



Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 16.7.1 (a)

IAEG-SDG

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Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



Summary

- Key concepts: representation in decision-making
- Methodology development, consultations and pilot testing
- Method of computation for data on Members and internationally comparable 'scaled value'
- Reporting on other dimensions of the indicator
- Data collection architecture and custodianship
- Conclusions

Key concepts: representation in decision-making

Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels



Indicator 16.7.1 (a): Proportions of positions (by age group, sex, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local), including (a) the legislatures

Sex and age

Proportional representation of **women and 'youth' (< or = 45 years)** amongst **individuals in decision-making positions in national legislatures** (i.e. in Lower & Upper Houses if both exist)

Disability and population group status

Electoral and constitutional provisions adopted by countries to secure representation in national legislatures of persons with disabilities and nationally relevant population groups

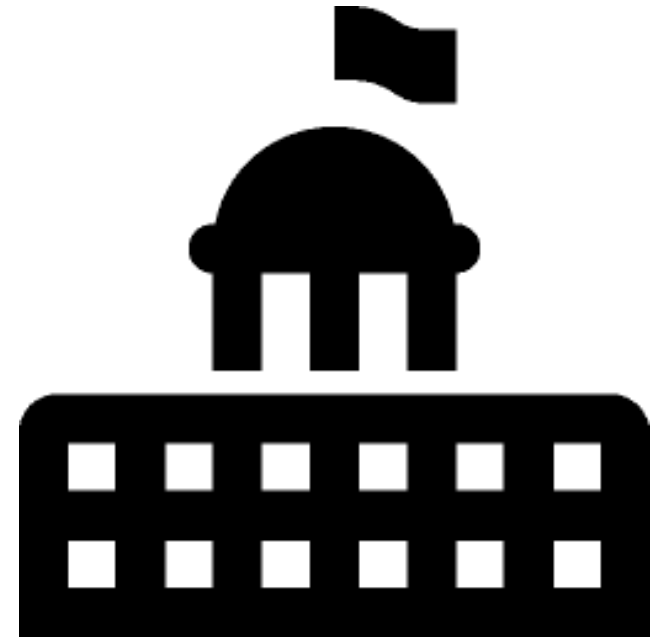
Rationale and interpretation

Representation

- Descriptive vs substantive
- Focus on **descriptive representation**: greater legitimacy of parliament; higher level of trust
- Limitations

Decision-making positions

- Members, Speaker(s) and Permanent Committee Chairs Focus on five permanent committees:
 - Foreign Affairs, Defence, Finance: traditionally male-dominated
 - Human Rights, Gender Equality: commitment to safeguarding human rights and promoting gender equality
- Limitations



Methodology development, consultations and pilot testing

- Guidance of the **Praia City Group on Governance Statistics** and its dedicated Working Group on SDG indicator 16.7.1
- Consultations with **Expert Group** (consisting of NSOs, international agencies and experts), regional and global **organizations with parliamentary expertise** and regional **parliamentary associations** to produce and refine the metadata
- Inputs from **UNWomen** on the feasibility of collecting data on the composition of sub-national legislatures in the future.
- Coordination across **all three subcomponents** of Indicator 16.7.1
- A **pilot study** with national parliaments was facilitated by the IPU in close coordination with UNDP, to validate the metadata.
 - **34 national parliaments** invited to participate (both upper and lower chambers); responses from a total of **15 chambers** in **13 countries**.
 - General agreement on the **clarity of definitions** and the **appropriateness of the approach** to measuring representativeness of parliamentary decision-making
 - Data collection practices
 - **Datasets** with basic information on Members widely available
 - Data on the **disability and population group status** mostly unavailable and considered unfeasible/unadvisable

Pilot countries

Africa
Djibouti
Arab States
Algeria
Asia / Pacific
Fiji, Myanmar, Sri Lanka
Europe / CIS
Russia
Latin America and the Caribbean
Brazil, Chile
OECD
Finland, France, Germany, Sweden, United Kingdom

Method of computation for data on Members

Two ratios for the position of 'Members': proportion of women / 'young' MPs represented in national parliaments, relative to the proportion of these same groups in the national population above the age of eligibility

- **Age:** Ratio of the proportion of 'young' MPs (aged 45 and below) to the proportion of the national population aged 45 and below, with the age of eligibility as a lower boundary

$$\text{Age Ratio} = \frac{\text{Proportion of MPs aged 45 and below in parliament}}{\text{Proportion of the national population aged 45 and below (with the age of eligibility as a lower boundary)}}$$

*Example: Parliament A where the proportion of MPs aged 45 and below is 30% and the corresponding proportion in the national population equal to 45%.
Age ratio = $0.3 / 0.45 = 0.66$*

- **Sex:** Ratio of the proportion of female MPs to the proportion of women in national population with the age of eligibility as a lower boundary (*assumed to be 50%*)

$$\text{Sex Ratio} = \frac{\text{Proportion of women in parliament}}{\text{Proportion of women in the national population (with the age of eligibility as a lower boundary)}}$$

*Example: Parliament A where the proportion of female MPs is 20% and the corresponding proportion in the national population equal to 50%.
Age ratio = $0.2 / 0.5 = 0.4$*

Interpretation of ratios:

0 means no representation at all of women or 'youth' in parliament

1 means perfectly proportional representation of women or 'youth' in parliament

<1 means under-representation of women or 'youth' in parliament

>1 means over-representation of women or 'youth' in parliament

Internationally comparable 'scaled value'

Internationally comparable scaled value aggregating the two ratios

- **Step 1:** Calculate the ratios for female and 'young' (45 years and below) MPs

← Using the earlier example of Parliament A, where the sex ratio is 0.4 and the age ratio is 0.66

- **Step 2:** Calculate the gap between each one of the two ratios and the 'parity score' of 1

← Gap 1: For 'young' MPs (45 years and below): $1 - 0.66 = 0.34$

Gap 2: For female MPs: $1 - 0.4 = 0.6$

- **Step 3:** Calculate the average of the two gaps

← $Average\ gap = \frac{(0.34 + 0.6)}{2} = 0.47$

$$Average\ gap = \frac{(Gap\ 1 + Gap\ 2)}{2}$$

- **Step 4:** Convert into a 'scaled value' between 0-100

← $Scaled\ value = [1 - 0.47] \times 100 = 53$

$$Scaled\ value = [1 - Average\ gap] \times 100$$

Interpretation of the internationally comparable scaled value:

- The closer to 100, the more the composition of parliament mirrors of the social diversity of the country in terms of sex and age (i.e. 100 would mean a mirror image of the proportion of women and people aged 45 and younger in parliament and in society)
- **Both** the scaled value **and** individual ratios should be considered (one 'good' ratio should not compensate for the other 'weaker' ratio).

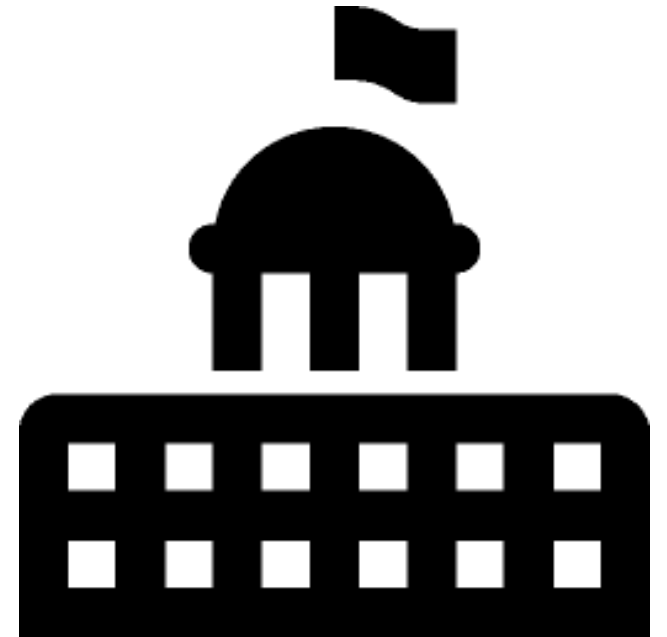
Reporting on other dimensions of the indicator

Other decision-making positions in parliament

- Speakers and Chairs of 5 permanent committees (*Foreign Affairs, Defence, Finance, Human Rights & Gender*)
- Data disaggregated by sex and age

Disaggregation beyond sex & age

- Electoral and constitutional provisions adopted by countries to secure representation in national legislatures of persons with disabilities and nationally relevant population groups



Data collection architecture and custodianship

- Methodology developed jointly by the interim custodian, **UNDP**, and the incoming custodian, **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**
- Data collection and compilation based on **existing methods and well-established channels** between IPU and its members, and subject to the organization's quality assurance mechanism
- **All data points already available or soon to be incorporated in the IPU's New Parline:** a comprehensive and most reputable database on 193 national parliaments which monitors their composition, structure and working methods



Conclusions

- **Simple and realistic** approach to monitoring progress towards achieving greater representation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and members of nationally relevant population groups in political decision-making on the national level
- **Practical and cost-effective:** all data points already available or soon to be incorporated in the IPU's New Parline
- Metadata **validated through pilot study** in diverse set of parliaments across the world
- Reclassification can **encourage parliaments** to embrace the 2030 Agenda's commitment to responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making
- Strengthening synergies with other targets and indicators, particularly **Indicator 5.5.1(a): Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments**