Ensuring a human rights-based approach in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

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...the essential trust of the public in the integrity of official statistical systems and confidence in statistics depend to a large extent on respect for the fundamental values and principles that are the basis of any society seeking to understand itself and respect the rights of its members, and in this context that professional independence and accountability of statistical agencies are crucial...

[Extract from the preamble of the Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics (A/RES/68/261)]
Producing - or not - disaggregated data is not a norm or value neutral exercise and bears substantial opportunities as well as risks for the respect, protection and fulfillment of human rights.

[See OHCHR guide on human rights indicators and note on a human rights-based approach to data]
Human rights, gender equality and data disaggregation in the 2030 Agenda (A/RES/70/1)

- The 17 SDGs and 169 targets seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

- leave no one behind,..., reach the furthest behind first,...eliminate discrimination,... reduce inequality.

- The Agenda is to be implemented in a manner consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law.

- Target 17.18: disaggregation by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other relevant characteristics.
Data disaggregation: human rights obligation

- International human rights instruments, including ratified treaties, compel to data disaggregation to monitor inequalities and discrimination.

- International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Art. 31): *Statistics and data collected shall be disaggregated, as appropriate, to help assess implementation of obligations under the Convention and identify and address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.*

- International human rights mechanisms urge data disaggregation by prohibited grounds of discrimination.
General recommendation No. 9: Statistical data concerning the situation of women

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

Considering that statistical information is absolutely necessary in order to understand the real situation of women in each of the States parties to the Convention,

Having observed that many of the States parties that present their reports for consideration by the Committee do not provide statistics,

Recommends that States parties should make every effort to ensure that their national statistical services responsible for planning national censuses and other social and economic surveys formulate their questionnaires in such a way that data can be disaggregated according to gender, with regard to both absolute numbers and percentages, so that interested users can easily obtain information on the situation of women in the particular sector in which they are interested.
Prohibited grounds of discrimination

- All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights (Art. 1)
- Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
Grounds of discrimination & disaggregation

SDG Target 17.18

- Income
- Gender/sex
- Age
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Migratory status
- Disability
- Geographic location
- And other relevant characteristics...

- Indigenous peoples
- People of African Descent
- Homeless persons
- People living in slums
- Nomadic populations
- Religion
- Minorities
- Youth/older persons
- Undocumented migrants
- Refugees, IDPs
- LGBTI
- Persons living with HIV/AIDS
- Street children
- Prisoners
- sex workers
- (...
Human rights guidance for data disaggregation and collection efforts

- “vulnerable/marginalized groups” are those more at risk of not enjoying their human rights (civil, cultural, economic, political and social), of “being left behind”

How to identify these groups? What process?

- **Relevance of a Human Rights-Based Approach to Data (HRBD),** whose focus is on issues of data disaggregation and inclusive data collection
Human Rights-Based Approach to Data to leave no one behind in the 2030 Agenda
Human Rights-Based Approach to Data to leave no one behind in the 2030 Agenda

Participation

- “Nothing about us without us”
- Relates to indicators definition, data collection and dissemination
- Retain trust in official statistic
- Do no harm
Human Rights-Based Approach to Data to leave no one behind in the 2030 Agenda

- **Data disaggregation** in reference to grounds of discrimination prohibited by international human rights law
- **Self-identification**: freedom to self-identify or not, in particular when touching personal identity
Human Rights-Based Approach to Data to leave no one behind in the 2030 Agenda

- **Transparency**: people’s right to (statistical) information (freedom of expression, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Art. 19; Principle 1 of Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics) and transparency in methods

- **Privacy**: data protection and confidentiality (ICCPR, Art. 17)

- **Accountability**: accountability in data collection, and data collection for accountability
Considerations in moving forward on a human rights and gender-based approach to statistics

- Looking beyond national averages and traditional binary disaggregation, and mapping data gaps
- Measuring multiple/intersectional discrimination or inequality
- Applying gender perspective to data collection on other characteristics for data disaggregation (e.g. disabilities, migratory status, ethnic background, homeless persons, etc.)
- Involving multiple data sources, including targeted population surveys
Considerations in moving forward on a human rights and gender based approach to statistics

- Strengthening cooperation/partnership with data producers/users, in particular organizations or representatives who could have better access to “the left behinds”, national human rights institutions (SDG indicator 16.a.1) and relevant civil society organizations
- Referring to international human rights standards and recommendations, in particular those relevant to human rights / gender-based data collection
- Strengthening capacity of data providers/users on human rights and gender statistics (e.g. gender/human rights statistics focal points)
Human Rights-Based Approach to Data to leave no one behind in the 2030 Agenda

“The Agenda’s promise to leave no-one behind means dismantling the structural injustice that holds back women, minorities, indigenous people, and so many millions of others… The solutions for these people, embodied in the 2030 Agenda, lie in rights-based approaches”

United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon
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