



SDG Indicator 5.5.1b (Women's Representation in Local Government)

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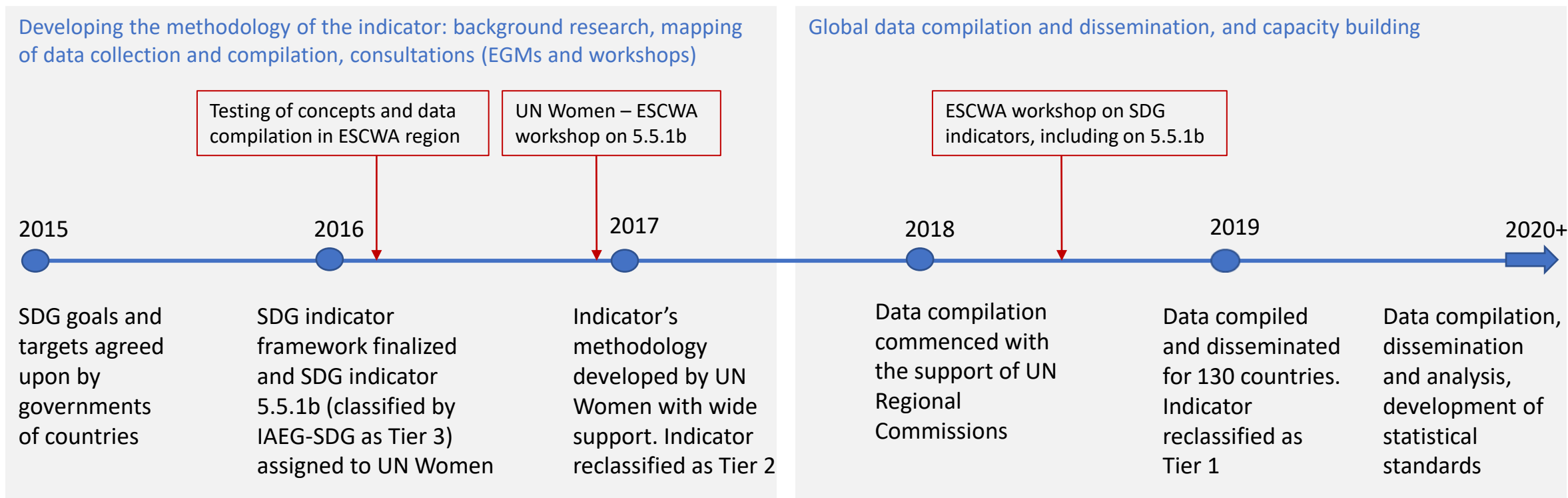
SDG indicator 5.5.1b (on women's representation in local government)

- **Outline**

- Background on SDG indicator 5.5.1b
- How SDG indicator 5.5.1b is measured:
 - Key concepts
 - Data sources
- Global data compilation
- How SDG indicator 5.5.1b is calculated
- Methodological resources
- Some results from SDG 5.5.1b data analysis

A. Background on SDG indicator 5.5.1b

- **SDG indicator 5.5.1b** (on women's representation in local government): a new indicator addressing a major global data gap.
- **Timeline of activities and milestones**



B. How SDG indicator 5.5.1b is measured

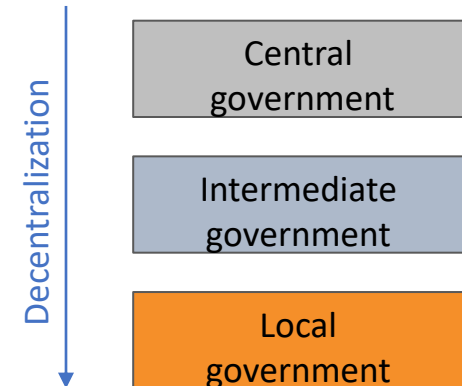
(1) Overview of key concepts

SDG 5.5.1b: Proportion of elected seats held by women in deliberative bodies of local government

(a) Local government

- Sub-national spheres of government are the result of decentralization = the 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.
- **Statistical definition**: 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).
- **In a given country**: **identification of local government based on national legal framework**, including national constitutions and local government acts or equivalent legislation.

Three spheres of government



Local government organization by tiers: examples based on UN Women review of national legal frameworks

Libya

Central government
Local government
Municipalities (94)

Oman

Central government
Local government
Municipalities (11)

Comoros

Central government
Intermediate government
Autonomous Islands (3)
Local government
Municipalities (54)

Algeria

Central government
Local government
Provinces (58)
Municipalities (1,541)

Mauritania

Central government
Local government
Regions (15)
Municipalities (219)

Morocco

Central government
Local government
Regions (12)
Prefectures (13)
Provinces (62)
Municipalities (1,538)

India

Central government
Intermediate government
States (29)
Union territories (7)
Local government
Districts (632)
Municipalities (4,657)
Blocks (6,672)
Villages (255,466)

United States of America

Central government
Intermediate government
States (50)
Local government
Counties (3,031)
Municipalities and townships (35,879)

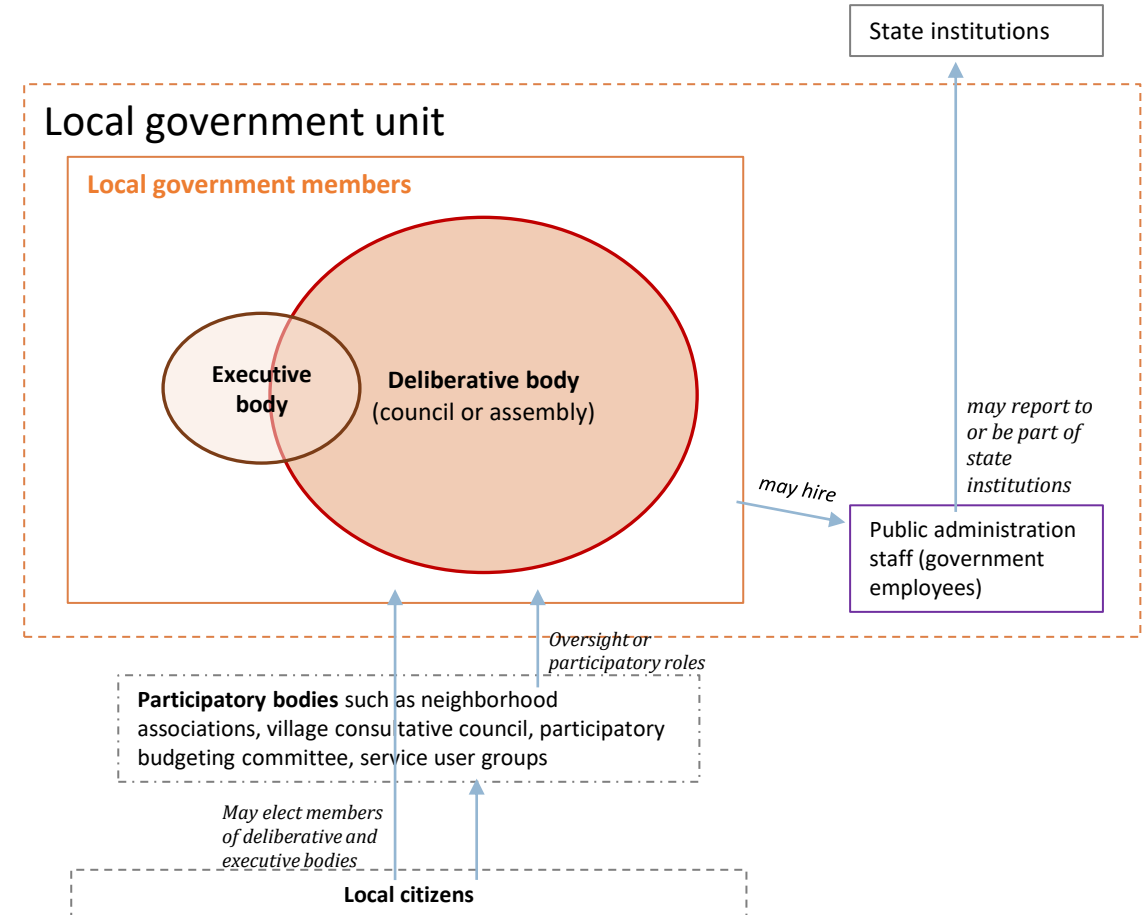
(b) Deliberative bodies (of local government)

- Each local government unit typically includes a *deliberative body* and an *executive body*.
- **Deliberative bodies** (councils or assemblies)
 - Formal entities
 - Have decision-making power, including the ability to issue by-laws, on a range of local aspects of public affairs
 - Usually elected by universal suffrage
- [By comparison, **Executive bodies** (executive committee or a mayor)
 - Formal entities
 - Prepare and execute decisions made by the deliberative body
 - May be elected, appointed or nominated.]

(c) Elected positions

- Selected in local elections, based on a system of choosing political office holders in which the voters cast ballots for the person, persons or political party that they desire to see elected.
- The category of elected positions includes :
 - elected persons who competed on openly contested seats
 - persons selected during/through the electoral processes on reserved seats or through a candidate quota.

The composition of local government units



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.

Key source on local government: new UN Women website on Women in Local Government (coming soon)

Algeria

Government organization



Algeria is a unitary semi-presidential republic with two spheres of government: central and local.

Central government

Local government

Provinces (58)

Municipalities (1,541)

National legal framework on local government



National legal framework

- Constitution of Democratic and People's Algerian Republic, 1989 (amended through 2016);
- Law on the Electoral System, 2016;
- Law on the territorial organisation of the country, 1984 (amended through 2021);
- Law on the Modalities for Improving the Representation of Women in Elected Assemblies, 2012;
- Law on the Province, 2012;
- Law on the Municipality, 2011.

Constitutional provisions on local government

Legislative provisions on local government

Overview of local government

Local government composition



Provincial-level government (wilayas)

Deliberative body: The provincial people's assembly is composed of 35-55 elected members. An assembly president, typically the head of the party list that obtains a majority of votes in the provincial people's assembly, is elected by and from the provincial people's assembly to preside over it; the assembly president is not vested with executive powers.

Executive body: The governor is appointed by a presidential decree as the executive at the provincial level of government.

Municipalities (communes)

Deliberative body: The municipal people's assembly is composed of 13-43 elected members. An assembly president, typically the head of the party list that obtains a majority of votes in the municipal people's assembly, is elected by and from the municipal people's assembly to preside over it; the assembly president is vested with executive powers.

Executive body: The assembly president is the executive at the municipal level of government.

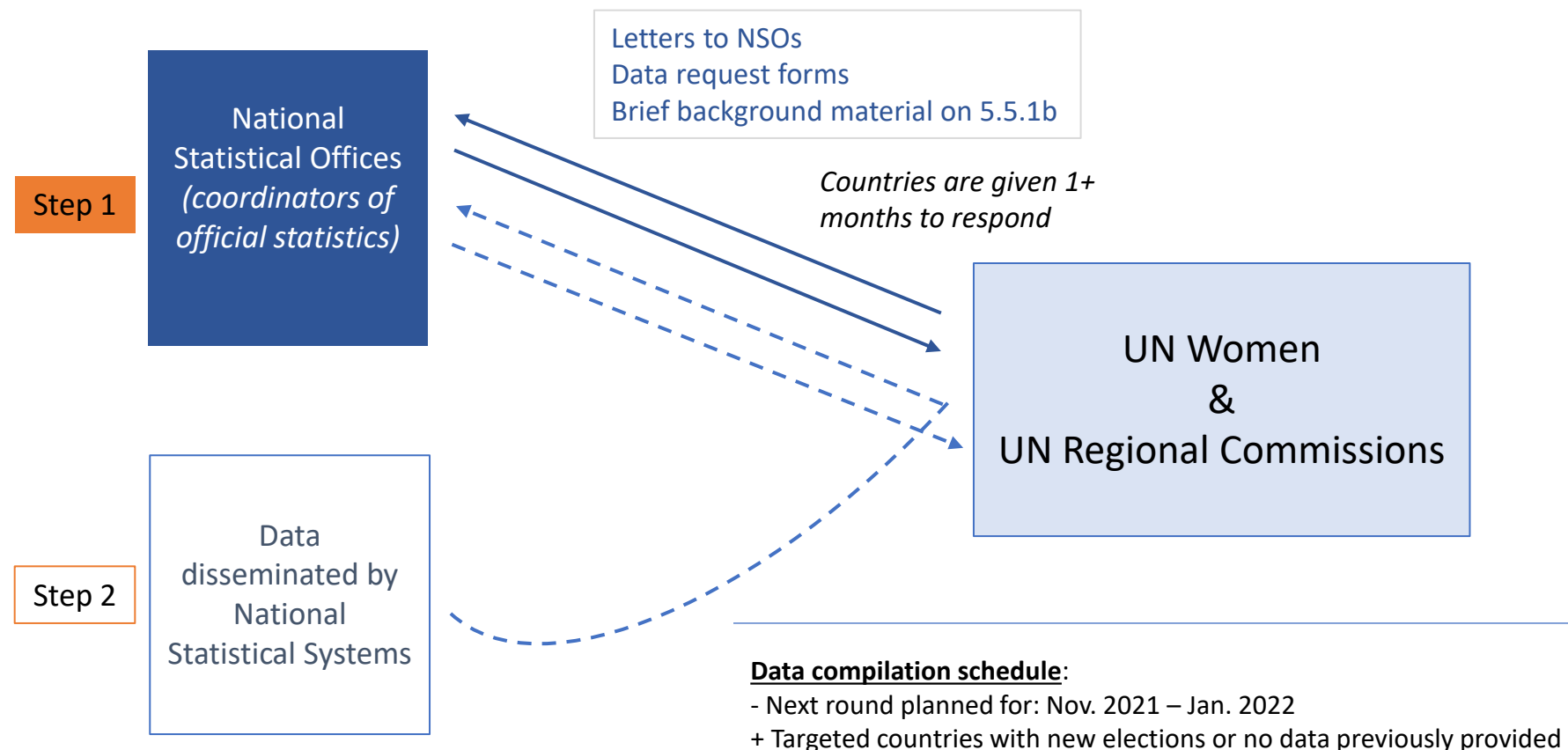
Link: localgov.unwomen.org

DATA COMPILATION at intl. level



DATA COMPILATION at intl. level

C. Global data compilation on SDG indicator 5.5.1b



Customized data request forms

Data request forms:

- Customized to reflect the local government organization specific to the country
- Reference date: 1 January every year



- Next steps considered:
 - Sharing data previously reported
 - Additional data and information.
For example:
 - Number of local government units
 - Executive positions in local government (i.e. mayors)
 - Appointed positions
 - Further disaggregation: age, geographical areas

1. Number of elected positions held by women and men in deliberative bodies of local government, by tier/type of local government, at the time of most recent local elections as of 1st of January 2021: **Morocco**

Deliberative bodies of local government	Number of <u>elected</u> positions	Source of data a. Election results from Electoral Management Bodies b. Public administration data from line ministries c. Surveys/censuses of local government units (please indicate exact name) d. Other (please indicate exact name)	Reference date (month/year)	Scheduled date for next elections (month/year)
a. Regional councils				
Women				
Men				
Total				
b. Prefectural councils and provincial councils				
Women				
Men				
Total				
c. Municipal councils				
Women				
Men				
Total				
d. Total elected positions (=a+b+c)				
Women				
Men				
Total				

D. How SDG indicator 5.5.1b is calculated

Country example 1: Oman

Number of elected persons in deliberative bodies of local government

Local government tier	Women	Men	Total
Municipal councils	7	195	202

Type of data source: Electoral administrative data based on 2016 elections

$$\text{SDG indicator 5.5.1b} = 7 * 100 / 202 = 3.47\%$$

Country example 2: Djibouti

Number of elected persons in deliberative bodies of local government

Local government tier	Women	Men	Total
Regional councils	14	51	65
Commune and city councils	42	87	129

Type of data source: Electoral administrative data based on 2017 elections

$$\text{SDG indicator 5.5.1b} = (14 + 42) * 100 / (65 + 129) = 28.87\%$$

Example 3 - Regional and global aggregates: weighted averages by number of elected persons

Number of elected persons in deliberative bodies of local government

Country	Women	Men	Total
Country 1	a1	b1	c1
Country 2	a2	b2	c2
Country 3	a3	b3	c3

$$\text{SDG indicator 5.5.1b} = (a1 + a2 + a3) * 100 / (c1 + c2 + c3)$$

- Calculation of SDG indicator 5.5.1b:

$$= \frac{\text{Sum of elected positions held by women in deliberative bodies of local government}}{\text{Sum of elected positions held by women and men in deliberative bodies of local government}} \times 100$$

Example 4: Country X with reserved seats for women and appointed positions

Number of selected persons in deliberative bodies of local government

Type of positions	Women	Men	Total
Elected persons on openly contested seats in local elections	10	90	100
Elected persons on reserved seats	20	0	20
Appointed positions	30	40	70
Seats for representatives of special groups	5	6	11

This information can be provided by EMBs

This information is not included in the calculation of 5.5.1b, but may be available from other sources

SDG indicator 5.5.1b = (Number of elected seats held by women) * 100 /
(Number of elected seats held by women and men)

$$= (10 + 20) * 100 / (100 + 20) = 25\%$$

**Example 5: County Y with full local elections in 2020 and partial elections in 2021
(for example, for deliberative bodies of 10 out of 100 municipalities)**

Data request: Data on results of most recent elections as of 1st January 2022

Number of elected persons in deliberative bodies of local government

Type of positions	Women	Men	Total
Partial elections in 2021 (10 out of 100 municipalities)	20	30	50
Full elections in 2020 (all 100 municipalities), out of which:	100	400	500
90 municipalities that did not conduct new elections in 2021	90	360	450
10 municipalities that conducted elections in both 2020 and 2021	10	40	50

SDG indicator 5.5.1b (as of 1st January 2022) = (Number of elected seats held by women) * 100 /
(Number of elected seats held by women and men)

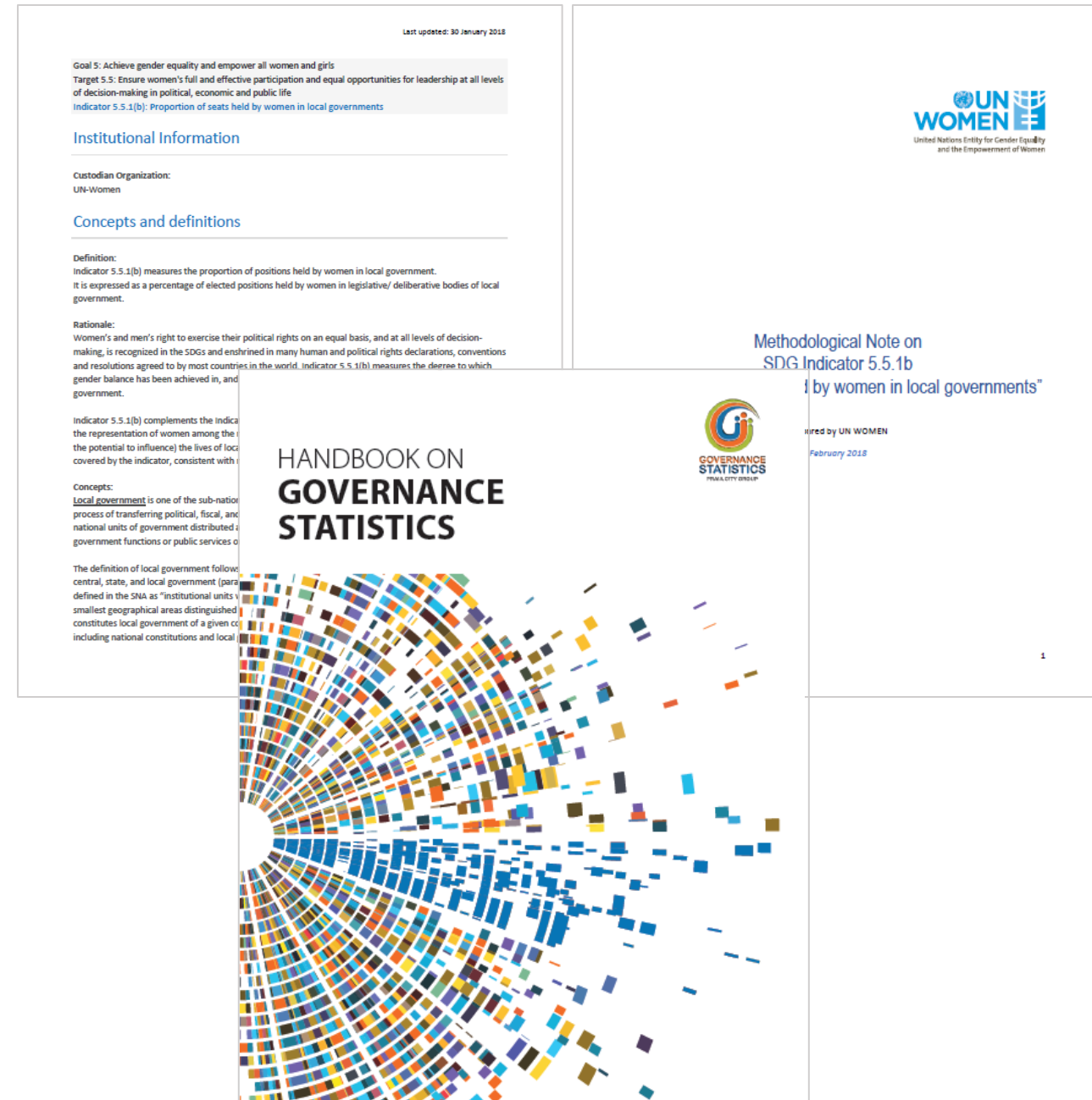
$$= (20 + 90) * 100 / (50 + 450) = 22 \%$$

E. Methodological resources

- Indicator's Metadata
- A more detailed Methodological Note of SDG indicator 5.5.1b (to be revised to include the lessons learned so far)
- The Handbook on Governance Statistics (a milestone for international statistical standards on governance and political participation), coordinated by the Praia City Group on Governance Statistics
 - A chapter on Participation in Political and Public Affairs (one of the dimensions of governance covered in the Handbook), which includes: (*) a conceptual framework on participation in public affairs; (*) a review of main data sources; (*) examples of indicators

Source: *Handbook of Governance Statistics*;

https://ine.cv/praiagroup/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/PRAIA-Handbook-final_web.pdf



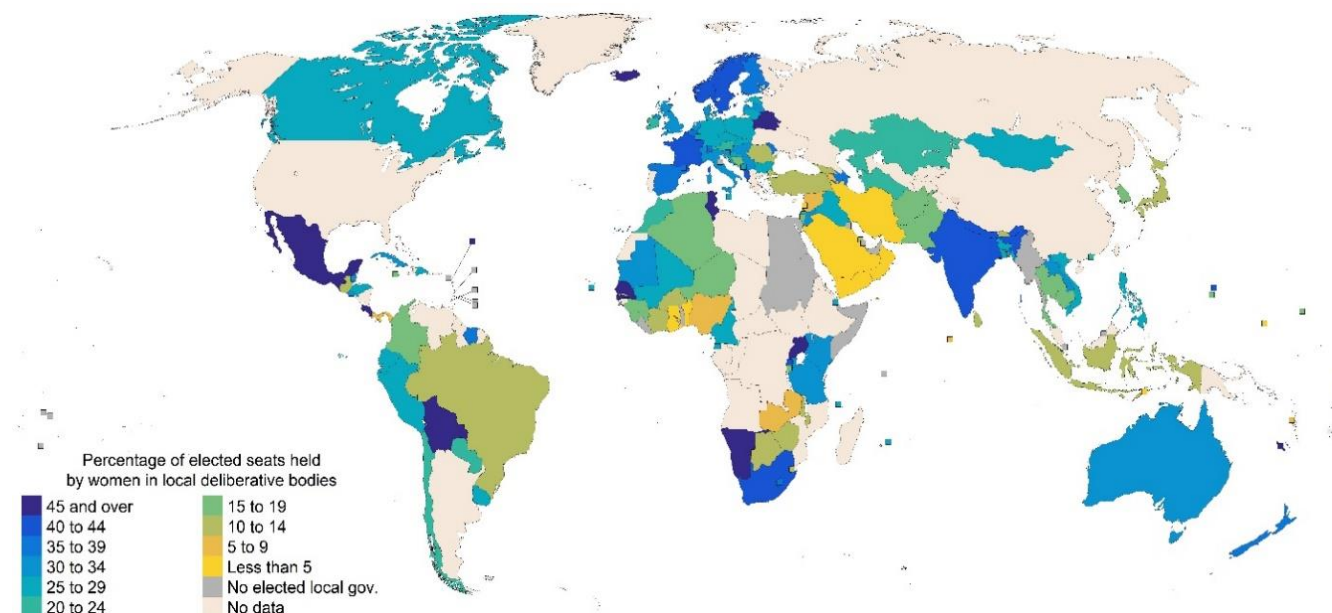
The Handbook on Governance Statistics: Spotlight on Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs)

- EMBs as major data source for women's political participation, however there are challenges:
 - EMBs not fully integrated in National Statistical Systems (NSSs), their data production mandate not yet integrated in electoral laws, rules or regulations;
 - Regular production of sex-disaggregated data could be improved through:
 - Assessment of electoral registration forms and the electronic information system, to identify potential dimensions of data disaggregation;
 - Integration of sex and other disaggregation variables in the system of collecting and storing information on registered voters, voters, candidates and elected candidates;
 - Ensuring the information is transmitted up to a central electoral body, and electronically preserved
 - Enabling data linkages between different administrative sources to enable further disaggregation of data.
 - Access to data could be improved, to prevent that data is an underused public good:
 - Partnerships and data sharing agreements between the EMBs, NSOs and other governmental entities.
 - Ensuring post-election dissemination of results in a statistical format and summaries that are easily accessible.
- Work continues within the Praia City Group on Governance Statistics.

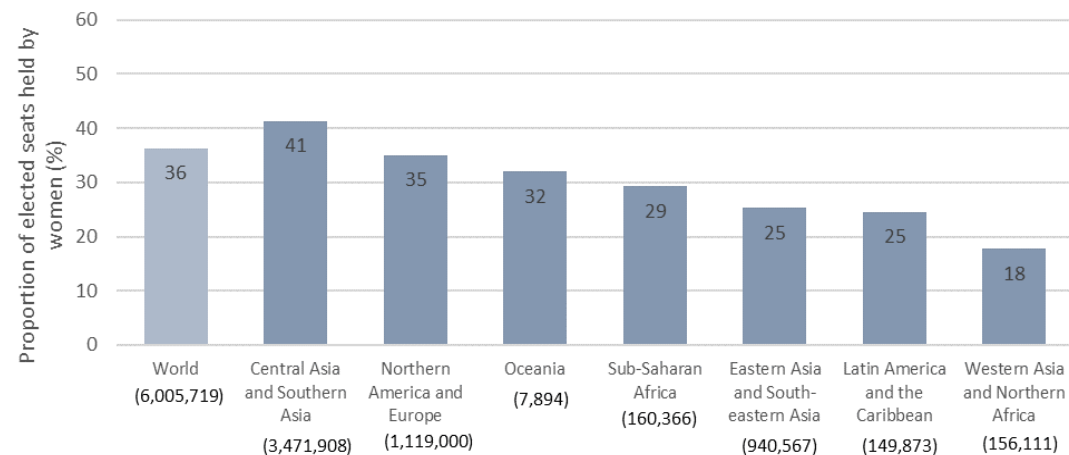
F. Some results from SDG 5.5.1b data analysis

- Data availability: $\frac{3}{4}$ of countries with elected local governments have data.
 - In ESCWA countries:
 - Almost complete coverage
 - Some countries with no elected local deliberative bodies
- There are countries with high women's representation in local government in all regions
- Use of legislated quotas increases women's representation

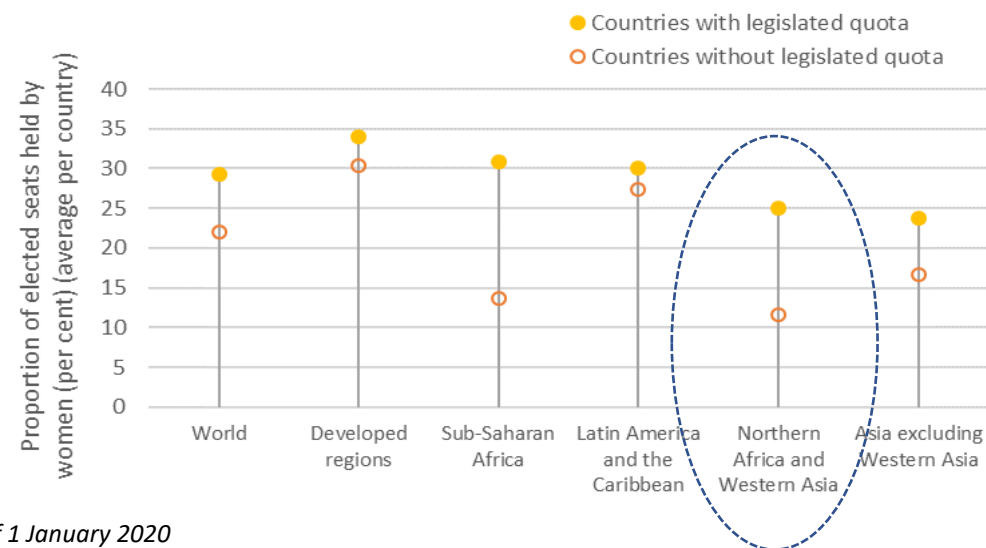
Women's representation in elected local deliberative bodies



Proportion of elected seats held by women in local deliberative bodies by SDG region



Average women's representation in elected local deliberative bodies by use of quotas and region

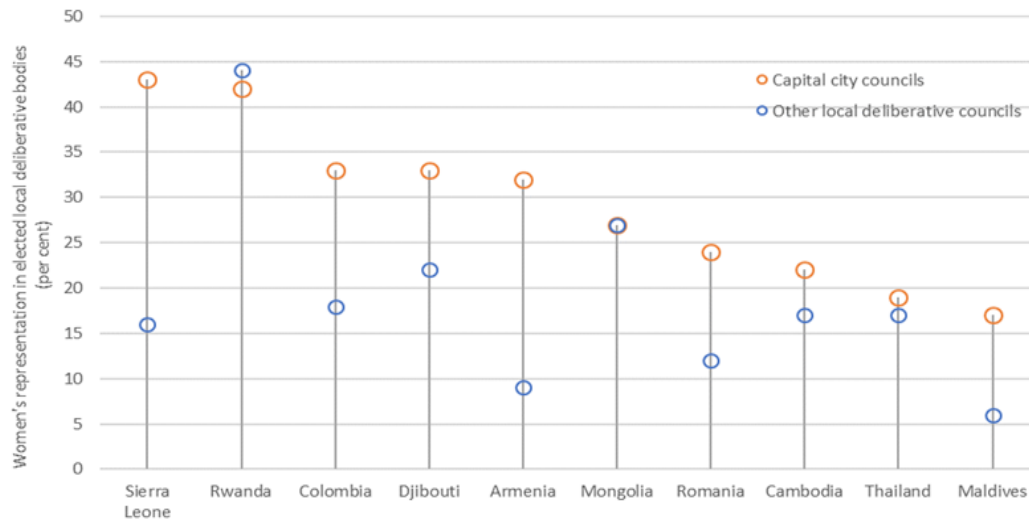


Note: Data as of 1 January 2020

Further data disaggregation

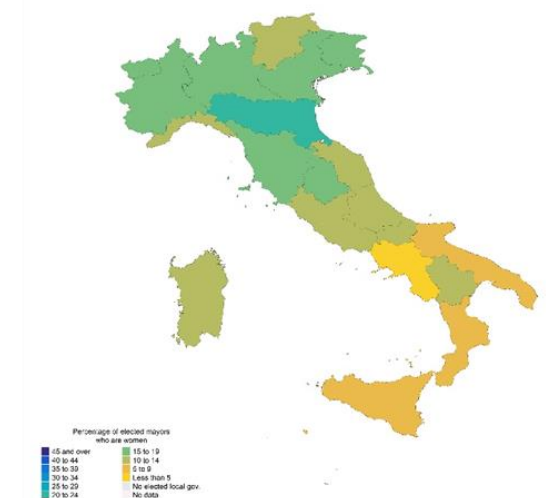
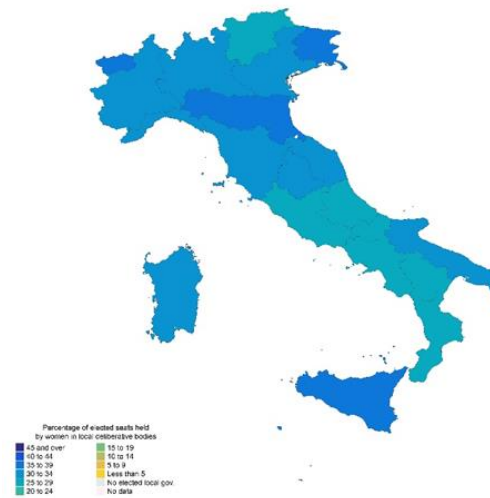
- Some countries are making available additional data: age, geographical areas
- Some preliminary findings (and illustrations) based on these data below.
 - Capital cities are leading the change in women's representation in local government;
 - Executive positions in local government remain out of women's reach;
 - Younger but also older women are more at risk of being left out.

Proportion of elected seats held by women in local deliberative bodies in capital city countries and other local deliberative bodies



Note: Data as of 1 January 2020

Proportion of elected seats held by women in Italy (2019) in
(a) local deliberative bodies (b) executive head positions



Data source: Italy Ministry of Interior



Thank you