Tier Re-classification Request

Indicator Number and Name: Indicator 10.3.1 and 16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

Custodian Agency(ies): Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Current Tier: III

Proposed Tier: II

OHCHR would like to bring to the attention of the Members of the IAEG-SDG the following information in support of the request for re-classification from Tier III to Tier II of SDG Indicator 10.3.1 and 16.b.1.

1. Background and rationale for indicator re-classification

The pledge to leave no-one behind and eliminate discrimination is at the centre of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The elimination of discrimination is also enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the core international human rights treaties. The purpose of this indicator, referred to under SDG targets 10.3 and 16.b, is to measure a prevalence of discrimination/harassment based on the personal experience reported by individuals. Using data collected through household surveys, it provides a unique opportunity to inform and assess impact of relevant policy and programmes by measuring the prevailing situation directly on the concerned population(s).

The definitional and methodological framework for this indicator is based on both international human rights and statistical standards. The development of the survey module for collecting the data benefited from the guidance and experience of national statistical offices, the Praia City Group on Governance Statistics and national and regional human rights institutions. The proposed module builds on a considerable set of discrimination surveys and questionnaires implemented by national statistical offices, human rights institutions and civil society organisations at national and regional levels.

The re-classification of the indicator to Tier II will contribute to furthering data coverage, provide a stronger basis for stakeholders to apply the methodology at national level and for OHCHR and its partners to support related capacity building.

2. Information on how and when the methodology has become an international standard and who is the governing body that approves it

End of 2016, OHCHR initiated mapping and review of household survey modules/questionnaires relevant to the internationally agreed formulation of the indicator(s) 10.3.1 and 16.b.1 and implemented by NSOs and other relevant organizations, including official human rights institutions (SDG indicator 16.a.1).

In September 2017, a first version of a survey module was presented at a meeting organized by OHCHR. The event brought together representatives and experts from NSOs and national/regional human rights institution of Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, Members of the Praia City Group on Governance Statistics, International Human Rights Mechanisms, civil society organizations, UNODC, UNDP and UNFPA. Based on the feedback received and following consultations, a revised version of the module was prepared by OHCHR.

In June 2018, it was presented and discussed at the Joint Second Meeting of UN-CTS Focal Points and ICCS Technical Advisory Group organized by UNODC with the support from the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics of Peru (INEI) and the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Government, Victimization of Crime, Public Security and Justice. Victimization survey experts expressed support to a survey module to measure experience of discrimination and harassment against prohibited grounds. They recommended adding a question in the module to reduce *telescoping* risk; combining discrimination and harassment in one survey question and introductory definition; and amending the module to strengthen measurement of personal experience instead of overall perception.

Two additional e-consultations took place in August and October 2018 and benefited from further inputs from NSO that had implemented similar discrimination survey module during the period. A complementary cognitive testing exercise was carried out by OHCHR on 60 respondents with different characteristics (e.g. geographic origins, levels of education, language, disability, color, religion). Following the October consultation, the present survey module, accompanying guidance note and metadata were finalized in December.

The survey module methodology is consistent with existing practices in the field of victimization surveys. Discrimination and harassment are included in the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS). The definition of discrimination in the ICCS is based on international human rights law. Harassment against grounds of discrimination prohibited by international law (e.g. sex, age, color, disability) is also a form of discrimination according to the international human rights normative framework.

3. Development and testing of the methodology (please also include information on how NSSs, and in particular NSOs, are involved in methodology development, data collection and data validation)

The data source for the compilation of the indicator is typically a statistical household survey implemented by NSOs. The proposed module may be part of a survey entirely dedicated to the measurement of discrimination, human rights or governance. It may also be included in common victimisation surveys or in general social surveys. The role of NSOs is central in the implementation of the module, including in sample design and data collection including population groups at risk of discrimination. Given the degree of contextualisation associated with the survey module and to improve its use, a broader involvement of NSSs is recommended. National Institutions with mandates related to human rights or non-discrimination and equality are ideal partners for these activities. Data collectors may also be able to identify other government agencies or civil society organisations with relevant expertise and facilitated access to groups at risk of being left behind or discriminated.

The proposed survey module was developed in collaboration with NSOs and other representatives of NSSs, in particular human rights institutions. The elaboration of the module has built on a series of already tested surveys and experience of NSOs, national/regional human rights and other official institutions, civil society organisations and UN agencies, in particular UNODC and UNICEF. While already similar to previously tested survey modules, further validation work and new implementation of the module for this SDG indicator were undertaken with partners, including NSOs, at country level.

4. Result of the pilot studies and list of countries consulted that are regionally representative

In October 2018, OHCHR inventoried 70 countries where similar discrimination survey modules were implemented. These include countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, Northern Africa and Western Asia,

Central and Southern Asia, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, Latin-America and the Caribbean, Oceania, Europe and Northern America. The 70 inventoried surveys were implemented by NSOs directly (64%)[1] or by other entities at the request of governmental institutions. Efforts to ensure consistent data collection on discrimination across countries were inventoried in Africa (Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, SHaSA), Europe (European Commission, EU Fundamental Rights Agency) and in UNICEF supported MICS (22 out of 31 countries by October 2018).

Consistent with the proposed module, the reviews of these surveys, complementary testing by OHCHR and feedback received from experts confirmed the relevance of introducing respondents to the notion of discrimination and harassment before asking about their personal experience, listing explicitly prohibited grounds of discrimination to facilitate recall, and include an "others" option to capture non-listed categories. The results also confirms the critical need for inclusive data collection and disaggregation in keeping with SDG targets 17.18 and international statistical and human rights safeguards. The reclassification of the indicator from Tier III to tier II will contribute to improving data collection and compilation at international level.

5. Confirmation/explanation if joint submission with other partner/co-custodian agencies

N.A.

6. Conclusion

The present request for reclassification of indicator(s) 10.3.1 & 16.b.1, from Tier III to Tier II, is based on the following considerations: (a) the main elements of the definitional and methodological framework for this indicator are based on existing international statistical and human rights standards; (b) the proposed survey module stems from an extensive range of household surveys, including question on discrimination experience, already conducted by NSOs from all regions; (c) the methodology was developed with the guidance of NSOs, members of the Praia City Group on Governance Statistics, national/regional human rights institutions and other UN agencies. The re-classification of the indicator to Tier II will contribute to furthering data collection and disaggregation, and supporting capacity building and collaboration between NSOs and other relevant institutions (e.g. NHRI or other relevant non-discrimination and equality organisations) at national level

[1] Australia, Belarus, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Georgia, Honduras, Ireland, Iraq, Italy, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Niger, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru Senegal, South Africa, Suriname, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Vietnam, Zimbabwe.