

# Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

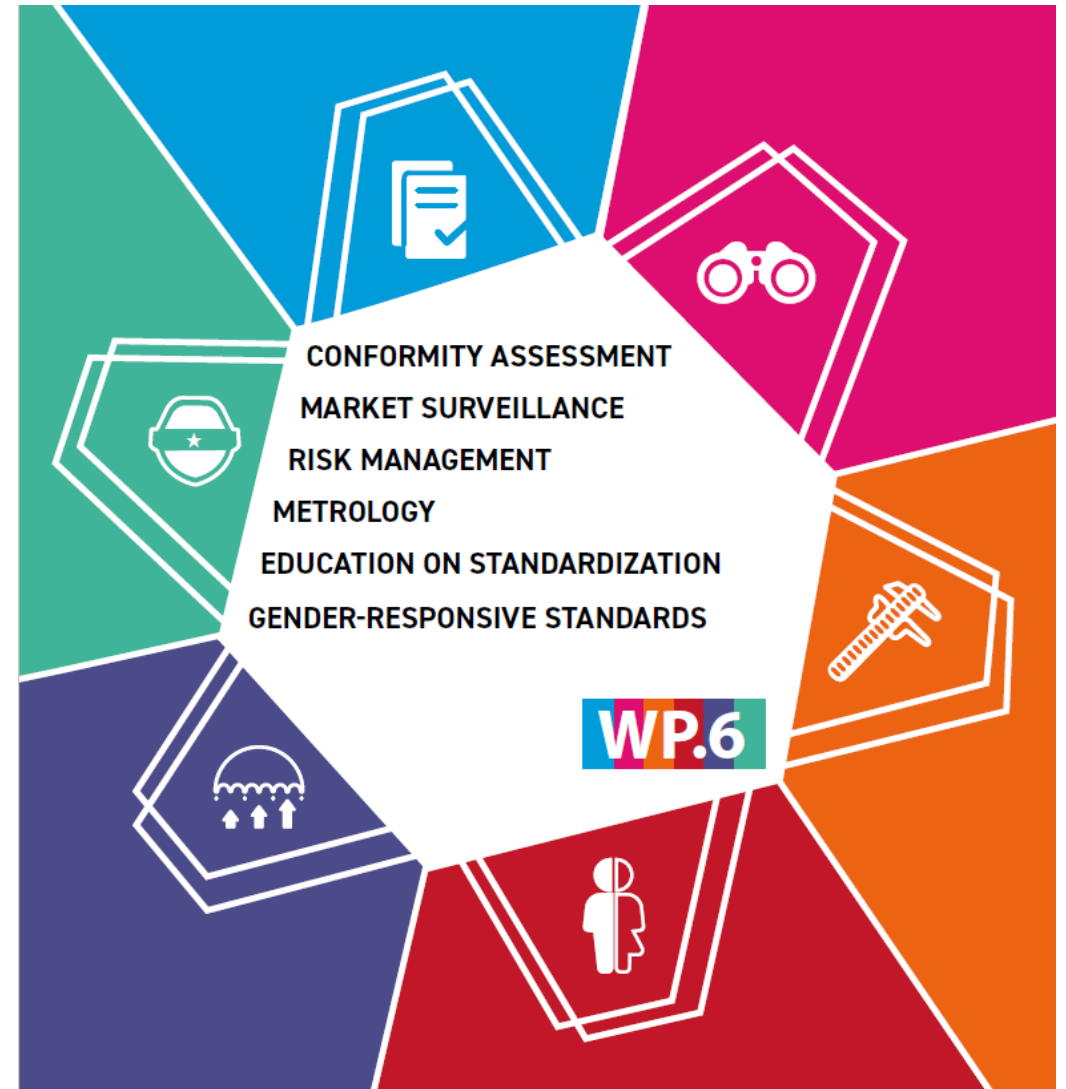
## Gender-Responsive Standards

### Why Gender Matters

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**UNECE – [Working Party 6](#)**

15/05/2024



# Mission Statement

## Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies



- WP.6 aims to promote regulatory cooperation, standardization policies and activities which contribute towards reducing technical barriers to trade, promoting sustainable development in all its dimensions including, for example, gender equality, climate and environmental protection, circular economy and the adaptation to new technologies.



# Standards



Same result

For everyone

All the time

Standards provide a basis for common understanding. Their application facilitates economic interaction and greater levels of interoperability between products.

“Safety issues do not distinguish between men and women, hence when writing our requirements we do not need to distinguish whether a man or a woman shall be protected.”

“We are working on technical products/issues. Our products are neither male nor female nor diverse.”





Seriously?  
THE COMMUNITY AGAINST  
preventable  
INJURIES

#preventable

90% of all  
"accidents"  
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DECLARATION  
FOR  
GENDER  
RESPONSIVE  
STANDARDS

14  
MAY  
2019



*The Declaration,  
“acknowledge[s] 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.”*

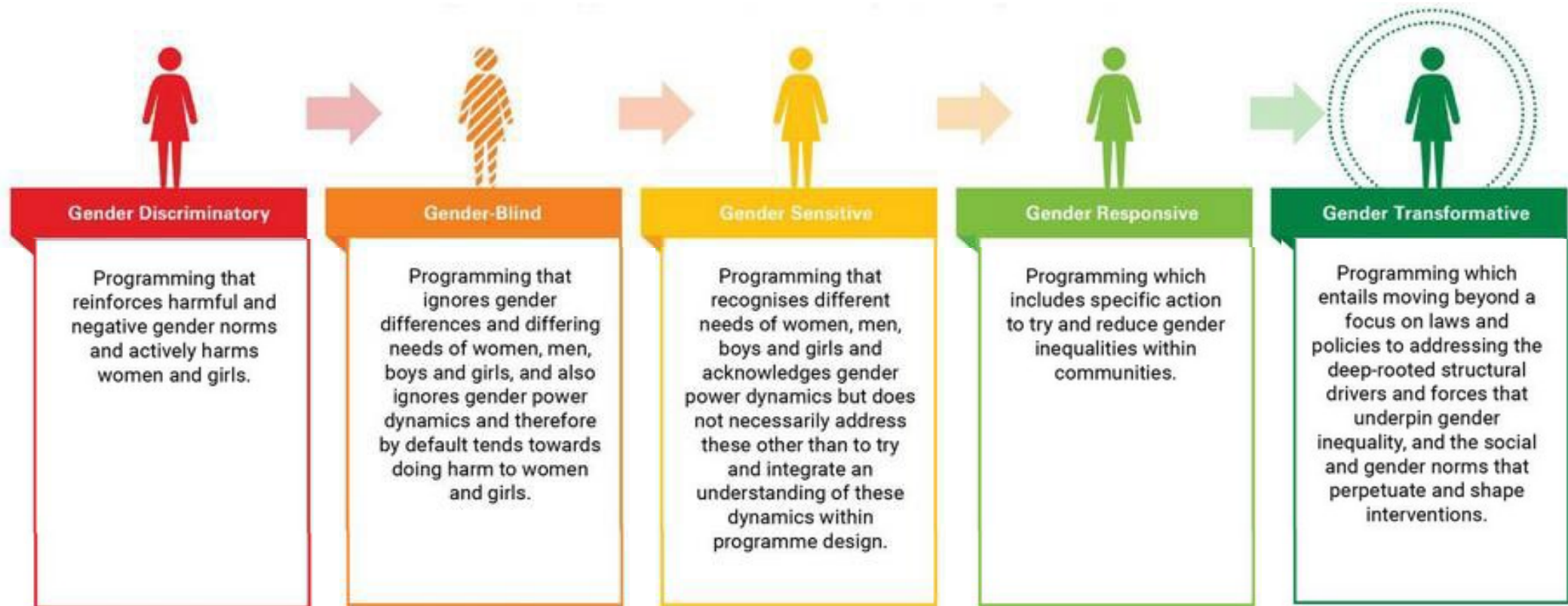
# Gender-Responsive Standards



Gender-responsive standards are standards which acknowledge the distinct needs of different genders and take concerted action to ensure the efficacy of the standard for all. A gender responsive standard is not a separate standard for different genders, but rather a means of ensuring the impact of the standard is appropriate and provides equal benefit.



# Vocabulary





# Understanding the Gender Gap in Standards



## Androcentrism

- The tendency to see the men's viewpoint and experience as the norm, and representative of society as a whole.
- Examples:
  - Men as an unmarked status.
  - The idea that gender studies is actually about women.
  - Using “man” when referring to all people.

# A Drug for Women, Tested on Men...



Yale SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

*“The study enrolled 23 men and only 2 women – a population of 92% men for a drug intended only for women.”*

– @WHRYale

# Inclusivity in European Standards



In a sample of 276 relevant European standards:

- 9% used disaggregated data and accounted for the diversity of European bodies.
- 8% were completely transparent with the data they used.



# The Gender Declaration Signatories



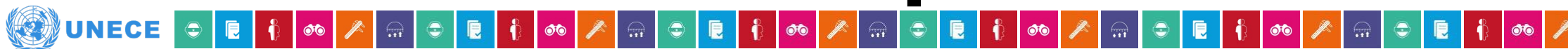
Signatories are invited to:

1. Create and proactively implement a gender action plan for their organization
2. Track progress; collect and share data, success stories and good practices.



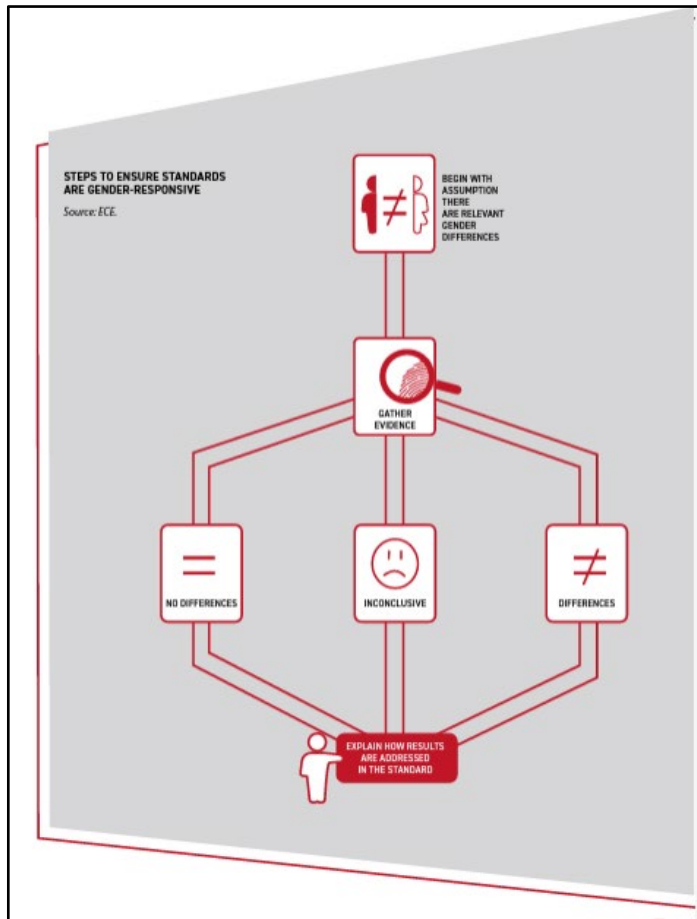


# Guidelines on Developing Gender-Responsive Standards



- 2022, ECE/TRADE/472
- Available in English, French, Russian, Spanish and Chinese (Arabic soon to come)
- Explains what are GRS, why it is important
- Balanced representation, recruitment, inclusive meetings
- Steps to ensure standards are gender responsive (assume there are difference, gather evidence, take explicit action)

# Questions to Consider...



1. Will men and women be impacted by the standard?
2. Is it possible that there may be different impacts for men and women?
3. Is there sufficient data to assess potential gender impacts of the standard?
4. What assumptions are being made in the standard? What are the limitations of those assumptions?
5. Men and women are not homogenous groups, are further modifications needed to make the standard suitable for diverse men and women?

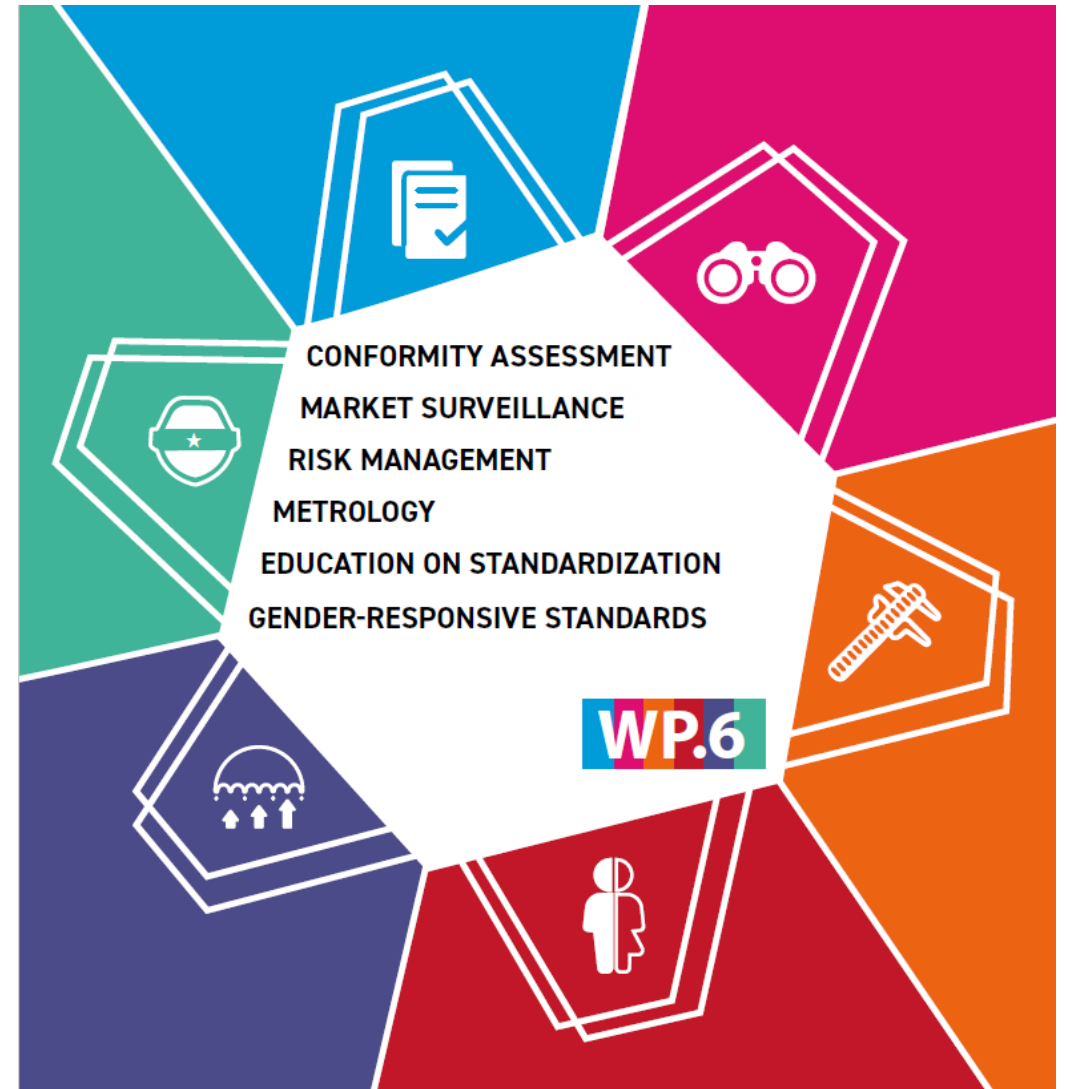
# Closing the Gender Gap



- SDG 5: The world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030.
- Standards can be an important tool to promote gender equality.
- Gender-responsive standards will ensure that *everyone* is equitably protected and benefits from standards that pervade our lives.



# Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies



Merci    ありがとうございました    Hvala    Ačiū  
شكرا جزيلاً    Mahalo    Дякую    Teşekkür ederim  
Рахмат    Dankon    ඔබට ස්තූතියි    Sagbol    Ευχαριστώ  
Tack    Çox sağ ol    Dziękuję Ci    Obrigado  
მადლობთ    תודה    감사합니다    धन्यवाद    Dankon  
Natur nuhun    Баярлалаа    Хвала вам    Dankon  
Tak skal du have    Diolch    Хвала вам  
Спасибо    Go raibh maith agat    Faleminderit    Paldies  
Grazzi    Dank je    Рахмат сага    Faafetai    Rahmat  
Grazie    Mulțumesc    Ačiū    Благодаря ти    Danke  
Gracias    谢谢    සුභආඥා    Takk skal du ha  
Salamat    Aitäh    Dankie    Þakka þér fyrir  
Ви благодарам    Dėkuji    Köszönöm    Дзякуй  
धन्यवाद    Gràcies    Asante  
Kiitos

## Thank you

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