Workshop on Measuring Women’s Representation in Local Government in the ESCWA region

12-13 September 2017
UNESCWA
Beirut, Lebanon

AGENDA

Workshop Objectives

The measurement of women’s representation and documentation of women’s experiences in local-level politics is vital to obtain a holistic perspective on women’s political participation; however, no global baseline on the proportion of women in local government exists. UN Women successfully advocated for a new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator on women’s representation in local government (SDG 5.5.1b “proportion of seats held by women in local governments”), and has developed its methodological design in collaboration with UN partner agencies, UN regional commissions, research/academic institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and national statistical offices (NSOs).

This workshop, jointly convened by UN Women and UNESCWA will gather national representatives of NSOs, line ministries overseeing local government, Women’s Affairs/Gender Equality Ministries, and electoral management bodies in the region to:

1) Discuss (a) UN Women-led research on local government and (b) local government organization in the region and (c) their implications for a standardized, global measurement of women’s representation in local government;
2) Provide input on the methodology of SDG Indicator 5.5.1b, including definitions and terms related to local government, calculation of the indicator and data sources and discuss the relevance of the indicator in the ESCWA region; and
3) Reflect on the mechanism for regional and global monitoring of SDG indicator 5.5.1b, including (a) the role of key national actors in data collection and reporting, (b) the use of standardized data request forms for regional and global reporting, and (c) the method for calculating regional and global averages of the indicator.

Attached: Workshop Agenda Days 1 and 2
# Workshop Day 1

## 12 SEPTEMBER 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30-09:00</td>
<td>Participant registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00-9:30</td>
<td>SESSION I</td>
<td><strong>INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF WORK</strong></td>
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<td>09:00-9:30</td>
<td>Welcome and Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Juraj Riecan, Director, Statistics Division, UN ESCWA</td>
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<td>Blerta Aliko, Deputy Director, Regional Office for Arab States, UN Women</td>
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<td>Participant Introductions</td>
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<td>9:30-9:45</td>
<td>Presentation: Closing the Data Gap on Women’s Representation in Local Government – An Overview of the SDG Indicator 5.5.1b &amp; Workshop Objectives</td>
<td>Julie Ballington, Political Participation Policy Advisor, UN Women</td>
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<td>– This presentation will provide an overview of SDG indicator 5.5.1b, “proportion of seats held by women in local governments”, including the steps undertaken to develop its methodological design. It will also cover what the indicator is about, what sources of data may be used for its measurement, which national agencies play a key role in data collection and dissemination, and how it links to various types of participants and workshop objectives.</td>
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<td>9:45-10:30</td>
<td>SESSION II</td>
<td><strong>GENDER, POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND SDGs IN THE ARAB REGION</strong></td>
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<td>Presentation: Gender Statistics Programme and the SDGs in the Arab region</td>
<td>Neda Jafar, Head of Statistical Policies and Coordination Unit, Statistics Division, UNESCWA</td>
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<td>Presentation: Political participation and women’s issues in the Arab region: Trends in women’s representation</td>
<td>Mehrinaz El-Awady, Director, Centre for Women, UNESCWA</td>
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<td>Presentation: Implementing SDGs in the Arab Region from a gender perspective</td>
<td>Maryse Rebecca Guimond, Regional SDG Advisor, UN Women</td>
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<td>10:30-11:00</td>
<td>Group Photo</td>
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<td>Coffee/Tea Break</td>
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### SESSION III  DEFINING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

This session aims to (i) provide participants with key definitions and terms related to local government, (ii) promote understanding of the organization of local government in countries in the region and in the world, and (iii) reflect on the implications of the diversity of local government for a standardized measurement on women’s representation in local government.

**Moderator:** Julie Ballington, Political Participation, Policy Advisor, UN Women

| 11:00-12:00  | Presentation: What is Local Government and How is it Organized?  
Ionica Berevoescu, Policy Specialist, UN Women  
- This presentation will provide terms and definitions related to local government and its organization, and will summarize the findings from UN Women’s review of national legal frameworks, and present the commonalities and differences of local governments across countries and regions. |
| 12:00-13:00  | Activity: Identifying National Organization of Local Governments in the Region  
- **Suggested activity:** participants break into groups and, based on national legislation, identify local government structures in selected countries, and report back to the group. |

| 13:00-14:00  | Lunch Break |

### SESSION IV  AN INDICATOR FOR GLOBAL MONITORING

This session aims to obtain participants’ input on proposed SDG indicator 5.5.1b in terms of what tier(s) of local government and what types of local government members are covered. It will also provide the method of calculation for the indicator.

**Moderator:** Neda Jafar, Head of Statistical Policies and Coordination Unit, Statistics Division, UN ESCWA

| 14:00-15:00  | SDG Indicator 5.5.1b: What and Whom to Measure?  
Ionica Berevoescu, Policy Specialist, UN Women  
- A presentation will discuss which tiers of government and membership positions are to be considered for global monitoring. A general discussion will follow, including how those choices are relevant in the ESCWA region. |
| 15:00-15:30  | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:30-16:00  | General Discussion |

| 16:00-16:30  | Workshop Day 1 Summary of Discussions  
- Discussions and conclusions will be summarized. Participants will have a chance to raise remaining questions. |
Workshop DAY 2  
13 SEPTEMBER 2017

09:00-09:30 Welcome & Day 1 Recap  
Moderator: Maryse Rebecca Guimond, Regional SDG Advisor, UN Women  
- Moderator will welcome participants to Day 2, recap sessions and discussions from Day 1 and link them to session objectives of Day 2. 

SESSION V SOURCES OF DATA ON WOMEN’S AND MEN’S REPRESENTATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

This session will explore advantages and challenges of using different sources of data for producing statistics on women’s representation in local government. Sources may refer to (a) administrative data based on electoral records or other sources; and (b) surveys/censuses of local government units’ composition. It will also review the data flow in countries and discuss the importance of creating national partnerships to improve users’ access to quality data.

09:30-11:00 Role of national entities in producing and reporting data on local government.  
Ionica Berevoescu, Policy Specialist, UN Women  
- This short presentation will introduce the main sources of data on women’s representation in local government, and the role of different national entities in producing and/or using data at national or sub-national level, and reporting data for regional and global monitoring.

Moderator: Kawtar Zerouali, UNDP Regional Electoral Support Project

Country Participants: Iraq, Jordan, Palestine (2), Morocco  
- Participants from selected countries will present what data on local government members are available; how data are collected and challenges they may have; and their experience in completing UN Women’s data request form.

General Discussion

11:00-11:30 Coffee/Tea Break

11:30-13:00 Part II: National Statistical Offices  
Moderator: Neda Jafar, Head of Statistical Policies and Coordination Unit, Statistics Division, UN ESCWA

Country Participants invited: Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia  
- Participants from selected countries will present on what is the role of NSOs in producing data on local government members; whether data are used in combination with other statistics and disseminated; their experience and challenges in using administrative sources of data, including mechanisms for data quality assurance; and their experience in completing UN Women’s data request form.

General Discussion

13:00-14:00 Lunch Break
14:00-15:00  Part III: Women’s Affairs/ Gender Equality Ministries  
Moderator: Nada Darwezeh, Centre for Women, UNESCWA  
Country Participants invited: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine  
  Participants from selected Women’s Affairs/Gender Equality Ministries will present on their role in producing, using for policy-making, and disseminating information on women’s representation in local government.

General Discussion

15:00-15:30  Key roles in national, regional and global monitoring of SDG indicator 5.5.1b  
Moderators: Neda Jafar, UN ESCWA and Maryse Rebecca Guimond, UN Women  

General Discussion

15:30-16:00  Coffee/Tea Break

SESSION VI  MEETING CONCLUSIONS

16:00-16:30  Workshop Summary  
Moderators: Julie Ballington, UN Women, Ionica Berevoescu, UN Women, Neda Jafar, UNESCWA  
  A. Input on the methodology of the indicator  
     – Proposed indicator  
     – Clarity of definitions and terms related to local government  
     – Sources of data for the indicator  
  B. Input on the mechanism for global monitoring  
     – National focal point(s) and the role of national partnerships  
     – Use of data request forms and breadth of data requested  
     – Calculation of regional and global averages  
     – The role of UN Women agencies and UN regional commissions  
  C. Needs for capacity building in the region.

16:30-16:45  Close of workshop  
Neda Jafar, UNESCWA, Julie Ballington, UN Women