Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 16.7.1 (a)

IAEG-SDG
6th November 2018
Summary

• Key concepts: representation in decision-making

• Methodology development, consultations and pilot testing

• Method of computation for data on Members and internationally comparable ‘scaled value’

• Reporting on other dimensions of the indicator

• Data collection architecture and custodianship

• Conclusions
## Key concepts: representation in decision-making

**Target 16.7**: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

**Indicator 16.7.1 (a)**: Proportions of positions (by age group, sex, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local), including (a) the legislatures

### Sex and age

Proportional representation of **women** and ‘youth’ (< or = 45 years) amongst **individuals in decision-making positions in national legislatures** (i.e. in Lower & Upper Houses if both exist)

### Disability and population group status

Electoral and constitutional **provisions** adopted by countries to secure representation in national legislatures of persons with disabilities and nationally relevant population groups
Rationale and interpretation

**Representation**

- Descriptive vs substantive
- Focus on *descriptive representation*: greater legitimacy of parliament; higher level of trust
- Limitations

**Decision-making positions**

- Members, Speaker(s) and Permanent Committee Chairs Focus on five permanent committees:
  - Foreign Affairs, Defence, Finance: traditionally male-dominated
  - Human Rights, Gender Equality: commitment to safeguarding human rights and promoting gender equality
- Limitations
Methodology development, consultations and pilot testing

- Guidance of the Praia City Group on Governance Statistics and its dedicated Working Group on SDG indicator 16.7.1
- Consultations with Expert Group (consisting of NSOs, international agencies and experts), regional and global organizations with parliamentary expertise and regional parliamentary associations to produce and refine the metadata
- Inputs from UNWomen on the feasibility of collecting data on the composition of sub-national legislatures in the future.
- Coordination across all three subcomponents of Indicator 16.7.1
- A pilot study with national parliaments was facilitated by the IPU in close coordination with UNDP, to validate the metadata.
  - 34 national parliaments invited to participate (both upper and lower chambers); responses from a total of 15 chambers in 13 countries.
  - General agreement on the clarity of definitions and the appropriateness of the approach to measuring representativeness of parliamentary decision-making
- Data collection practices
  - Datasets with basic information on Members widely available
  - Data on the disability and population group status mostly unavailable and considered unfeasible/unadvisable

Pilot countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Djibouti</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arab States</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia / Pacific</td>
<td>Fiji, Myanmar, Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe / CIS</td>
<td>Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>Brazil, Chile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Finland, France, Germany, Sweden, United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Method of computation for data on Members

Two ratios for the position of ‘Members’: proportion of women / ‘young’ MPs represented in national parliaments, relative to the proportion of these same groups in the national population above the age of eligibility

• **Age**: Ratio of the proportion of ‘young’ MPs (aged 45 and below) to the proportion of the national population aged 45 and below, with the age of eligibility as a lower boundary

\[
\text{Age Ratio} = \frac{\text{Proportion of MPs aged 45 and below in parliament}}{\text{Proportion of the national population aged 45 and below (with the age of eligibility as a lower boundary)}}
\]

**Example**: Parliament A where the proportion of MPs aged 45 and below is 30% and the corresponding proportion in the national population equal to 45%.

\[
\text{Age ratio} = \frac{0.3}{0.45} = 0.66
\]

• **Sex**: Ratio of the proportion of female MPs to the proportion of women in national population with the age of eligibility as a lower boundary (assumed to be 50%)

\[
\text{Sex Ratio} = \frac{\text{Proportion of women in parliament}}{\text{Proportion of women in the national population (with the age of eligibility as a lower boundary)}}
\]

**Example**: Parliament A where the proportion of female MPs is 20% and the corresponding proportion in the national population equal to 50%.

\[
\text{Age ratio} = \frac{0.2}{0.5} = 0.4
\]

**Interpretation of ratios**:
0 means no representation at all of women or ‘youth’ in parliament
1 means perfectly proportional representation of women or ‘youth’ in parliament
<1 means under-representation of of women or ‘youth’ in parliament
>1 means over-representation of women or ‘youth’ in parliament
Internationally comparable ‘scaled value’

Internationally comparable scaled value aggregating the two ratios

- **Step 1:** Calculate the ratios for female and ‘young’ (45 years and below) MPs

- **Step 2:** Calculate the gap between each one of the two ratios and the ‘parity score’ of 1

- **Step 3:** Calculate the average of the two gaps

  \[
  \text{Average gap} = \frac{\text{Gap 1} + \text{Gap 2}}{2}
  \]

- **Step 4:** Convert into a ‘scaled value’ between 0-100

  \[
  \text{Scaled value} = (1 - \text{Average gap}) \times 100
  \]

**Interpretation of the internationally comparable scaled value:**

- The closer to 100, the more the composition of parliament mirrors the social diversity of the country in terms of sex and age (i.e. 100 would mean a mirror image of the proportion of women and people aged 45 and younger in parliament and in society)
- **Both** the scaled value and individual ratios should be considered (one ‘good’ ratio should not compensate for the other ‘weaker’ ratio.

**Using the earlier example of Parliament A, where the sex ratio is 0.4 and the age ratio is 0.66**

- **Gap 1:** For ‘young’ MPs (45 years and below): \(1 - 0.66 = 0.34\)
- **Gap 2:** For female MPs: \(1 - 0.4 = 0.6\)

- **Average gap:** \(\frac{0.34 + 0.6}{2} = 0.47\)

- **Scaled value:** \([1 - 0.47] \times 100 = 53\)
Reporting on other dimensions of the indicator

Other decision-making positions in parliament

• Speakers and Chairs of 5 permanent committees (*Foreign Affairs, Defence, Finance, Human Rights & Gender*)
• Data disaggregated by sex and age

Disaggregation beyond sex & age

• Electoral and constitutional provisions adopted by countries to secure representation in national legislatures of persons with disabilities and nationally relevant population groups
Data collection architecture and custodianship

• Methodology developed jointly by the interim custodian, UNDP, and the incoming custodian, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

• Data collection and compilation based on existing methods and well-established channels between IPU and its members, and subject to the organization’s quality assurance mechanism

• All data points already available or soon to be incorporated in the IPU’s New Parline: a comprehensive and most reputable database on 193 national parliaments which monitors their composition, structure and working methods
Conclusions

• **Simple and realistic** approach to monitoring progress towards achieving greater representation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and members of nationally relevant population groups in political decision-making on the national level

• **Practical and cost-effective**: all data points already available or soon to be incorporated in the IPU’s New Parline

• Metadata validated through pilot study in diverse set of parliaments across the world

• Reclassification can **encourage parliaments** to embrace the 2030 Agenda’s commitment to responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making

• Strengthening synergies with other targets and indicators, particularly Indicator 5.5.1(a): Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments