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Commission on the Status of Women

Forty-eighth session

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Item 3 (c) of the agenda

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the



Commission on the Status of Women and the Vice-Chair and
Chairperson-Designate of the thirty-fifth session of the Statistical

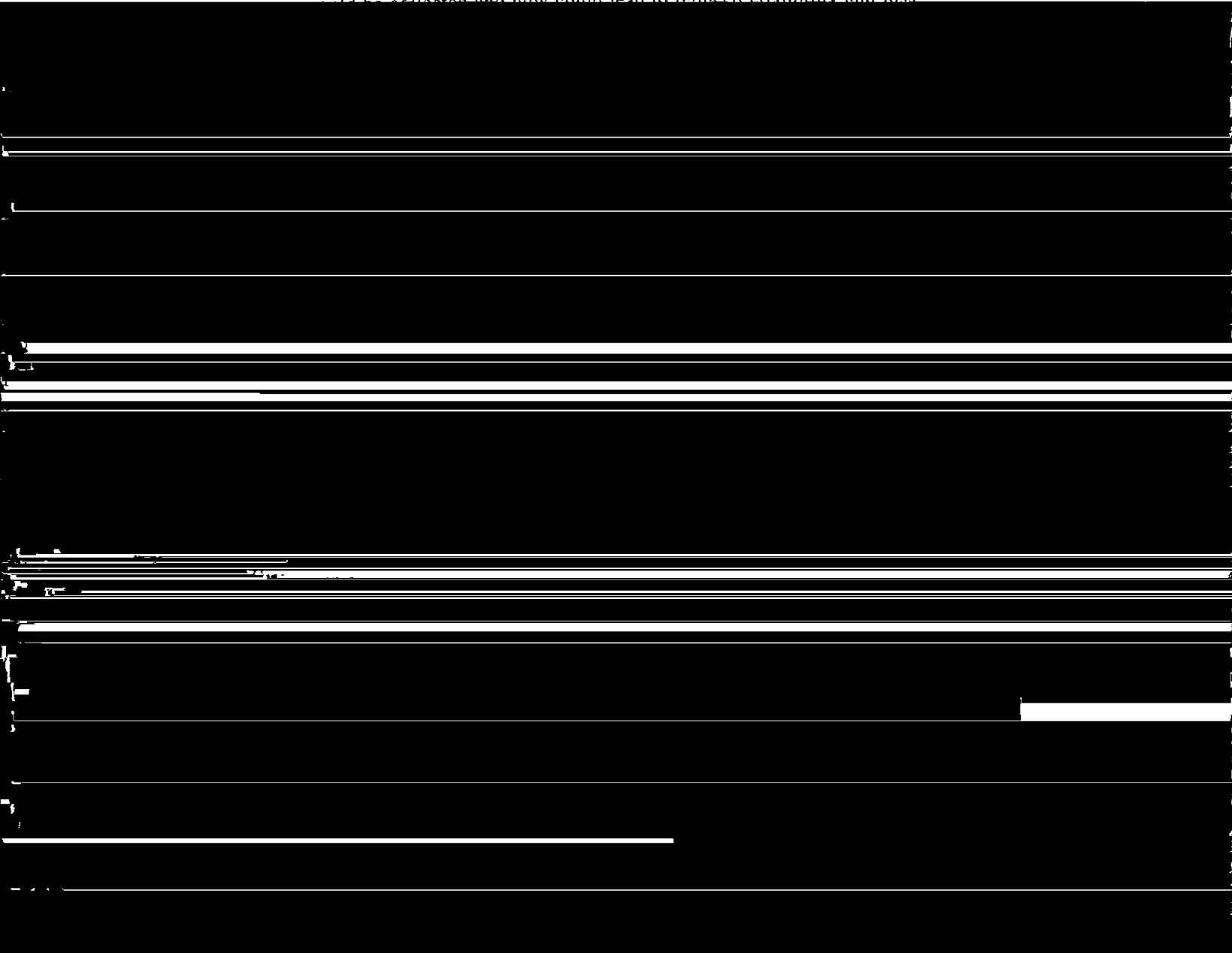
opportunity for an exchange of views and experiences among users and producers of statistics in regard to measuring progress towards the goal of gender equality.

3. Participants provided examples of institutional structures responsible for collecting and maintaining statistical information at the national level. In many countries, national statistical offices or bureaux, which may be autonomous, had centralized responsibility for the collection of statistics. In addition, line ministries or other offices may collect data and statistics on issues within their area of

Principles of Official Statistics. Enhanced dialogue, including through designated mechanisms, was called for to clarify user needs and the constraints of producers in data collection. The need for regular dissemination of available data to policy makers was stressed

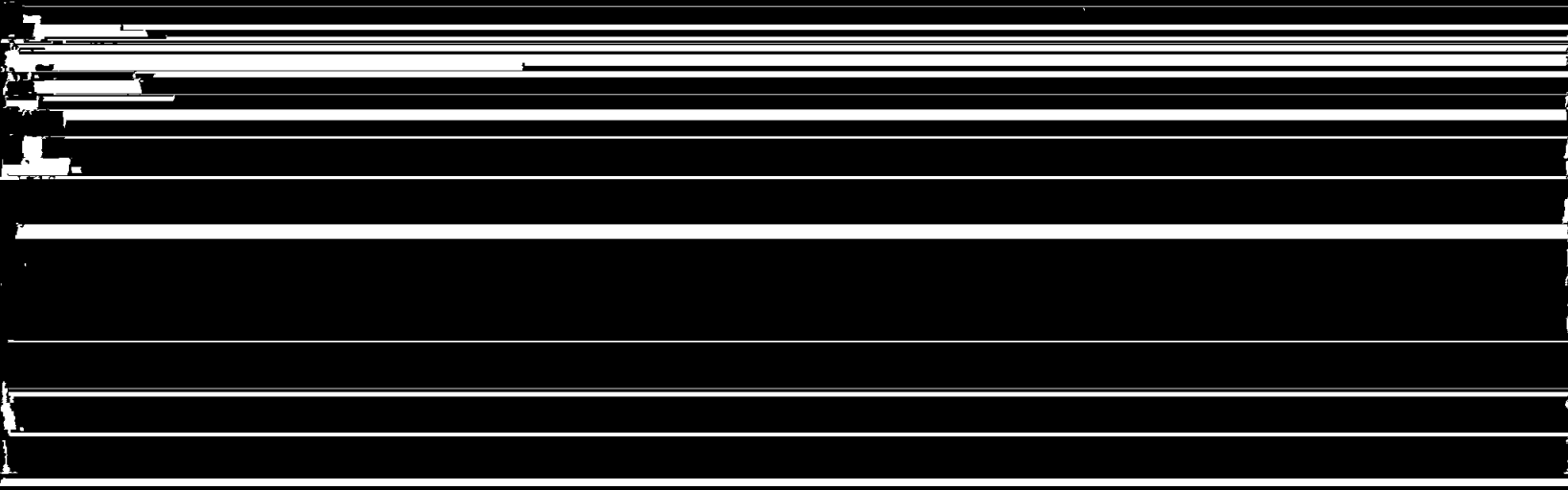
and readily available sex disaggregated statistics for measuring progress towards the goals of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the implementation of gender equality policies and strategies, and identification of areas requiring further attention. Participants agreed on the central role of national statistical offices in coordinating and satisfying the demands for gender-related statistics covering population, education, labour, health and many other areas. Statistics were necessary to demonstrate effectively any lack of progress as well as achievements in the status of women. They were critical to identify and document trends, gaps, and barriers in meeting the goals of the

It was also pointed out that a lack of agreement on what information
should be collected and how could lead to reduced credibility and loss



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level. In new areas, such as for example information and communications technologies, data collection in general remained limited, which also limited the

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to these goals of transparency and confidentiality of information. In collecting particular types of data, participants emphasized the need to work with the target group, especially with vulnerable groups of women, such as women victims of violence, single parents, or indigenous women, to ensure that their concerns in regard to privacy, safety and other aspects were properly covered. Much remains to be done in

important vehicle for improved participation and understanding of concepts, definitions, data and survey information. Such collaboration and cooperation could also enhance political support for the

contribution to the forty-eighth session and preparation for the forty-

of information at the national level. Such cooperation would be of
benefit in the identification of challenges, good practices and lessons