

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

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Abstract

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda adopted by Heads of State and Government stipulates that its goals and targets seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The successor to the Millennium Development Goals framework, calls for leaving no one behind, reaching the furthest behind first, eliminating discrimination and reducing inequality. To support achievement of these interrelated objectives, the new Agenda includes a target (17.18) of specific interest or concern for the statistical community, as it requires improving data disaggregation drastically. In response to the associated challenges and opportunities for traditional data collection and dissemination, and for the protection and promotion of human rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in consultation with statisticians and human rights practitioners, has developed guidance on a Human Rights-Based Approach to Data (HRBAD). This new tool has been developed in connection also with the explicit call made in the 2030 Agenda that it is to be implemented in a manner consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law. The HRBAD that will be briefly presented at the Sixth Global Forum on Gender Statistics has drawn on existing international human rights norms and principles. The proposed approach seeks to enhance data disaggregation by grounds of discrimination prohibited by international human rights law; participation in data collection efforts; self-identification; data protection; accountability; and realization of the right to (statistical) information. The tool has been viewed as consistent with the Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics adopted by the United Nations, as well as an instrument that can reinforce their implementation. The presentation will introduce the main features of the HRBAD and highlight its relevance for strengthening human rights and gender-based statistics to help deliver on the promises made in the 2030 Agenda.