

ESCAP Committee on Statistics: Governing data beyond 2030

23-25 August 2022

Statement on behalf of the Gender Data Network

Accurate, timely, and comprehensive gender data are essential in ensuring that policies are impactful and improve the lives of women and girls. Despite this need, gender data gaps persist. Cross-country knowledge exchange, focusing on national staff in charge of data, is an important mechanism to fill these gaps. Such exchanges can create a learning network to apply and scale good practices to produce, analyze, and use gender data. One example of this is the Gender Data Network (GDN). Founded in 2019, the GDN is a joint initiative between PARIS21, Data2X, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and Open Data Watch.

The GDN organizes a range of events to bring together gender data focal points from national statistical offices in over 20 countries across Africa, creating opportunities for members to engage with each other, strengthen their skills, and learn from experts. In just two years the GDN has established itself as a cornerstone of the gender data and statistics community in Africa. It has done this by providing a supportive platform that facilitates networking, sharing new technical advancement, and providing skills training to help members build political buy-in for gender data in their countries.

In the next phase of the network, the GDN is excited to expand its membership to the Asia and Pacific region. We would be happy to discuss these plans with you further and if you're interested in joining, please contact us or ESCAP. We look forward to working together to collect, analyze, and use gender data for inclusive and sustainable development.

The GDN continues to elevate the importance of gender data and statistics in all its activities. In late July 2022, the GDN was formally committed as a technical assistance partner to the W20, which is a G20 subgroup focused on gender issues. In this commitment, the Gender Data Network will help guide the W20 to elevate gender data within its agenda, working to inform policy best practices that identify and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable, foster economic inclusion and strengthen resilience.