

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards (ToS-GRS)

Agenda Item 7

Document reference:

[ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/10](#)

[ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/11](#)

[ECE/TRADE/474](#)



ToS-GRS – officers

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- Appointment of officers on 14 December 2022:
 - Chair: Michelle Parkouda (Canada)
 - Vice-Chair: Stephanie Eynon (UK)
 - Vice-Chair: Lucy Salt (New Zealand)

ToS-GRS – PoW 2023 progress

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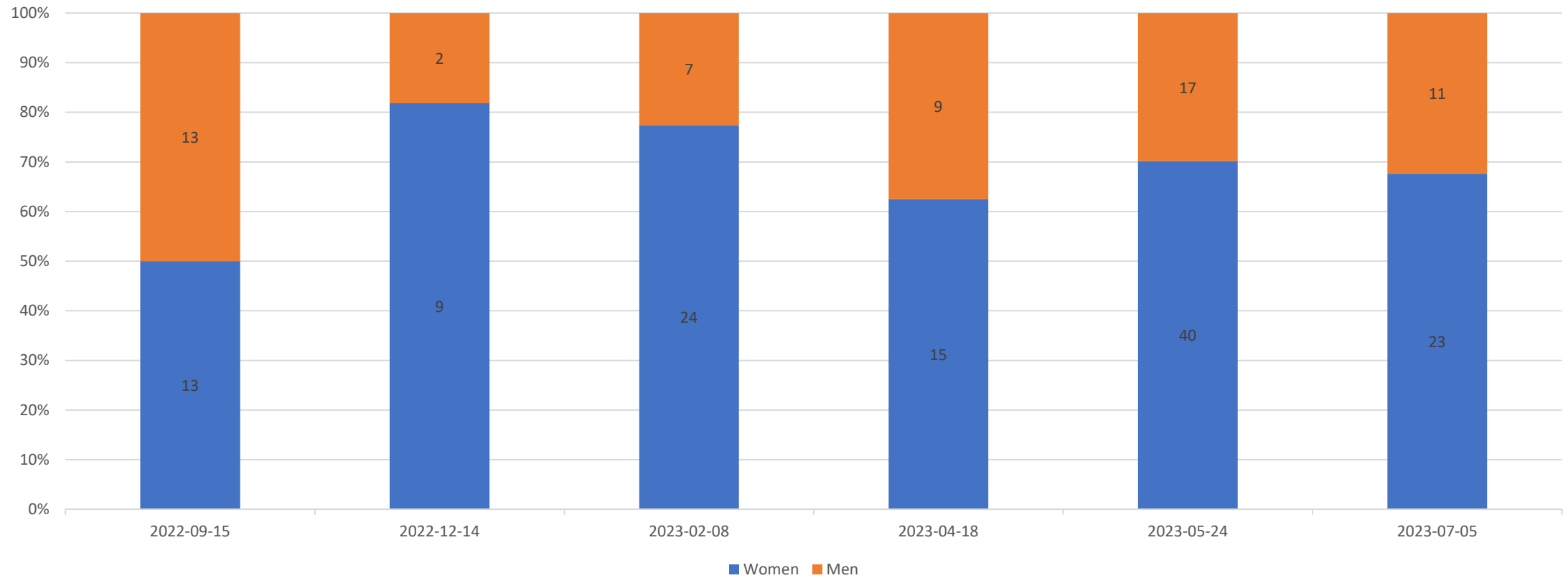
- 15. The lack of gender-responsive standards and awareness of their importance has resulted in unnecessary health and safety risks for women and girls and led to standards having unequal impacts in other areas. Many standard-setting bodies operate without a policy for mainstreaming gender in their activities and in the management of their organizations. In 2016, WP.6 launched the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative (GRSI). This is an important contribution to SDG 5, “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. This has resulted in the publication in 2018 of the *Recommendation U on Gender-Responsive Standards* and the *Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development* which has to date nearly eighty signatories.
- 16. In the area of gender-responsive standardization, WP.6 plans to conduct the following activities:
 - a) Enhance the implementation of the *Recommendation U* and encourage national standards bodies and relevant standards developers to sign the *Declaration*
 - b) Develop a model best practice for a gender action plan for a standards development body
 - c) Develop materials (presentation slide deck, resources, media content) that can be used to promote the work of GRSI
 - d) Develop training on gender-responsive standards and ensure its translation into other languages such as French, Russian and/or other official United Nations languages
 - e) Act as a focal point for information-sharing, collaboration and developing relevant solutions such as national gender action plans, essentially through two action areas of GRSI:
 - a) Knowledge-sharing and best practices
 - b) Gender-responsive standards methodology

ToS-GRS – meetings

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Gender Balance in GRS Meetings



ToS-GRS – projects

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Gender and salutation code lists

- Reflect the diversity of society today
- Raise awareness of how gender considerations lack in standards and can cause negative impact
- Propose integration of such lists into electronic data exchange

Publication *Why Gender-Responsive Standards are Better for Everyone*

- Brochure-type document to help accompany gender-responsive standards implementation
- Argumentation for governments, technical committees
- Relation to other transversal topics

ToS-GRS – Return on experiences

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Creation of informal coordination group on gender

Data collection and monitoring

Awareness raising

Supporting a national gender policy

Capacity building

Women-centric development

ToS-GRS – *Declaration* signatories

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ToS-GRS – Pertinence of the topic today

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WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



ToS-GRS – Future directions

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Enhance implementation of Recommendation U and signatories of the Declaration

Best model practice for gender action plan for standards development bodies

Raising awareness

Training material

Information sharing

Further areas where ToS-GRS could provide guidance