

# Measuring women's participation in local government

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Sonia Palmieri  
Policy Specialist, Political Participation  
[sonia.palmieri@unwomen.org](mailto:sonia.palmieri@unwomen.org)



# Overview

- 1. Data collection ‘mandates’**
  - Where are the data gaps
- 2. The need for data on local government**
  - Lessons learned from MDGs
  - Moving forward to the SDGs
- 3. Stock take: current information on women’s participation at the local level**
  - Challenges in data collection and comparative analysis
- 4. UN Women’s work so far**
  - Proposed methodology
  - Data sources

# Data collection 'mandates'



## MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

- Indicator 3.3 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
  - Data collected regularly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

## SC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

- 26 global indicators to monitor implementation include:
  - **12a** Women's political participation in parliaments and ministerial positions
  - **12b** Women's political participation as voters and candidates
  - **16** Level of women's participation in the justice and security sector
- However, current data **availability** and **quality vary** widely

# Data gaps

## Gender Statistics: 52 minimum indicators

- quantitative indicators for public life and decision making

#	Indicator name	BPFA <sup>1</sup>	MDG <sup>2</sup>	Tier	Agency
43.	Women's share of government ministerial positions	G.1		I	IPU
44.	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	G.1	Goal 3	I	IPU
45.	Women's share of managerial positions	F.1, F.5, G.1		I	ILO
46.	Share of female police officers	I.2		II	UNODC
47.	Share of female judges	I.2		II	UNODC

- Indicators on police and judges are “conceptually clear, with an agreed international definition, but not yet regularly produced by countries”
- Indicators **not** included in the ‘Set of 52’:
  - Participation and leadership in local government
  - Voter turnout and voter registration
  - Proportion of candidates for election (national & sub-national)
  - Participation and leadership in trade unions and collective movements
  - Participation and leadership of corporate boards
  - Incidence of violence against women in politics and in elections

# Why local government?



## Lessons learned from the MDGs:

- 1) “The global development agenda needs to be rooted in the local development agenda”
  - MDGs “best achieved” when local government was engaged
  - inter-governmental (national-local) relationships effective
  
- 2) Accountability on the implementation of goals requires:
  - a “data revolution”
  - inclusive and genuine participation by women
  - strengthened institutions, effective local governance

Source: UNDG. *Delivering the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Opportunities at the National and Local Levels*, Available at: < <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/dialogues2015> >

# Post-2015

**Women's participation at the local level needs to be measured for at least two of the proposed SDGs:**

**Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

- 5.5 ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership **at all levels** of decision-making in political, economic, and public life

**Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels:**

- 16.6 develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions **at all levels**
- 16.7 ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making **at all levels**

# Women as councilors and mayors



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

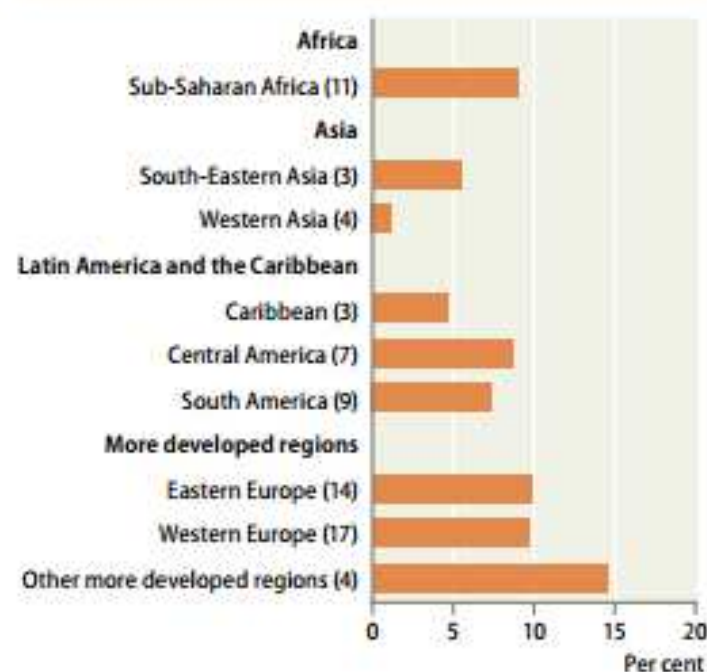
Share of women among councilors, by region, 2003–2008 (latest available)



Source: Computed by the United Nations Statistics Division based on data from United Cities and Local Governments (2009) and national sources.

Note: Unweighted averages; the numbers in brackets indicate the number of countries with available data.

Share of women among mayors, by region, 2003–2008 (latest available)



Source: UN Statistics Division, 2010. *The World's Women 2010. Trends and Statistics*. Available at: [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/WW2010Report\\_by%20chapterBW/Power&decmaking\\_BW.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/WW2010Report_by%20chapterBW/Power&decmaking_BW.pdf)

# Comparative challenges

- 1) Significant diversity in local governance structures:
  - Each country has its own system of local government, sometimes with internally disparate types and forms of local councils, bodies and executive structures
- 2) The wide range of governance structures has been difficult to capture with comparable data:
  - There is **no baseline data** on women elected or appointed to local government across all countries at one point in time.
  - There is **no central repository of data** to track progress.





# Methodology

## Research questions

- 1) Is there **enough commonality** between **local governance structures** in all countries for a global community of practice to agree and track a common measurement or standard on women in local government?
- 2) What kinds of **quantitative and qualitative data** do we need to better understand of women's access to, and participation in, local governance **institutions, processes and leadership positions**?

## Methods

- Categorise the number and type of governance tiers by **country** and **region**;
- Using existing data on women in sub-national governments, **identify gaps** in data collection at the sub-national level and **identify improvements**;
- **Discuss** data gaps and possible data collection processes with **partners**;
- Identify **opportunities** to establish a **global repository**.

# What we know so far

- Of the distinguishable ‘tiers’ of local government:
  - The **most common tier** is **the municipal level**
    - An elected mayor presides over a separate municipal council.
  - The **second most common tier** is **the district level**
    - Significant variety in functions and modes of election/appointment
  - A **third tier** - **local communities, parishes** - tends to be prevalent in countries with large populations
    - E.g. Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka

# Data sources



**Country government websites**

**UN regional commissions** data on women's participation in local governments

**United Cities and Local Government (UCLG)** country profiles

**Member States'** inputs to the SG Report on the implementation of GA Resolution 66/130 on women and political participation

**CEDAW country reports** - a total of 122 countries have reported some information on women's representation at local level

**The UN Statistics Division** report, *The World's Women*. The 2010 edition included information on women mayors and women councilors for 72 and 81 countries respectively.

**Let's continue this conversation ...**

**Thank you for your attention**

