Closing the Data Gap on Women’s Representation in Local Government: A long story short

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How we got here:
The case for an indicator on local government:

❖ No global baseline of women in local government exists.
❖ So, UN Women started working towards one.
❖ Most countries have a local government.
❖ The contributions of millions of women are not being captured; rather focus is on 10,000 women MPs.
❖ Little, but significant, evidence that women in local-level decision-making improves women’s lives.

“What is not measured is invisible. What is invisible is lost. What is lost cannot be acted or remedied.”

- (UN Women I Know Gender Course)
SDG framework

Target 5.5: “Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.”

Indicator 5.5.1: Measures women’s proportional representation in two distinct areas of government: (1) national parliaments (Tier I Indicator) and (2) local government (Tier III Indicator)

Indicator 5.5.1b: “Proportion of seats held by women in local governments.”

TIER 3!
Methodology development

Collecting and analyzing data on local government for global baseline.

1. **1st technical meeting** (November 2014)

2. **Extensive research** (e.g. legal review of constitutions and local government acts to identify local government structures – original, UCLG and CLGF)

3. **Typology of LG** (how may tiers of local government) and **leadership positions**

4. **Consultations with partners** to understand data collection at country level and data compilation at regional levels
6. **Data request form** and pre-testing with countries

7. **Expert Group Meeting** held in November 2017. Agreement to hold 2 regional meetings with statistical commissions: ESCWA and ECA

8. **Continue testing** and collect data

9. **Obtain input from countries on the methodology of the indicator** through regional workshops and individual consultations

10. **Tier 2**: hopefully move the indicator from tier 3 to tier 2. Documents ready in early October, IAEG meets in November.
Workshop Objectives & Agenda

• Discuss findings of UN Women-led research on local government and how it relates to the development of this SDG indicator;

• Provide input on the methodology of the indicator and discuss the relevance of the indicator in the region;

• Sharing of country experiences in producing and using data on women’s representation in local government;

• Reflect on activities and roles of key actors in data collection and reporting for global monitoring of SDG indicator 5.5.1b.
Thank you
(any questions?)
SESSION III. DEFINING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Objectives:

(1) Share key definitions and terms related to local government

(2) Understand how local government is organized in the world and in the region

– Findings of UN Women Review of national legal frameworks in 80 countries and an additional 40 country profiles developed by UCLG and CLGF

– The group activity on identifying national organization of local governments in the region