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of the Regional
Conference on Women**
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Santiago, 22–23 June 2022

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BREAKING THE STATISTICAL SILENCE TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY BY 2030

IMPLEMENTING THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS PILLAR OF THE MONTEVIDEO STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL GENDER AGENDA WITHIN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK BY 2030



**Regional Conference
on Women**
in Latin America and the Caribbean
1977–2022

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INTRODUCTION

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development outlines a transformative vision for economic, social and environmental sustainability, with the commitment to gender equality and women's rights and autonomy serving as a cross-cutting theme for the Agenda and its goals, targets and indicators (ECLAC, 2016). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is aligned with the Regional Gender Agenda, the set of regional instruments agreed as outcomes of the sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean held over the past 45 years.

The Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, adopted at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, is a road map to achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda as they relate to gender equality and women's rights and autonomy. In the Strategy, it is acknowledged that four structural challenges need to be overcome to achieve gender equality by 2030: (i) socioeconomic inequality and the persistence of poverty, in the framework of exclusionary growth; (ii) discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns and the predominance of a culture of privilege; (iii) the sexual division of labour and the unfair social organization of care; and (iv) the concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also has a robust mechanism for reviewing and monitoring implementation, consisting of a global indicator framework for monitoring progress, guiding policy and guaranteeing the accountability of all stakeholders. In the region, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has become consolidated as the appropriate forum to foster cooperation and coordination and to harmonize work on official statistics, and as the natural locus of statistical monitoring for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development at the regional level (Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2018).

The Regional Gender Agenda also acknowledges the need for enlightened public policy design based on data that illustrate the difference between men and women, shed light on the living conditions of women and help to overcome inequality and promote action for sustainable and inclusive development centred around gender equality. In that regard, when governments in the region adopted the Montevideo Strategy, they identified gender information systems as one of the foundations for the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

“Gender information systems involve the processes of selecting, compiling, integrating, processing, analysing and disseminating information on gender inequalities, as well as on the progress made and challenges that remain in ensuring fulfilment of women's rights” (ECLAC, 2017, p. 35). Gender information systems not only enable greater knowledge of the real situation of women in the region, they also support the design of policies that promote gender equality. Gender information systems must also be systematically integrated into the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda in the context of the 2030 Agenda. To this end, it is essential to have mechanisms to disseminate relevant, sufficient, timely and reliable information for the analysis of obstacles and progress in the fulfilment of the commitments assumed by States (ECLAC, 2017).

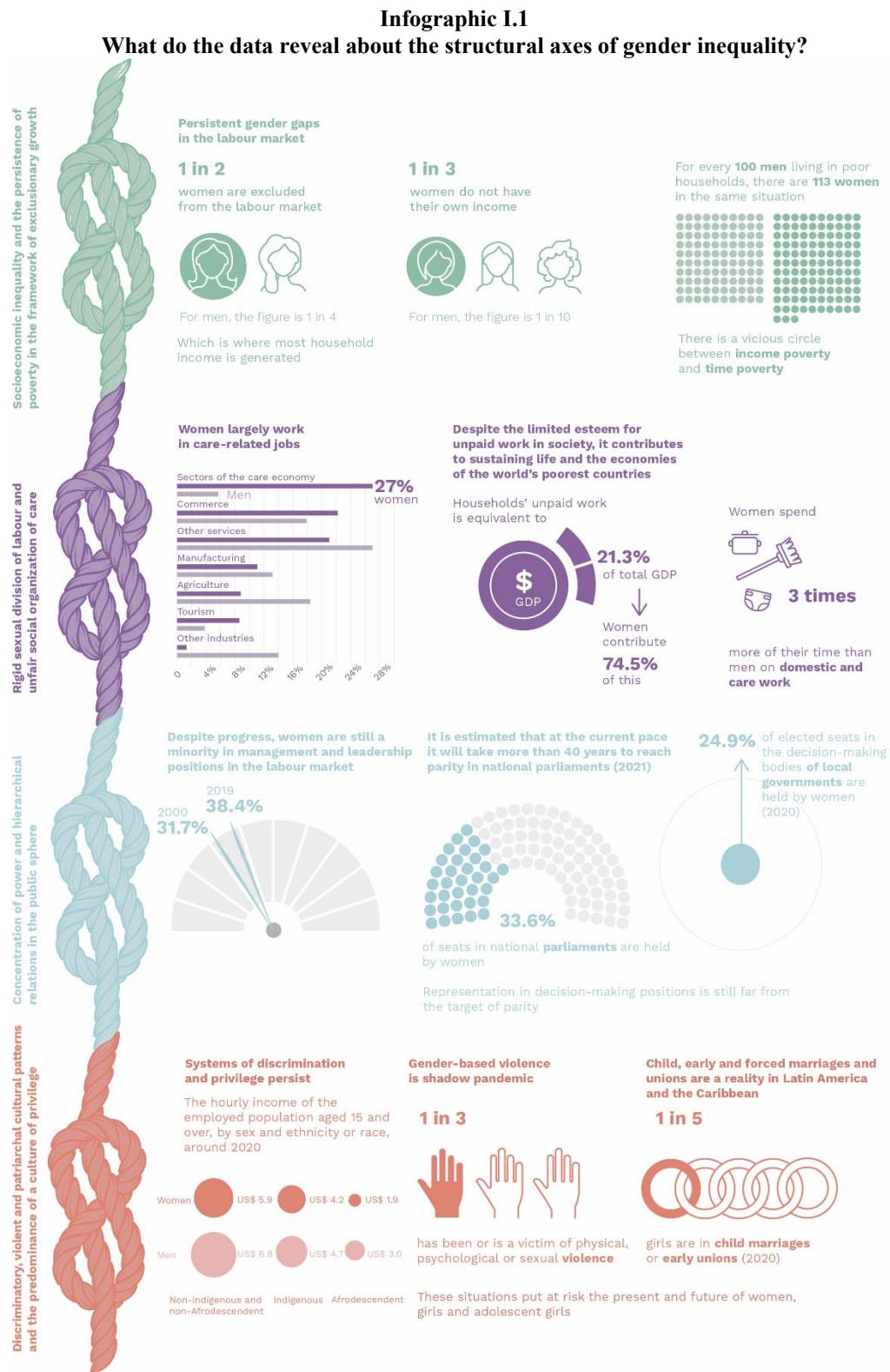
The present report is the outcome of joint work by the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Statistical Conference of the Americas, as set out in measure 9.1 of the Montevideo Strategy. It will be presented at the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, as part of the systematic review of progress in the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy, with a focus on pillar 9, on information systems.

This document is organized into seven chapters. The first deals with the four structural challenges that perpetuate gender inequality, taking into account the current status of women in the region with respect to each challenge and the interrelationships between them. The second chapter offers a review of the joint work of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Statistical Conference of the Americas, and the multilateral progress in strengthening gender mainstreaming in statistical production in countries in the region. Chapter III presents the progress made by countries in mainstreaming gender in national statistical systems and chapter IV focuses on partnerships between producers and users of information to enhance the production of gender statistics. Chapter V addresses progress in mainstreaming the gender perspective in the production of official statistics and efforts to expand statistical production with a gender perspective to all economic, social and environmental domains. Chapter VI details the progress made by countries in the region in producing the information required to implement and monitor public care policies that will enable a shift towards a care society. The final chapter concerns the obstacles to achieving gender information systems by 2030 that will allow data to be transformed into information, information into knowledge and knowledge into policy decisions.

I. WHAT DO THE DATA REVEAL ABOUT THE STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES OF GENDER INEQUALITY?

Information generated in Latin America and the Caribbean has made it possible to break the statistical silence and reveal the unequal distribution of power, resources, time, wealth and work that is at the root of the unsustainability of the prevailing development pattern. At the same time, the production of statistics with a gender perspective has been critical for cross-cutting monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Gender statistics are a powerful tool that reveal the breadth and degree of the various forms of gender inequality in different domains. Sexual division of labour is persistent in the region and is the main barrier to greater female participation in the labour market. In the region, the barrier of 50% of women's participation in the labour market had been breached; nevertheless, in the first year after the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, women's labour market participation regressed by 18 years, showing that in times of crisis, women's work acts as an adjustment variable. Today, one in two women is outside the labour market, compared to one in four men (see infographic I.1). This situation places at risk the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 8, in particular target 8.5 on full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men (United Nations, 2015; ECLAC, 2018a).



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of CEPALSTAT [online database] <https://estadisticas.cepal.org/cepalstat/portada.html?idioma=english>.

Analysis of statistics produced with a gender perspective shows that for women who manage to enter the labour market, wage gaps persist, as do horizontal and vertical segmentation and segregation, overrepresentation in informal jobs and lower participation in the most productive sectors of the economy, including in the domains of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and others. This is key in relation to women's economic autonomy, since most income is generated in the labour market; so, too, are the inequalities inherent to its distribution. In the region, a significant percentage of women still have no income of their own, a figure that reached 27.8% in 2020, while for men the figure was 12.0%.¹ Although poverty rates had trended downwards until 2014 and then climbed again somewhat until 2019, the pandemic affected those rates for both men and women, leading to approximately 204 million people living in poverty in the region in 2020, with 81 million lacking the means even to buy a basic food basket (extreme poverty). Accordingly, efforts must be redoubled if Sustainable Development Goal 1, on ending poverty in all its forms, is to be achieved. Even during periods of falling poverty rates, the poverty femininity index was over 100, showing that efforts to reduce poverty have not benefited men and women equally or succeeded at the same rate, and that in the end, women comprise a higher proportion of poor households. In 2020, there were 113 women for every 100 men aged between 20 and 59 living in poverty.

Analysis of time use and feminist economics perspectives have provided greater insight into the contributions that women make to economies and societies through their unpaid domestic labour. On average, countries in the region that have quantified the value of domestic labour and unpaid care have estimated that it represents 21.3% of GDP. Women carry out 74.5% of this work. Advances in measuring time use in the region have also shown that women spend nearly three times longer than men performing household work and providing unpaid care, revealing unfair and unequal social organization of care and sexual division of labour. Sexual division of labour also exists in the labour market, where 1 in 3 women work in care economy sectors. This information is relevant to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal target 5.4, on recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family (ECLAC, 2018a).

Information produced using a gender perspective shows the predominance of hierarchical relations that limit the ability of women in the labour market to occupy managerial positions. In 2001, 31.7% of managerial positions were occupied by women, and despite modest progress —in 2019, the rate was 38.4%— women are still a minority at that level. These unequal power relations also manifest in the political sphere, where data show that women held only 33.6% of parliamentary seats in 2021. This information serves to monitor progress and setbacks or stagnation in measures taken to promote greater access to the exercise of power and decision-making processes for women, in keeping with Sustainable Development Goal target 5.5. Similarly, an analysis of the information on the elected members of local deliberative government bodies reveals that in 2020, only 24.9% of seats were held by women (see infographic I.1).

The availability of gender statistics that document different aspects of the three dimensions of sustainable development —economic, social and environmental— is key for analysing the interactions between different systems of discrimination and privilege. To take this analysis to any level of depth, national statistical systems must be able to report on the realities of the various groups that make up a

¹ See Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, based on the Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG) [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators/people-without-incomes-their-own>.

country's population, in particular those that have been historically marginalized, and bring to light gaps in access to rights and to the benefits of development by cross-referencing relevant categories. Adopting an intersectional perspective makes it a real possibility to fulfil the challenge of "leaving no one behind", by committing the entire technical process and the institutions responsible for national statistics to the notion that inequalities are multifaceted and shape and reshape each other. For example, analysis of the hourly earnings of the employed population by ethnic and racial status and sex shows that Afrodescendent women receive wages 3.5 times lower than the pay received by white or mestizo men (i.e. non-indigenous, non-Afrodescendent men), and 3 times lower than the pay of non-indigenous, non-Afrodescendent women. This earnings gap shows that productive inclusion and decent work are strongly skewed along gender and ethnic and racial lines, and the effects of this are more pronounced when taking into account the interaction of these factors (see infographic I.1).

Data from the region also show the predominance of patterns of patriarchy, discrimination and violence, as well as persistent gender-based violence against women. Violent behaviour is progressive and affects 1 in 3 women in the region. Gender statistics enable the monitoring of progress towards achieving gender equality and the full and equal enjoyment of all human and fundamental rights by women and children (United Nations, 2016), in particular Sustainable Development Goal 5. The prevalence of child marriage is a reality for girls and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean: according to 2020 data, 1 in 5 adolescents or girls had entered into an early union or marriage before the age of 18, which shows the regional challenges to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal target 5.3, which calls for the elimination of all harmful practices, including child marriage. Having disaggregated data on the characteristics of the victims of gender-based violence and on the circumstances in which it occurs makes it possible to improve public policies for preventing and addressing this violation of women's human rights and to guarantee their access to justice.

Gender statistics are not an end in and of themselves; rather, they must respond to the needs of policymakers, civil society organizations, academics and researchers, the media and the general public. Gender statistics can be used to promote understanding of the structural causes of gender inequality; advance gender analysis and research; monitor progress towards gender equality and the full and equal enjoyment of all human and fundamental rights by women and girls; develop and monitor policies and programmes aimed at earmarking greater investments for the sustainability of life; and support gender mainstreaming in policies related to the three dimensions of sustainable development (United Nations, 2016). It is therefore necessary to continue producing relevant, reliable, timely, coherent and accessible information so that decision-makers can provide targeted responses to remedy the structural challenges of gender inequality and guarantee women's autonomy.

II. THE REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE SUPPORTS THE PRODUCTION OF COMPARABLE GENDER STATISTICS

Latin America and the Caribbean has a host of regional mechanisms for identifying the regional and subregional challenges and priorities related to gender equality and women's autonomy and promoting the statistical development of the countries of the region

The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean is the main intergovernmental forum for the States of the region to establish commitments to advance towards guaranteeing women's human rights and ending gender inequality and discrimination. Over 45 years, an

ambitious Regional Gender Agenda has been created (Bidegain, 2017; ECLAC, 2021), which interacts with other commitments adopted by the States of the region, such as the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, the outcome of the Regional Conference on Population and Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the agreements adopted by the Regional Conference on Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communication Technologies, and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) (ECLAC, 2017). The Regional Gender Agenda was built taking into consideration regional priorities and challenges to the achievement of gender equality, is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, and serves as a guide for Latin America and the Caribbean for the achievement of sustainable development. Since its inception, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean has emphasized the importance of having timely statistical information to guide the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies in order to ensure the fulfilment of the commitments set out in the Regional Gender Agenda.

The Statistical Conference of the Americas is the subsidiary body of ECLAC that contributes to the advancement of statistical policies and activities in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Its objectives are to promote the development, improvement and international comparability of national statistics and to promote international, regional and bilateral cooperation between national statistical offices and international and regional bodies through its biennial programme of activities. Even at its first meeting, held more than 20 years ago, the Conference already recognized that the production of gender indicators was key to enabling development policies, plans and programmes to be properly designed. For that reason, at its fourth meeting, held in 2007, the Statistical Conference of the Americas established the Working Group on Gender Statistics, which continued operating until 2019. Subsequently, ad hoc working groups of the Conference have addressed specific topics relating to the production of methodological resources for mainstreaming gender in official statistics.

This section will address the milestones and outcomes of the work to intensify coordination between the two Conferences, called for in measure 9.i of the Montevideo Strategy. At the multilateral level, this practice has provided opportunities to strengthen the creation of gender information systems and to position the regional progress at the global level, in the Statistical Commission of the United Nations.

Box: Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean

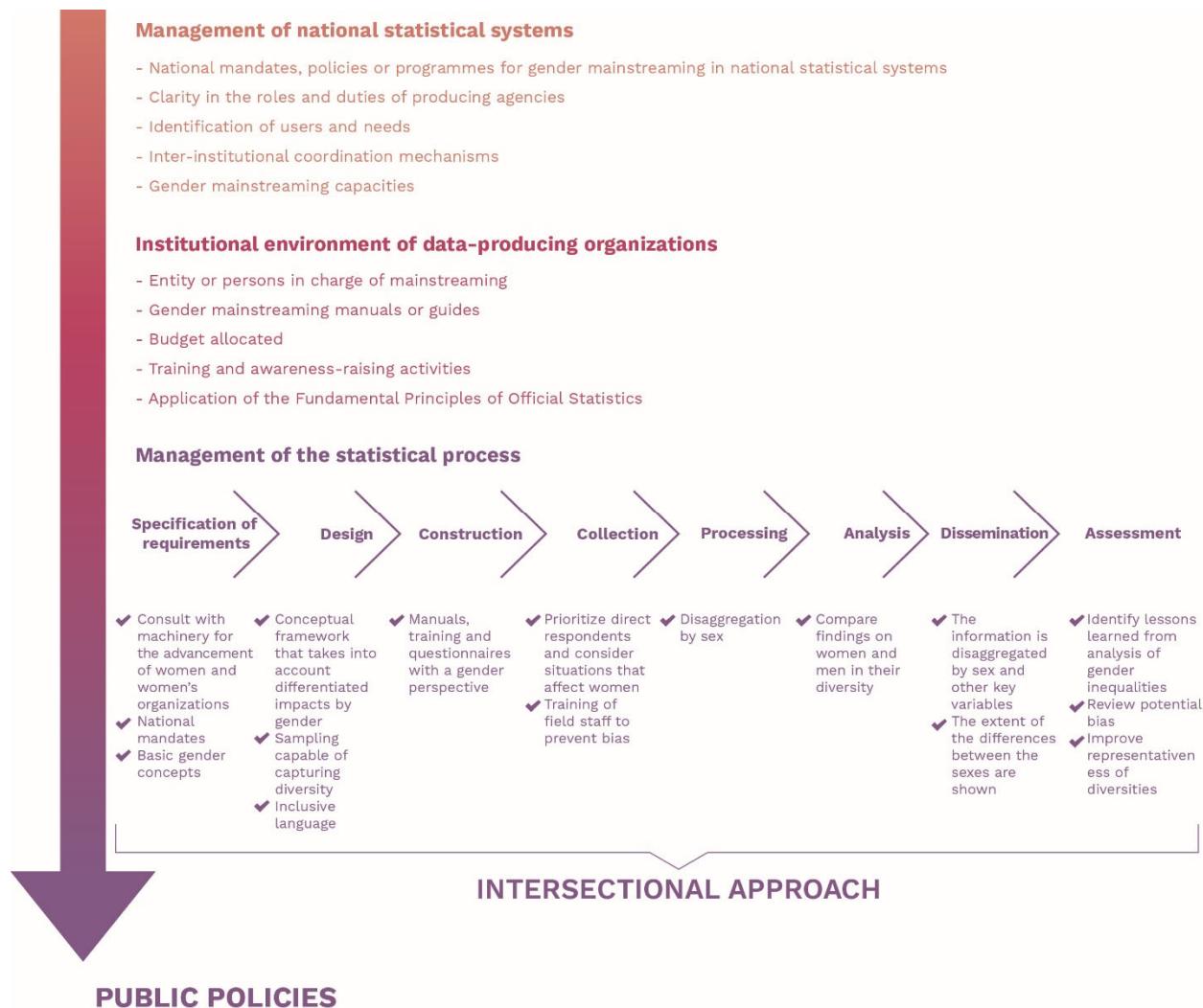
III. MAINSTREAMING THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS

Gender mainstreaming in public policies is a strategy to make the needs and experiences of women and men an integral part of all policies, initiatives and programmes, at all stages and all levels, ensuring that women and men benefit equally and that inequality recedes (United Nations, 1999; UNDP, 2000). Since the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, numerous efforts have been made to conceptualize gender mainstreaming and define its implementation. Regardless of the different approaches, it can be said that gender mainstreaming is a strategy that addresses to the need to integrate the gender perspective into all dimensions of State policy and action, including production of statistics by national statistical systems.

The importance of having information produced with a gender and intersectional perspective is reflected in two key Montevideo Strategy measures. In measure 9.a, the countries agreed to “Establish and strengthen national statistical systems with a gender perspective” and in measure 9.b to “Ensure the disaggregation and dissemination of data by sex, age, race and ethnic origin, socioeconomic status and area of residence, in order to improve analyses to reflect the diversity of women’s situations” (ECLAC, 2017).

The gender mainstreaming process entails adopting this approach from the outset and in all aspects of development, production and dissemination of official statistics. It also involves consideration of aspects related to management of the national statistical system, institutional environments of data-producing agencies, management of statistical processes and use of information to support and monitor public policies (see diagram III.1).

Diagram III.1
Towards a management model for gender mainstreaming in national statistical systems



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Mainstreaming gender in national statistical systems enables awareness-raising of complex and multidimensional inequalities, by producing statistical information that adequately reflects gender differences and inequalities in all areas of life and of people in all their diversity. That is why appropriate methodological adaptations, instruments, concepts, classifications and quality standards must be included throughout the statistical process, thus enabling methodologically and conceptually relevant disaggregation, that is both respectful and inclusive, with a view to subsequent dissemination with similar considerations (DANE, 2020). Efforts to apply an intersectional approach in the statistical process must be made from the start of any process or operation and every stage of it. In each specific context, peoples' life situations must be taken in account, based on a set of relevant individual characteristics, as well as the intersections and gaps among them (DANE, 2020).

This section will explain what gender mainstreaming in national statistical systems comprises, detailing the related experiences of the countries of the region. It will also highlight the importance of continuing to broaden gender mainstreaming, not only in social issues, but also in economic and environmental issues.

Box: Promising practices for gender-sensitive production of data on trade

IV. PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN DATA PRODUCERS AND DATA USERS

The bodies that produce, analyse and publish statistical data that enable examination of how the gender dimension interacts with the three dimensions of sustainable development include national statistics offices (as the bodies that oversee national statistical systems and the main producers of official statistics), machineries for the advancement of women (as the bodies that oversee gender equality policies) and the gender offices of public agencies, ministries, national human rights institutions, local governments, the academic sector and civil society. The Montevideo Strategy states that one of the fundamental measures for implementing gender equality commitments in the region is building or strengthening inter-institutional partnerships between bodies that produce and use information (measure 9.e) (ECLAC, 2017).

Box: Gender mainstreaming in data stewardship

To achieve genuine gender mainstreaming when producing data that can be used for public policies on equality, there must be ongoing dialogue among producers and users of data. Specialists in gender issues must also be consulted and participate actively throughout the statistical production process. The work methodologies and inter-institutional links among the bodies producing and using gender statistics will vary according to the characteristics of each country, but ongoing dialogue will always be required to identify and respond to data requirements, considering how gender relations affect women's lives, agreeing concepts and methodologies, and moving towards common language that will build inter-institutional trust.

Coordination and partnership-building between producers and users of data have proven to be valuable means of strengthening gender statistics in the region. Such partnerships are generally governed by regulations that establish mandates for joint work and create specific institutions, and by collaboration

agreements that ensure they are sustainable. This section will describe some good practices from inter-institutional coordination mechanisms that have been very fruitful in terms of joint production, analysis and dissemination of data, as well as use of data to strengthen public policies.

Trends in the region show different degrees of gender mainstreaming in national statistical systems. These experiences are reflected, for example, in mechanisms for dissemination through the websites of national statistical offices and machinery for the advancement of women. Almost all national statistical offices have pages on gender issues on their official websites, mostly in the list of topics. In some cases, the gender issue appears separately, while in others they are included in the section on population or together with other social issues. As previously mentioned, gender mainstreaming entails incorporating the perspective in all statistical operations conducted by the national statistical system and should therefore be highlighted in the reports and instruments published on the official websites of national statistical offices. However, it is also necessary to have a specific microsite, highlighted with a separate entry, that contains gender analyses and specific reports and in turn enables links to issue-based reports.

As an example of the synergies between the different pillars for implementing the Regional Gender Agenda established in the Montevideo Strategy, this section will highlight the role of organized civil society in the production of gender statistics (linking pillar 3 on popular and citizen participation and pillar 9 on information systems) to increase the visibility of the inequalities and situations that national systems have not yet managed to integrate and to monitor public policies, in its capacity as user and producer of data.

Box: Community of practice on gender statistics²

V. PRODUCTION OF GENDER STATISTICS

This chapter will outline the progress made with regard to regular production of gender-sensitive measurements in the region, as well as the efforts made to expand production of statistics with a gender approach to all economic, social and environmental areas.

A. MEASUREMENT OF PAID AND UNPAID WORK

The epistemological dismantling of the traditional notion of work as being the same as employment (which is to say remunerated work) is one of the main contributions of feminist economics to labour statistics and policies. This shift is reflected in the 2030 Agenda and in the definitions adopted by the eighteenth and nineteenth International Conferences of Labour Statisticians (ILO, 2008 and 2013). In response to the historical invisibility of unpaid work, progress has been made towards a notion of work that recognizes its paid and unpaid forms. Work must be measured to address the targets of Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 8 and the synergies between the two.

² An effort coordinated by ECLAC, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Mexico.

This section will examine the achievements of the countries of the region in measuring and disseminating gender inequalities in the labour market in a more appropriate way through their labour statistics, including disaggregation by sex of classic indicators of activity, employment and unemployment, as well as the inclusion of key dimensions of women's lives. In this area, efforts have been made to identify why women and men do not participate in the labour market, demonstrating the burden of family care responsibilities and unpaid work for women. Likewise, with advice from machineries for the advancement of women and sometimes at the initiative of such machineries, national statistics offices have included innovative measurements in their periodic labour reports, thus enabling quantification of circumstances such as feminized branches of activity, wage gaps, access to social protection, underemployment, and more limited access for women to positions of responsibility in the labour market.

The section will also examine progress on time-use survey processes since adoption of the Montevideo Strategy in 2016. To date, 23 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have conducted at least one measurement of the time spent on domestic and care work, 10 have measured the economic value of unpaid work in households and 5 have calculated a satellite account for unpaid work in households (see map V.1).

Map V.1
Latin America and the Caribbean: progress on measurement of time use and unpaid work, 1998–2021



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of information from the Repository of information on time use in Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en/infographics/repository-information-time-use-latin-america-and-caribbean>.

Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Within this group of measurements, there are differences in aspects such as type of survey instrument, mode and mechanism of collection, methodologies, target population, survey objectives, legal bases, institutions that perform the measurements and related bodies, geographic coverage, number of questions and selection of indicators. In that regard, adoption of the *Classification of Time-Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL)* as a regional standard and of the *Methodological guide on time-use measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean* (ECLAC/INEGI, 2016 and ECLAC, 2022) are important milestones in terms of comparability of time-use measurements in the region, facilitation of reporting of global indicators (such as those for monitoring Goal 5), regional indicators (such as total work time) and national indicators, and construction of indicators to monitor national public policies that reduce and redistribute domestic and care work, increase its perceived value, and promote greater economic autonomy for women. In the region, these measurements were made by national statistics offices, in partnerships with machineries for the advancement of women and in some cases with the support of academic institutions, provincial and local bodies or international organizations.

Partnerships between machineries for the advancement of women and national statistical offices have enable gender mainstreaming in implementation of these measurements, thus contributing to the inclusion and deepening of the issue of care, which is an issue specific to Latin America and the Caribbean that merits greater attention in the region than in other regions of the world.

Box: Time-use measurements in the Caribbean: challenges and opportunities relating to censuses

B. STATISTICS ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

One of the most complex structural challenges relating to gender inequality is ending persistent discriminatory and violent cultural patterns that prevent progress toward women's autonomy. In the 2030 Agenda, the countries of the world committed to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls (Goal 5, target 5.2) (ECLAC, 2018a). Femicidal violence is one of the most extreme forms of gender violence, resulting from a gradual and ongoing process of different manifestations of violence. When examining gender-based violence against women and girls in the region, with an emphasis on femicide and sexual violence, clarity is required on countries' progress or weaknesses in terms of producing administrative records.

In the case of the production of statistics on femicide in Latin American countries based on official data, the headway made is to legislative progress and commitments to due diligence by the countries of the region through international agreements. The legislation of most of the countries of the region not only defines what constitutes femicide but also contains specific provisions that call for creation of administrative record systems and production of femicide statistics to enable periodic reporting of data on the prevalence and incidence of gender-based violence against women. The effort made to produce national data has also entailed creation of various bodies in the security and justice sectors, many of them led by the machineries for the advancement of women and in some cases with participation by national statistics offices, contributing to improving official figures. Despite the progress made, statistics on femicide still need to be standardized, so that States and citizens have sound, systematic, quality data to address what has been called a “shadow pandemic” by the United Nations.

To produce data on femicides, inter-institutional coordination processes are required, enabling generation of integrated, standardized and harmonized information, ideally with participation by different sectors of the State. In this regard, mention will be made of the progress made in terms of data interoperability that facilitates synergies between the administrative data collected by the security, justice, criminal prosecution and health sectors, in coordination with machineries for the advancement of women and national statistics offices, with a view to producing data on gender-related violent deaths of women. The role played by national statistical offices in supporting development of methodologies for statistical strengthening and inclusion of the femicide indicator in the national statistical systems will also be detailed.

The challenges faced by the countries of the region regarding data on sexual violence will also be explored, relating to application of the technical standards of care for victims of sexual violence in the health system and their subsequent operationalization in administrative records and indicators.

Box: Legislation on records and statistical operations on femicidal violence

Another issue on the agenda in relation to gender-based violence and a persistent harmful practice in the region is child, early and forced marriages and unions. This document will analyse measurement of such unions, seeking to demonstrate the prevalence of this harmful practice that severely affects the comprehensive development and autonomy of girls and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNICEF, 2022). Particular attention will be drawn to the lack of census questions or processing to capture early unions and to recognize informal unions in the case of boys and girls. In addition, the instruments generally used to collect those data lack continuity and are not implemented in many countries and there is no regular analysis of the administrative registers containing such information.

C. SYNERGIES IN GENDER STATISTICS AND AN INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The structural challenges that are entrenched in unequal power relations in Latin America and the Caribbean are intrinsically linked, which is why any changes in power relations will necessarily require a complete restructuring. When statistical processes ignore the multifactorial and interrelated nature of inequalities, they perpetuate of the culture of privilege and discrimination. Therefore, in this information age, the field of statistics has an essential role to play in enhancing the visibility and understanding of how various categories and forms of discrimination and inequality interact.

This section will make the case for generating quality information showing the effects of gender equality policies on the reduction of other forms of structural inequality in the region. It will be argued that progress in strengthening the gender dimension in data generation processes and information production in the countries can serve as a road map for mainstreaming intersectionality in national statistical processes.

Box: Small area estimation and its potential for gender analysis

D. USING CENSUSES, SURVEYS AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS FOR GENDER ANALYSIS

In reviewing the progress made by the countries of the region in strengthening the gender perspective in national statistical systems, it is important to analyse the innovations proposed for the 2020 round of population censuses. Integrating the gender perspective in population censuses goes beyond disaggregation by sex; it means recognizing, through the census process, that there are inequalities that have differential effects on access by men and women to well-being, resources and autonomy. These surveys enable, among other things, a more in-depth study of the various types of families and the identification of secondary household nuclei, making different family and cohabitation arrangements more visible. The information provided by population censuses makes it possible to construct baselines for most social indicators and to obtain information for small areas.

The efforts that some countries in the region have made to incorporate a gender perspective in economic statistics, using, for example, economic censuses, will also be discussed. Combining traditional sources of information, such as sociodemographic surveys and labour information collected in continuous surveys, with economic censuses has helped to identify both supply-side and demand-side barriers to the exercise of women's right to work. Information on the economic activities of companies, male and female labour market participation and the characteristics of the total employed population contribute to the monitoring of Goal 8 on the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all and of Goal 5 on achieving gender equality, through the analysis of the participation of women and men in economic activities and their sectoral and geographic distribution.

The section will also highlight the efforts in the countries of the region to incorporate a gender perspective in the generation of information on financial inclusion. Household surveys have been implemented with questions on access to and use of financial services and the limitations women face. With this information it is possible to examine, from the demand side, how men and women access and use these services, together with their personal characteristics. In addition, administrative records from financial system regulatory bodies are also being used to produce gender statistics in several countries, allowing for the identification and measurement of gender gaps in access to financial products on the supply side.

Box: Urban mobility and gender

E. INNOVATION OPPORTUNITIES

This section will look at innovative strategies for integrating various sources of information, as well as attempts to use non-traditional statistics for geospatial integration and the use of big data.

With regard to big data, reference will be made to projects that have mainstreamed or have the potential to mainstream gender in the production of indicators on the labour market and digital skills, access to broadband connectivity and the use of social networks, demographic aspects and other relevant information for the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The potential use of geospatial data to bring to light gender inequalities and the disparities among women depending on the territory in which they live will also be discussed. An ECLAC study (2018b) shows that while most national statistical offices in the region use geospatial information in some of their processes, only 42% of them have geoportals allowing them to disseminate statistical data, interoperate with other entities or integrate other types of geospatial information. To address this, ECLAC is developing the project on geospatial capacity-building for national statistical offices for follow-up of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Box: Using geospatial data to monitor gender inequality

In addition, the need for progress in the production of more gender-sensitive environmental statistics will be highlighted.

Box: Challenges facing the region in the production of gender and climate change statistics

VI. WHAT MUST BE MEASURED IN ORDER TO MOVE TOWARDS A CARE SOCIETY?

The care society is the horizon, but it is also the path to equitable distribution of power, resources, time and work between women and men. This proposal should be understood as a global, regional and local response, with a collective, multiscale and intersectional focus that calls for the implementation of transformative public policies in the short term and for a cultural shift to ensure care. This means recognizing the interdependence between people, as well as the links between production processes and society, and putting the sustainability of human life and the planet at the centre. This new paradigm will help to end the culture of privilege and the patriarchal order, and to reverse the multiple social and gender inequalities, in synergy with the environmental dimension and economic development. This means transforming social relations, and promoting and ensuring the rights of people in need of care throughout the life cycle and of those who care for them. It will help to reduce the precariousness of care sector work, while advancing the formalization and professionalization of such employment. It also prioritizes the care of the planet amid environmental degradation and climate change. This will involve strengthening the role of States from a feminist perspective through universal, intersectoral, comprehensive, co-responsible and financially sustainable care policies and systems.

This section will aim to provide input for the discussion on the care society, identifying the types of information needed to implement public policies that enable progress in this direction and to increase the visibility of the contributions of care work, performed mainly by women. It will address the contributions of feminist thinking that has exposed the gender biases present in traditional economic measurements, which not only fail to explain gender inequalities, but actually justify existing inequalities as a result of their androcentric characteristics and assumptions. The alternative measurements proposed in the framework of gender studies will be presented and the experiences of the countries of the region in this regard will be highlighted.

The role of time-use surveys in the design of public policies that recognize, value and redistribute unpaid work, primarily care work, will also be highlighted, as well as the development of satellite accounts on unpaid household work, in line with Goal 5 of the 2030 Agenda. Reference will also be made to the most recent efforts to raise the economic value given to unpaid care work.

This section aims to inform reflection on the data needed to measure the current social organization of care, i.e. to quantify the care provided to different populations and the burdens in terms of time and financial resources that this represents for households, and to ascertain the provision of care by the State through public services, by the market in the form of paid services, and by the community. It will present the information requirements that have emerged from national care policies in some countries, with regard to quantifying the potential demand for care by improving the instruments to capture the various degrees of dependency of the population, providing empirical data for decision-making on the design of future services. This section on care measurements will highlight the efforts that some cities have undertaken to identify care needs in the territory and provide responses in line with the various local demands. Similarly, efforts made in georeferencing the demand and supply of care in the territory will be identified.

The care society must highlight the multiplier effects of the care economy in terms of well-being and as a driver of economies as a whole. This section will also include exercises to calculate the fiscal cost of public investment that countries have carried out in relation to care systems and services.

VII. A DECADE OF ACTION TOWARDS 2030

This final chapter addresses the challenges presented by information systems in key areas for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda, with a view to proposing a road map to guide the development of statistical production in the coming years.

The production of data with a gender and intersectional approach requires the institutionalization, financing and regular production of gender statistics, as well as the creative use of traditional data to generate new information to shed greater light on the reality of women and girls in all their diversity. This requires strengthening the capacities of those who produce and those who use information, in accordance with the provisions of measure 9.g of the Montevideo Strategy.

Likewise, in order to transform information into useful knowledge for decision-making, citizens and public entities must take ownership of this knowledge. The dissemination of knowledge generated in multiple formats and languages and with varying levels of depth is an imperative if such knowledge is to have an impact on decision-making, and this is in line with the provisions of measure 9.f of the Montevideo Strategy.

Although the institutional, political and budgetary capacities for the advancement of gender information systems vary across the countries of the region, it is possible for all of them to make progress in strengthening these capacities, and lessons learned from the region and its commitment to cooperation can help in this process. This may occur in phases or gradually, in accordance with each country's capacities, but must always be underpinned by the principle of progressivity and non-regression in the mainstreaming of gender in national statistical systems. It is therefore vital to ensure the sustainability of this progress over time, as it must be based on the capacities built in stable teams, inter-agency mechanisms, regulatory frameworks and budgets.

The nine pillars set forth in the Montevideo Strategy will serve as a basis for formulating recommendations for pillar 9 on information systems, to ensure progress in implementing public policies that contribute to eliminating gender inequalities and guaranteeing the human rights and autonomy of women in all their diversity.

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