Progress on SDG indicator 5.5.1b
(women’s representation in local government)

IAEG-GS
Tokyo, Japan, 13 November 2018

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The SDG indicator 5.5.1b

- New global indicator addressing the data gap on women’s proportional representation in local government.

- Included in the SDG monitoring framework as Tier III indicator, under Goal 5, Target 5.5.

- Reclassified by IAEG-SDG as Tier II in November 2017.
Steps undertaken by UN Women to develop the methodology of the indicator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
<th>Data compilation</th>
<th>Capacity building</th>
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</thead>
</table>

CURRENT STEPS

- Technical and expert group meetings (2014, 2016)
- Joint regional workshops with UN Regional Commissions (2016-2017)
- Presentations in international fora of statisticians (2016-2017)

Working with global, regional and national partners

- Technical and expert group meetings (2014, 2016)
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Understanding local government: Common features beyond diversity

- **National legal framework** provides for the existence of and regulates local government.

- A result of **decentralization**, a process of transferring some **legislative**, **executive**, **financial** and **administrative** powers from the central government to sub-national units of government distributed across the territory of a country.

- The sphere of local government is closest to the **people mandated to serve**.

- A **formal** institutional organization of local governments, each local government unit consisting of a **deliberative body** and an **executive body**.
The composition of local government units

Local government unit

Local government members

Executive body

Deliberative body (council or assembly)

Participatory bodies such as neighborhood associations, village consultative council, participatory budgeting committee, service user groups

Local citizens

May elect members of deliberative and executive bodies

Oversight or participatory roles

Public administration staff (government employees)

May report to or be part of state institutions

may hire

State institutions

Source: Adapted from concepts discussed at the Technical Meeting on Women’s Political Participation at the Local Level, UN Women, New York, 24-25 November 2014.
On diversity: local government organization by tiers

- Local government may be organized in 1 or more tiers/levels
- For example, local government in France is organized in three tiers:

- National level
- Region 1
- Region 2
- ... Region X
- Department 1
- Department 2
- ... Department X
- Commune 1
- Commune 2
- Commune 3
- ... Commune X

13 Regions
96 Departments
36,529 Communes

Source: UN Women Review of Local Government Organization.
Some examples:

France
State structure: *Unitary*

- Central Government
- Local Government
  - Regions
  - Departments
  - Communes

Norway
State structure: *Unitary*

- Central Government
- Local Government
  - Counties
  - Municipalities

Costa Rica
State structure: *Unitary*

- Central Government
- Local Government
  - Cantons
Romania

State structure: *Unitary*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Central Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local Government</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipalities (cities, towns, communes)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source:* UN Women Review of Local Government Organization.
Uganda

State structure: *Unitary*

**Central Government**

**Regional Government** *(Legal provisions that it could be formed but non-existent in practice)*

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

- District
- City
- County *(Administrative only)*
- Municipality
- Municipal division
- Sub-County
- Town
- City division
- Parish, village or town boards *(Administrative only)*

*Source:* UN Women Review of Local Government Organization.
United States of America

State structure: *Federal system*

Source: UN Women Review of Local Government Organization.
India

State structure: *Federation*

**Central Government**

**Intermediate sphere of government**

- 24 States and 2 Union territories
- 3 States and 2 Union territories
- 2 States
- 1 State and 1 Union territory
- 1 Union territory
- 1 Union territory

**Local Government**

- Zilla Panchayats
- Panchayats Samitis
- Gram Panchayats
- Urban govt.
- Zilla Panchayats
- Gram Panchayats
- Urban govt.
- Urban govt.
- Urban govt.
- Urban govt.
- Zilla Panchayats

*Source: UN Women Review of Local Government Organization.*
Ensuring comparability: definition of local government

• Existing statistical definition of local government: 2008 SNA (System of National Accounts)
  • Distinction between central, state and local government (para 4.129).
  • Local government consists of local government units, defined by SNA as “institutional units whose fiscal, legislative and executive authority extends over the smallest geographical areas distinguished for administrative and political purposes” (para 4.145).
• Identification of local government based on national legal framework.
Ensuring comparability: the scope of the indicator

- All tiers of local government as specified by national legal frameworks.

- Positions in deliberative bodies
  - Mirrors existing indicators for national government;
  - The great majority of local government members.

- Elected positions only
  - Most positions in local government
  - Persons elected on openly contested seats, reserved seats or through a candidate quota.
  - Captures political participation and accountability to citizens
  - Low cost data sources
Sources and flow of data for SDG indicator 5.5.1b

Preferred data source

**Local government composition data**

**Electoral records**

**Dissemination of centralized election results**

- **Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs)**
- **National Statistical Offices (NSOs)**
- **Ministries overseeing Local Government**
- **Women’s Affairs Ministries**

**Administrative data**

**Census/Survey of Local Government Composition**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPOSITION**

- **Appointed positions**
- **Elected positions**

**DATA COLLECTION within countries**

**DATA COMPILATION at intl. level**

**UN Women**

**UN Regional Commissions**

**Type of data**: Local government composition data
First global data compilation: what and how?

• The indicator is measured as:

\[
\text{Elected positions held by women in deliberative bodies of local government} = \ \frac{\text{Elected positions held by women and men in deliberative bodies of local government}}{\text{Elected positions held by women and men in deliberative bodies of local government}} \times 100
\]

• Data requirements:
  • Number of elected positions held by women and men in deliberative bodies of local government disaggregated by tiers
  • EMBs as preferred source of data
  • Reference time: most recent local elections

• Customized data request forms

• Assessment after first global data compilation
Data reporting mechanism for SDG indicator 5.5.1b

National Statistical Offices + Electoral Management Bodies

Data request forms + Brief background material on 5.5.1b

Countries are given 1 month to respond

UN Women & UN Regional Commissions

Data dissemination by National Statistical Systems

Step 1

Step 2

**Data compilation schedule:**
- First round of data compilation: November – December 2018
- After baselines established: countries will be requested to provide new data only when new local elections take place
Improving the availability and quality of data

• EMB’s technical capacity and mandate to produce and disseminate sex-disaggregated data on election results;

• Integrate electoral administrative data in the NSOs statistical activities:
  • Statistical acts and statistical plans + national development plans
  • Partnership between the NSOs and EMBs:
    • Quality check of data through process – candidate forms that include “sex” as key variable; databases maintained; consistency with other products developed by NSOs;
    • Regular and smooth sharing of data.
  • Data sharing and coordination within the NSSs to avoid duplication of data collection efforts and inconsistent data sets;

• Data dissemination and data integration.
Thank you