



**Measuring inclusive decision making:
Using administrative data to measure representation in the
legislature, public service and the judiciary
(SDG 16.7.1a, b & c)**



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Three main points on measurement of inclusive representation:

1. The set of three indicators included in the SDG monitoring framework under the umbrella of 16.7.1 draws attention to a previously undermeasured area of official statistics, which is participation in political and public affairs, including the representation in formal governmental and public entities. And it is exciting to see the progress in terms of development of methodologies of indicators, and the adoption of the indicators by the NSOs.

Some of the administrative sources of data for this thematic area have been rather at the margins of the national statistical systems and very little discussed in global statistical guidelines. This is changing. For the first time, there was a clear effort to discuss such sources in the Handbook of Governance Statistics produced by the Praia city group and adopted by the UN Stats Commission this spring. It is also great that going forward, Praia group is forming a working group/task force to address practical considerations related to the use of administrative data sources.

2. As pointed out by the panelists, administrative sources have recognized advantages, including in terms of their timeliness and cost-effectiveness. However, their fitness for statistical purposes varies across sources and across countries,

- on one hand, in terms of coverage and having fully electronic/ digitalized administrative records that can enable statistical aggregation at various required levels,
 - o this perhaps seems less important when discussing parliaments, where the number of members is low (up to thousands only in a few cases) then judiciary members and public service.
- and on the other hand, on granularity of information recorded and the capacity for inter-linkage across different administrative systems, which are key in obtaining the data disaggregated needed to measure inclusive representation.

This points to the need for sharing best practices in terms of assessing administrative data systems, but also identifying cases when it is better to use to surveys – two striking issues being measuring disability, and obtaining very detailed (4-digit ISCO code) occupational categories that may not be available in administrative records.

3. The importance of integration of administrative data systems in the national statistical systems. NSOs have a huge role on this, as coordinators of official statistics. Practices highlighted vary across countries – in terms of :

- legal basis
- mechanisms of coordination instituted,
- protocols for data exchanges

- maintaining confidentiality and privacy
- strategies for assessing the quality of data

all of these, to some extent, linked to the maturity of the administrative systems. It seems that addressing such practical aspects in international guidelines would also help advance the measurement and monitoring of inclusive representation in public institutions.