Gender equality has been increasingly recognized as essential to the process of sustainable development and for the effectiveness of national development policies and plans. Gender statistics and indicators are important tools to promote gender equality and implement a gender mainstreaming approach. The demand for gender statistics has increased over the years owing to international conventions and development goals at various levels. While the Sustainable Development Goals have a stand-alone goal to promote gender equality (Goal 5), gender has also been integrated across several of the other goals and targets to ensure effective outcomes for women and men in various aspects of development. Using data and statistics to adequately reflect differences and inequalities in the situation of women and men in all areas of life requires a strategy of mainstreaming gender in all stages of data planning, production, use and analysis.

This Stats Café attempts to bring experiences from across the region on practical approaches to mainstreaming gender in official statistics. The Stats Café will also launch the eLearning course on “Using Gender Data for Analysis, Communications and Policy-making in the context of SDG monitoring and beyond” developed by ESCAP, UN Women and SIAP.