

Report from gender-based speaker time counting and survey of participants' perceptions at SuSanA plenary meeting

Saturday 4th September, 2010 (Session 1: 9.00-11.00 hrs)

Summary report:

Speaker time and number of participants were measured and counted at the SuSanA Plenary in Stockholm. At the end of the meeting, participants were asked to estimate the number of men and women present and their relative share of total time talking. With an average count of 50 participants (33 men, 17 women) deliberating for a measured time of 116 minutes, 52% of the time was used by male speakers (chair, podium and floor), and 48% by female speakers (podium and floor).

Over half of the meeting time was dedicated to presentations, by three female speakers and one male. This structure may have helped participants to make a remarkably accurate estimate of how speaker time was divided between men and women. The average estimate put 54% of speaker time as filled by males, and 46% by females. The SuSanA – as a group – is a remarkably perceptive crowd! There was however large variation between individual estimates, with women, on average, slightly overestimating the time filled by males. This result is contrary to the expectation that – as we are accustomed to men taking up more space/time – we should all overestimate the space/time actually filled by women.

Most men were seated in the back. This can explain the fact that female respondents (more commonly seated in the front) often greatly underestimated the number of male meeting participants. Male respondents tended to overestimate the total number of participants, but only slightly underestimate the number of men. This is consistent with the said 'spontaneous' seating arrangement.

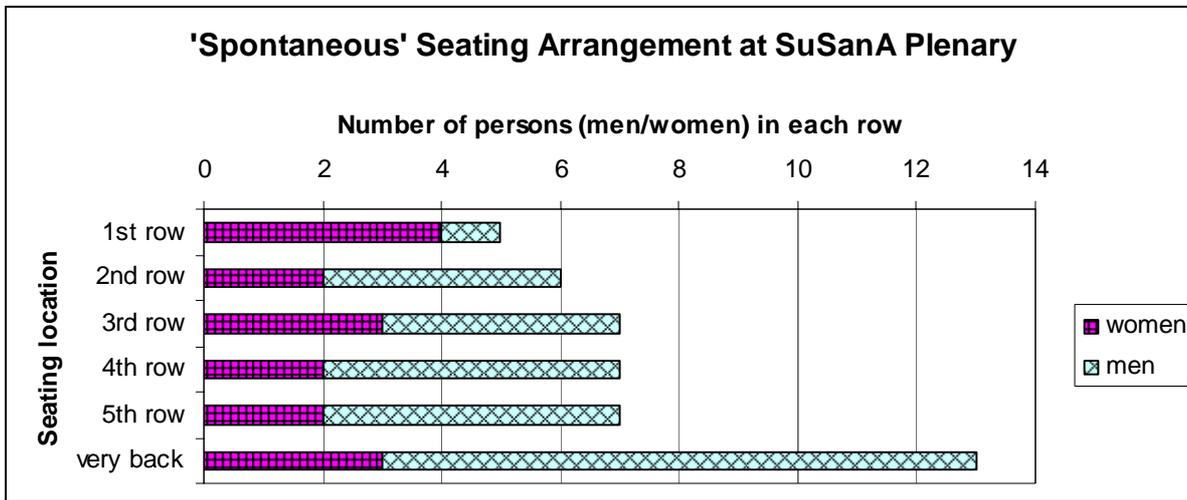
Regarding the gender balance of the interventions, one may note that even though men constituted almost 2/3 of the participants, they only filled slightly more than half of the total speaking time. On the other hand, with three out of four presenters being women, one may also note that female speakers still only contributed slightly less than half of the speaker time.

Summary results of measurements and survey:

<u>How many people</u> were present at this meeting?	50	persons
The number of participants actually oscillated between 46 and 52 persons at a time in the room		
Average estimate:	55	persons
(female/male)	(48/58)	
On average, <u>men</u> constituted	66	%
Average estimate:	58	%
(female/male)	(55/62)	%
On average, <u>women</u> constituted	34	%
<u>The total time taken up by male speakers</u> was 61 minutes, or:	52	%
This was constituted by chair (22 min=19%), podium (24 min=21%), floor (15 min=13%)		
Average estimate:	54	%
(female/male)	(56/54)	%
<u>The total time taken up by female speakers</u> was 56 minutes, or:	48	%
This was constituted by podium (43 min=37%), floor (12 min=10%)		
<u>Meeting structure</u>	% of total time	
Podium Presentations	58%	
Interventions from floor	23%	
Interventions by chairperson	19%	

A total of 37 persons responded to the survey. Response rate: 74%. That is 13 (76%) of the females, 17 (52%) of the males, noting that on 7 of the questionnaires, sex of the respondent was not specified.

On average, the number of participants was overestimated by 9%, but the number of men in the room was underestimated by 14%. This can be explained by that most women were seated in the front and most men in the back. On the first row, 4 out of 5 persons were women. On both fourth and fifth rows, 5 out of 7 persons were men. In the very back, seated against the wall, 10 out of 13 were men. This 'spontaneous' seating arrangement can be graphically pictured as follows:



Female respondents (more commonly seated in the front) often greatly underestimated the number of male meeting participants, although their estimate of the total was fairly accurate. Male respondents tended to overestimate the total number of participants, but slightly underestimate the number of men. This is consistent with the said 'spontaneous' seating arrangement, implying that the men in the back could see many women participants. The women in the front may not have taken notice of all the men seated in the back.

The time used by male speakers was overestimated by 2-3%. That is, in general, the speaker time estimate was remarkably accurate. This may be explained by the type of meeting, with a number of presentations with specified time slots (see agenda below). Responses from men and women did not differ much in this regard.

Actually – as has been noted by several participants – speaker time estimations and measurements like this would have been more interesting had it been done to a more spontaneously organised meeting than the SuSanA plenary. Note taken.

Meeting structure – extract from 12th SuSanA Meeting Agenda

Saturday, 4 September 2010 Room: Top floor meeting room of Kräftriket 4

Session 1 • 09:00 to 11:00h • Chair: Roland Schertenleib • Co-Chair: Roshan Raj Shrestha

Time	Topic	Content	Main presenter
09:00	Arrival	First coffee and mingling	All
09:15	Welcome greeting		Madeleine Fogde (SEI)
09:25	Introduction of participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short introduction of participants (name, organisation) and of working group leads 	All
09:45	Introduction to SuSanA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview on SuSanA's vision documents, SuSanA's past, present structure and future 	Darren Saywell (IWA)
10:00	The virtual SuSanA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview on recent work of SuSanA secretariat (new website, case studies) Social media: facebook, twitter, flickr, youtube (improving "remote" participation) 	Elisabeth von Muench (GTZ)
10:15	"Sanitation ladder" based on function – what is the potential?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Sanitation ladder » and JMP Monitoring for MDGs – suggestions for change ; implications for SuSanA 15 minutes presentation, followed by discussion 	Jennifer McConville (SEI)
11:00	Tea/coffee		

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