

UNECE

Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development



UNITED NATIONS

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**Declaration for
Gender Responsive
Standards and Standards Development**

Excerpt of Document:
Revised Recommendation U
on Gender Responsive Standards
(ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2018/6/Rev.1)



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Note

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Preface

The UNECE Gender Responsive Standards Initiative aims to provide a practical framework for standards bodies seeking to make the standards they develop, and the standards development process they follow, gender responsive. Established in 2016, the Initiative has the objectives of: (i) strengthening the use of standards and technical regulations as powerful tools to attain SDG 5 (Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls); (ii) integrating a gender lens in the development of both standards and technical regulations; and (iii) elaborating gender indicators and criteria that could be used in standards development.

To realize these aims, the Initiative brings together a diverse working group composed of representatives from standardization bodies, as well as: experts on gender issues and women's empowerment, representatives of regulatory bodies and policymakers, non-governmental organizations, UN Organizations and global members of the academic community. The meetings allow participants to exchange information and best practice about successful approaches to gender-responsive standards development and implementation.

Empowering and promoting the greater inclusion of a gendered-lens in standardization and regulatory policy will create sustained and inclusive economic growth, necessary to reduce inequalities. Moreover, gender responsive standards will help to ensure safe and secure working environments for all workers.

The Gender Responsive Standards Initiative works under the umbrella of the UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP6), a forum for collaboration between the standards community and policymakers. The Working Party: (i) promotes the use of standards by policy-makers and business as a tool for reducing technical barriers to trade; (ii) encourages increased resilience to disasters, foster innovation and good governance; and (iii) advocates the use of standards in the implementation of UN-wide goals, including the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Declaration

Organization:

We, as a national standards body / standards development organization:

- Acknowledge Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- Acknowledge the pervasive and influential role of standards in society;
- Acknowledge that representation of women in standards development is almost always below parity and that the outcomes for men and women are not explicitly addressed during the standards development process;
- Recognize that the content of standards and engaging in the standards development process are opportunities for women's empowerment;
- Recognize that different national standards bodies (NSB) and different standards development organizations (SDO) operate in different ways and within different infrastructures
- Express our resolve to work towards:
 - gender inclusive standards development organizations;
 - gender responsive standards;
 - gender balance at all levels within our wider infrastructure (including in governing bodies);
 - enhanced expertise to create and deliver gender inclusivity;

And therefore, we hereby pledge to make standards and the standards development process gender responsive by:

1. Affirming this Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development Declaration
2. Creating and proactively implementing a gender action plan for our organization
3. Tracking progress; collecting and sharing data, success stories and good practices.

Authorized signatory:

Nota Bene:

A living Annex, maintained on the UNECE website, outlines actions that national standards bodies and standards developing organisations can include in their gender action plan for gender responsive standards and standards development.

It is for each organization to decide what they can / should include in their gender action plan. The list of actions is not exhaustive; it is intended simply to provide ideas and inspiration for gender action plans for standards development organizations of any type.

**Annex to the Declaration on
Gender Responsive
Standards and Standards Development**

Introduction

This is a living Annex, maintained on the UNECE website, to support the Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development. The Annex outlines actions that national standards bodies and standards developing organisations can include in their gender action plan for gender responsive standards and standards development.

It is for each organization to decide what they can / should include in their gender action plan. The list of actions is not exhaustive; it is intended simply to provide ideas and inspiration for gender action plans for standards development organizations of any type.

The Annex

Group of actions n. 1: Working towards gender balanced / representative and inclusive standards development environments

- ❖ Strive for a representative number of women in all phases of standards development
 - assess the gender balance of our committees and determine if there is an opportunity to improve;
 - connect with organizations and informal networks within industries and professions so as to improve the gender balance of our technical committees;
 - collect sex-disaggregated data on participants in standards development (overall and by industry) and compare this with employment statistics;
 - e.g. develop a graph indicating the gender balance on committees and update it annually, and if possible, aggregate it by industry sectors;
- ❖ Strive to create a standards development environment which enables gender inclusivity and equality
 - Ensure the leadership supports striving for a gender inclusive environment and for gender responsive standards
 - conduct yearly research with committee members to learn about any differences in experiences in standards development based on gender
 - develop and implement policies, procedures and activities which support gender inclusivity (e.g. raising awareness; training for committee chairs, programme managers, members; distributing this declaration to all those involved in standards development, etc.)
 - review the gender balance of the chairs / senior roles within standards making and seek to improve it where it is imbalanced
- ❖ Support individuals who want to be gender advocates by encouraging and enabling them to take action within their areas of standards development
 - encourage programme/project managers and chairs to promote gender inclusivity on their standards development committees and provide them with tools and resources to do so
 - share (within and between organizations) information / data / experiences about internal or external gender inclusivity projects in order to identify and share best practice
- ❖ Strive for gender representative participation in other phases of the standards development process including making proposals, commenting on proposals

and commenting on drafts

- ❖ Ensure organizational and individual gender actions plans include relevant objectives so that progress can be monitored and measured.

Group of actions n. 2: Creating gender responsive standards

- ❖ Strive to develop a network of gender experts to provide a resource to support standards development committees in their work
- ❖ Contribute to the development of a tool(s) suitable for conducting gender-based analysis of all standards in any form of active development (new or revision) to ensure standards are gender responsive in their content and implementation. This tool could be based on GBA+ or others
- ❖ Provide training for any new tools which may be developed and ensure you are measuring the participation in and impact of this training
- ❖ Use existing frameworks (e.g. ISO, CEN-CENELEC, regional standards organizations etc.) to work collaboratively and share resources / expertise
- ❖ Ensure committees have relevant expertise, tools and resources to strive to develop gender responsive standards
 - provide committees with any necessary training to develop their gender expertise
 - ensure committees include a gender expert or have access to gender expertise (e.g. via a network of gender experts)
- ❖ Strive to institutionalize successful and effective practices, procedures and policies to ensure the future / sustainability of gender responsive standards development

Group of actions n. 3: Creating gender responsive standards bodies

- ❖ Assess existing and develop / obtain as required the skills and expertise needed to create and implement a gender action plan
- ❖ Collect data on the gender ratio of employees at all different levels
- ❖ Develop training tools to enhance the gender awareness of employees
- ❖ Monitor and record the participation in and impact of any training provided

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