“Leaving no one behind”

How human rights guidance can help solve the SDG data disaggregation puzzle


The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by Heads of State and Government at the United Nations Summit in September 2015 pledged to leave no one behind, to reach those furthest behind first, to reduce inequality and eliminate discrimination. As we cannot fix what we cannot see, the 2030 Agenda has consistently called for an extensive disaggregation of data.

The 2030 Agenda also affirms that its implementation has to be in line with the rights and obligations of States under international law. In this regard, it is important to recall that countries have also committed to disaggregate their data in terms of the grounds of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law. Moreover, one should be mindful that producing (or not) disaggregated indicators is neither a purely technical nor value-neutral exercise, and that it can bear substantial risks for the protection of the rights of the concerned populations. It becomes therefore imperative to address both data disaggregation and human rights issues together. To maximise the benefits of data disaggregation and limit its risks, OHCHR, with the help of human rights and statistics experts and practitioners, has developed Human Rights Based Approach to Data: Leaving No One Behind in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

At the side event we will
- discuss main elements of a HRBA and illustrate its implementation through national statistical systems
- identify steps to support a HRBA to the development of the SDG indicator framework at country level

Ms Lisa Grace S. Bersales,
National Statistician and Head of the Philippine Statistics Authority

Ms Marjo Bruun, Director General of Statistics Finland

Mr Ordaz López Enrique Jesús, Director General, National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico

Mr Thorkild Olesen, Chair, Disabled People’s Organizations, Denmark

Mr Nicolas Fasel, Chief Statistician, OHCHR