so forth, may represent additional topics in the dedicated survey on violence against women or can be investigated through other types of surveys.

38. Following the same approach as is in psychological violence, and taking into account the disadvantages of expanding the timeframe to lifetime, the Friends of the Chair agreed to collect data only on the past 12 months for as many partners declared by the respondent.

- i. Denying access to financial resources resulting in adverse consequences to the wellbeing of the woman
- ii. Denying access to property and durable goods
- iii. Deliberate non-compliance of the intimate partner regarding economic responsibilities, such as alimony, often resulting in considerable exposure of the victim to poverty and hardship
- iv. Denying access to the labor market, health care and education
- v. Denying participation in decision-making relevant to economic status

40. Taking into account the nature of this indicator in terms that it consists of a behavior over a period of time, the dimensions of severity, frequency and consequences were assessed as not fully relevant by the Friends of the Chair.

Session 9. Indicators on Intimate Partner Violence

41. The Friends of the Chair concluded that the intimate partner violence indicators – total and age specific rate of ever-partnered women that experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months and in their lifetime – should remain in the core set of indicators.

42. After discussing at length the methodological implications of preserving these indicators in the core set, the Friends of the Chair agreed that they are primarily dissemination indicators, i.e. that they do not require additional collection of statistics. The meeting emphasized that these indicators require additional processing of data already collected for core indicators on physical and sexual violence.

43. Continuing with the discussion on methodological issues inherent to the indicators of violence perpetrated by an intimate partner, the Friends of the Chair reflected on the target population to be used as denominator. Strictly, the target population is ever-partnered women; however, experience shows that the estimation of this population cannot be drawn from the same survey, as it yields inaccurate figures. This points to the need of having available a census or sample benchmark of ever-partnered women, as the true target population, to be able to compute reliable indicators.

44. On the other hand, it was suggested that a proxy be used, i.e. consider using all women aged 15 years and over. This suggestion generated considerable controversy among the Friends of the Chair. While the use of this proxy target population facilitates the computation of these two indicators, their statistical reliability would depend heavily on how close the true target population and the proxy target population are from each other. Evidence shows that, depending on country circumstances as well as the definition of intimate partner, the difference is estimated at 5 to 8 per cent between ages 15 and 18, decreasing substantially after age 18. Consequently, the Friends of the Chair advised using the true target population - ever-partnered women aged 15 and over – and allowed for the possibility of using the proxy target population – all women aged 15 and over –

given that all precautions have been taken to estimate the difference between these two populations and that this difference is small.

45. Considering the wide variation in terms of partnership formation patterns, depending on cultural and national circumstances, the meeting concluded that more work needs to be done with regards to definition of intimate partner, keeping it as broad as possible, not limited to marriage or legal unions.

46. During the debate, the Friends of the Chair reflected upon the convenience of joining the two forms of violence – physical and sexual – together for the computation of these indicators. They agreed on the need to joining them together, as, in the case of intimate partnership, both physical and sexual violence are inflicted simultaneously, therefore it would be neither conceptually sound, nor pragmatically possible to disentangle them as separate indicators. Consequence

51. Consequently, the Friends of the Chair recommended that early marriage, or rather, early union, remains an additional indicator as a proxy for violence against women and that national statistical authorities depending on national circumstances, assess the appropriateness of including the topic in statistical surveys on violence against women.

52. As for the phenomenon of forced marriage, irrespective of the age of the bride, the Friends of the Chair recommended that this phenomenon be considered as an additional statistical indicator of violence against women. Given the complexity of the phenomenon, the meeting considered that there is a need to assess the key elements that make for it, such as perpetrator, age of bride, age of groom, among other variables. Consequently, more work needs to be done to determine the most appropriate way of measuring prevalence of forced marriage, whether through a statistical survey on violence against women or some other health and demographic survey.

Female Genital Mutilation

53. The Friends of the Chair concluded that the total and age specific rate of women subjected to female genital mutilation should be incorporated in the core set of indicators of violence against women, even though it is not a widespread phenomenon in the world. Because female genital mutilation is an extreme form of physical, sexual and psychological violence, the meeting decided that it is convenient to distinguish it as an independent indicator.

54.

57. In this context, the meeting agreed that the minimum criteria for producing statistics on femicide are administrative records disaggregated by sex coming from reliable procedures. The Friends of the Chair recommended that this indicator be elaborated in a follow-up stage, in terms of a unifying definition, statistical methodology to integrate administrative records, characteristics of the aggressors, quality of administrative records and the possibility of being incorporated in the core set of indicators on violence against women.

58. To this regard, the meeting wished to emphasize that particular attention in the next phases of the work of the Friends of the Chair group should be placed on crime and criminal justice statistics, as these are the most reliable source of data for this indicator.

Stalking

59. The Friends of the Chair felt that, while stalking is a relevant phenomenon within the framework of violence against women, they were faced with a variety of inconsistent definitions, depending on national legal or statistical frameworks. A particular challenge in terms of defining the concept was the inclusion or exclusion of sexual harassment, as well as a possible interaction with emotional violence and fear. Thus, the Friends of the Chair decided that this topic would remain for further work. A comprehensive list of acts needs to be developed, as well as survey methodology to collect data on this issue. The Friends of the chair highlighted the need of taking into consideration the different national legal frameworks.

Physical and sexual violence in childhood

60. The Friends of the Chair considered pertinent to make a clear distinction between indicators on current child abuse and adult women who were abused in their childhood.

The Friends of the Chair concluded that only the latter falls within the scope of the indicator. The Friends of the Chair concluded that only the latter falls within the scope of the indicator.

Trafficking of women

63. The Friends of the Chair concluded that the indicator on trafficking of women should be incorporated in the additional set of statistical indicators on violence against women. Experience shows that data collection in this regard faces peculiar methodological

Session 12. Interregional Development Account Project: Presentation on Violence against Women survey module

69. Under the Development Account Project on Eradicating Violence against Women, the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe, Statistical Division, was assigned the development of a survey module that can be attached to an existing survey at the national level and provide an alternative for the dedicated statistical survey on violence against women. The draft module was developed and commented upon by an expert group meeting in September 2009.

70. The latest version of the questionnaire, comprised of sixty questions, was presented by the Statistical Division of the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe at this meeting of the Friends of the Chair. It was pointed out that this instrument was developed with a view of producing data for the computation of the interim set of indicators put forward by the Friends of the Chair in their report to the Statistical Commission in its 40th session.

71. The Friends of the Chair acknowledged the development of this module and its content. It was noted that, while in principle it meets the interim set of indicators in terms of content, the Friends of the Chair expressed the need of thorough elaboration for the implementation, including statistical strategy and computation methodology.

72. Specifically, concerns were raised in regard to ensuring the safety of the respondents in the framework of the master survey that might focus on a completely unrelated topic, as well as issues related to sampling, as the sample frame will be developed for the master survey, not the module on violence against women. The meeting also voiced their concern regarding the computation of indicators, given that there are no guidelines on how to process the data, and the fact that the possible lack of randomness coming from the sampling may prevent accurate estimates. In addition, the issue of translation was raised; the Friends of the Chair pointed out that the inadequate translation of the instrument might affect comparability. Other issues such as the need for extensive and additional training of the enumerators and relatively short time-frame (mid-2011) to accomplish testing in ten countries were also discussed.

73. Therefore, the meeting recommended the development of a comprehensive implementation manual addressed to national statistical offices willing to use the survey module covering at length all issues raised. To this regard, it has to be emphasized that certain participating countries may run this module only as a pilot – testing the protocols, methodology and questionnaire – while others might attempt at generating statistics for the core indicators.

74.

Mexico, 9-11 December 2009, which presents the required sets of indicators, to the

ii. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to physical violence during

86. A dedicated statistical survey on violence against women representative for the national and major sub-national levels was found to be the instrument of choice for producing accurate and relevant statistics on the first eight core statistical indicators on violence against women, as well as additional indicators numbers i., ii and iv.

87. Taking into consideration the fact that implementing this recommendation would not be possible in all national circumstances due to the lack of statistical capacity and/or funding, a module attached preferably to a health or demographic survey would be a viable alternative.

88. The Friends of the Chair recommend that data for core indicator number ix. be collected through demographic surveys, health surveys or population census.

89. Additional indicators iii. and v. have their source mainly in administrative records, such as hospital, judicial, border or civil registration records. The Friends of the Chair agreed that elaboration on all these indicators, and others such as femicide should be the focus of their work during the second stage of their mandate.

90. Finally, the Friends of the Chair recommended that national governments commit themselves toward producing accurate, relevant and timely statistics on violence against women as it has an appalling impact on the lives of individuals, families and society at large.

91. The Friends of the Chair agreed to brief chief statisticians and the statistical community on the developments of the work of the group via a side event during the forthcoming 41st session of the Statistical Commission. The meeting trusted UNSD the organization of such briefing.

92. UNSD committed to develop the *Guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women*, as approved and revised by the Friends of the Chair during this meeting as well as to submit the draft to

Annex 1. List of Participants

No.	Country / Organization	Contact Person Information
1	Australia	Mr. Bob McCOLL Assistant Statistician Social Conditions Statistics Branch Australian Bureau of Statistics
2	Bangladesh	Mr. Md. Shahjahan ALI MOLLAH Director General Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
3	Bulgaria	Ms. Mariana KOTZEVA President National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria
4	Chile	Ms. Veronica OXMAN Advisor on Gender Statistics Office of the National Statistician National Statistical Institute of Chile

No.	Country / Organization	Contact Person Information
11	Turkey	Ms. Deniz UYANIK Team manager Gender Statistics TurkStat
12	United States of America	Ms. Marcella JONES-PUTHOFF Demographic Statistician United States Census Bureau Population Division/Age and Special Populations
13	UN Economic Commission for Europe	Ms. Tiina LUIGE Senior Statistician UNECE
14		Ms. Henrica A.F.M. (Henriette) JANSEN Consultant UNECE
15	UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Ms. Vivian MILOSAVLJEVIC Division for Gender Affairs ECLAC
16	UN Division for the Advancement of Women	Ms. María Herminia GRATEROL GARRIDO Social Affairs Officer DAW/DESA
17	UN Statistics Division	Mr. Srdjan MRKI Chief Social and Housing Statistics Section Demographic and Social Statistics Branch Statistics Division
18		Ms. M. Isabel COBOS HERNÁNDEZ Associate Statistician Demographic Statistics Section Demographic and Social Statistics Branch Statistics Division
19	World Health Organization	Ms. Christina PALLITTO Technical Officer WHO

Annex 1. Organisation of work

Tuesday, 8 December 2009	
19:30–21:30	<p>1. Registration of participants A registration desk will be set up at the Quinta Real Hotel</p>
Wednesday, 9 December 2009	
9:00–9:30	<p>2. Opening Introductory remarks by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - INEGI Mexico - United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
9:30 – 9:45	Break / Photography
9:45 – 10:00	<p>3. Logistics and adoption of agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of agenda • Selection of Rapporteur • Organizational issues
10:00 – 11:00	<p>4. Methodological Overview of Surveys on Violence against Women It introduces the paper on the thorough review of the current methodologies used to measure violence against women, their compatibility with the indicators proposed by the Friends of the Chair (FoC) group and their suitability at the international level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNSD presentation (Paper No. 1) • General discussion
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 13:00	<p>5. Indicators on Physical violence [Papers No. 2, No.3, No.4, No.5, No.6, No.7, No.8]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Classification of types of violence (events). b. Classification of severity of violence. c. Classification of relationship to the perpetrator. d. Classification of frequency. e. Characteristics of victim. f. Timeframe to determine “ever in her lifetime”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General discussion
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break

14:30 –16:15	<p>6. Indicators on Sexual violence [Paper No. 2, No.3, No.4, No.5, No.6, No.7, No.8]</p> <p>a. Classification of types of violence (events). b. Classification of severity of violence. c. Classification of relationship to the perpetrator. d. Classification of frequency. e. Characteristics of victim. f. Timeframe to determine “ever in her lifetime”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General discussion
16:15 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 17:30	<p>7. Indicators on Psychological violence [Paper No. 2, No.3, No.6, No.8]</p> <p>a. Classification of types of violence (events). b. Classification of severity of violence. c. Classification of relationship to the perpetrator. d. Classification of frequency. e. Characteristics of victim. f. Timeframe to determine “ever in her lifetime”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General discussion
18:30 – 20:00	Welcome cocktail gathering (venue to be confirmed)
Thursday, 10 December 2009	
9:00- 10:30	<p>8. Indicators on Economic violence [Paper No.3, No.6, Papers TBA]</p> <p>a. Classification of types of violence (events). b. Classification of severity of violence. c. Classification of relationship to the perpetrator. d. Classification of frequency. e. Characteristics of victim. f. Timeframe to determine “ever in her lifetime”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General discussion
10:30- 11:00	Coffee break
11:00- 12:00	<p>9. Indicators on intimate partner violence [Paper No. 2, No.3, No.4, No.5, No.7, No.8]</p> <p>a. Classification of types of violence (events). b. Classification of severity of violence.</p>

	<p>e. Timeframe to determine “ever in her lifetime”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General discussion
12:00 – 13:00	<p>10. Indicators on harmful practices [Paper No. 2, No.4, No.5, No.6, No.7, Papers TBA]</p> <p>a. Early marriage and forced marriage, b. Female genital mutilation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General discussion
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:15	<p>11. Other indicators [Paper No. 3, No.5, No.7, Papers TBA]</p> <p>a. Femicide in general, and spousal homicide in particular. b. Stalking. c. Physical and sexual violence in childhood. d. Discrimination and violence at work. e. Trafficking of women f. Impact of incidence of sexual violence against women on sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. g. Extent to which women recognize they suffered violence as a crime. h. Hidden violence unreported to the authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General discussion
15:15 - 15:45	Coffee break
15:45- 17:00	<p>12. Interregional Development Account Project <i>Enhancing Capacities to Eradicate Violence against Women through Networking of Local Knowledge Communities: Presentation on Violence against Women survey module</i> [Paper TBA]</p> <p>A presentation of the progress of the Inter-regional group work and the implementation of the survey module.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interregional group presentation • General discussion
Friday, 11 December 2009	
9:00 - 10:15	<p>13. Outline for Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women [Paper TBA]</p> <p>A proposal for the outline of the guidelines will be presented by UNSD and discussed in plenary.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General discussion
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 – 13:00	14. Follow-up work of the Friends of the Chair group [Paper No] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General discussion
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 16:00	15. Conclusions and Recommendations
16:00 – 16:30	16. Closing