Goal 5

Target number: 5.5

Indicator Number and Name: 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments

Agency: UN Women

Has work for the development of this indicator begun? Yes

Who are the entities, including national and international experts, directly involved and consulted in developing the methodology/and or data collection tools?

Indicator 5.5.1 includes two components: (a) proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (5.5.1a) and (b) proportion of seats held by women in local governments (5.5.1b).

The latter component of the Indicator on local government (5.5.1b) is relatively new to the global arena (the MDGs only captured proportion of seats held in national parliament). Thus while the computation and methodology are the same for the two components, the reporting mechanisms and data collection processes for the latter require discussion and consultation. UN Women is the entity leading the process with involvement of multiple global and regional organizations, researchers, and national and international experts.

UN Women convened an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Women's Representation in Local Government from 3-4 November, 2016, in New York. Over 40 representatives from various UN partner agencies, UN regional commissions, the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) on SDGs, key local government associations, international organizations, development assistance agencies, national statistics offices, research institutions and electoral management bodies discussed findings of UN Women-led research on local government, examined current practices and gaps in regional and global monitoring of women's representation in local government, and advanced the development of a methodology for Indicator 5.5.1b.

The agencies and organizations represented at the EGM included: National Statistics Offices (NSOs) from Ghana and Philippines; the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the UN Regional Economic and Social Commissions (UNECE, UNECA, UNESCWA); United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG); Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF); International IDEA; the US Agency for International Development (USAID); the Women in Public Service Project at the Wilson Center; the No Ceilings Project of the Clinton Foundation; Alphametrics Ltd., which manages data collection on women and men in decision-making for the European Commission (EC); UNDP (HQ and Asia and the Pacific Regional Centre); UN-Habitat (NY Liaison Office); UNSD; UN Department of Political Affairs Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD). Staff of UN Women (HQ, Regional Office for Arab States and Mexico Country Office) also participated and supported the meeting.

UN Regional Economic and Social Commissions for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) and for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC) have also been consulted on methods of data collection and data reporting, and their contributions were included in the EGM background materials.

What is the involvement of or how do you plan to involve National Statistical Systems in the development of the methodology?

Development of the indicator methodology involves National Statistical Systems in several ways. UN Women has conducted a mapping exercise of countries' current practices in collecting data on

women's representation in local government and existing mechanisms of reporting such data to UN Regional Commissions. Selected National Statistical Offices and Women's Ministries have been consulted on the design, and involved in the testing of data request forms developed by UN Women. Selected National Statistical Offices and other governmental agencies were also invited to provide feedback and other input to the background research prepared for the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) which took place November 2016.

In the future, UN Women will work in partnership with UN regional commissions to compile country-level data. UNESCWA has offered to pilot UN Women's methodology in its region and organize capacity building workshops for NSOs.

Please briefly describe the process of developing the methodology for the indicator

Methodological development of this indicator includes: (a) Background research on women's representation in local government; (b) Review of national Constitutions, Local Government Acts and Electoral Laws on local government organization by tiers and the composition of its deliberative and executive bodies; (c) Mapping of sources and methods of data collection; (d) Consultations with global, regional and national partners; (e) Development of data request forms for global reporting; (f) Technical meetings, including the EGM in November 2016, and (g) Further methodological refinement will take place in 2017 with further testing of the data request form.

Please indicate new international standards that will need to be proposed and approved by an intergovernmental process (such as UNSC) for this methodology.

Not-applicable. 5.5.1b will follow the same methodology used for measuring component 5.5.1a. Development work for this indicator centers on establishing data collection processes and will not require introduction of a new international standard.

When do you expect the methodological work on this indicator to be completed? 2017

Are data and metadata already being collected from the National Statistical System for one or more components of this indicator? Yes

If yes, please describe:

UN Regional Commissions in Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and in Europe (UNECE), and the European Commission are already compiling data on women in local government at regional level. Exact indicator formulation used, frequency and mechanism of data reporting vary slightly. Efforts to align and harmonize methodologies are already underway.

How do you plan to collect the data?

Several methods may be employed, including, but not limited to: (a) through regional commissions where possible; (b) sending questionnaires directly to countries; (c) obtaining data directly from country database websites.

If the indicator involves multiple components from different data sources, please describe how each individual component of the indicator will be collected here.
N/A

With what frequency is data expected to be collected?
Every one to two years.

Is there a process of data validation by countries in place or planned for this indicator?

Yes

If yes, please briefly describe:
Global monitoring for this indicator will use national data, as submitted by countries. Data extracted directly from country websites/databases will be confirmed through direct dialogue with countries, as needed.

(as of 3 March 2017)