



***Kick-starting the  
design of a  
harmonized  
survey module on  
Participation***

Task Team on Participation  
in Political and Public Affairs

Third Meeting

9 February 2022, 9:00 – 10:30 EST

Hosted by the Praia Group on Governance Statistics

# Task Team on Participation in Political and Public Affairs

## Mandate of the Task Team:

**To support the development of international statistical guidance, standards and instruments for measuring Participation in Political and Public Affairs, by consolidating international, regional and national experience and knowledge on the measurement of Participation.**

## Two products:

- 1) Survey module on Participation in Political & Public Affairs (core + optional)
- 2) Guidance on the collection of administrative data for the production of statistics on Participation in Political & Public Affairs



# Steps taken so far



# What do we mean by Participation in Political and Public Affairs?

Draft Conceptual & Measurement Framework: 7 Sub-Dimensions	Population surveys	Admin data
A. Participation in Electoral Processes and Referendums	Yes	Yes
B. Participation in Political and Civic Life	Yes	Yes
C. Representation and Participation in Political Office	No	Yes
D. Representation in Judicial Bodies	No	Yes
E. Representation in Bodies of Public Service / Public Administration	No	Yes
F. Representation in Informal Governance Bodies	No	Yes
G. Enabling Environment of Participation	Yes	Yes



## Third Meeting of the Praia Group Task Team on Participation in Political and Public Affairs

# Kick-starting the design of a harmonized survey module on Participation

1. **Validating our (draft) conceptual & measurement framework:** *How does it fit with current statistical production in the United States and South Africa?*
2. **Collective design of a harmonized questionnaire:** *How will we go about it?*
3. **Core vs. optional modules:** *What possible 'criteria' could we use to determine which questions go into which module?*





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Statistics South Africa  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Conceptual and Measurement Framework on Participation in Political and Public Affairs

*How does it fit with current statistical  
production in South Africa?*

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2. Potential criteria for identifying core module questions
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# Conceptual and Measurement Framework on Participation in Political and Public Affairs: A ‘good fit’ with current statistical production in South Africa?

## Main conclusions:

### 1. The Framework is comprehensive & well aligned with national practice:

- South Africa produces statistics in nearly all measurement areas identified in the Framework
- Areas where statistics are not being produced in South Africa are those that would require “targeted surveys” directed at certain population groups (e.g. candidates/officials in political office who experienced violence and/or intimidation)

### 2. Useful additions which could be integrated in our national governance survey (Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey)

- *B.3 Participation in election-related activities, such as campaign activities and rallies (online and offline)*
- *B.4 Participation in other political and civic activities, including contacting government officials, participating in protests, contributing to local governance activities, etc. (online and offline)*



## Conceptual and Measurement Framework on Participation in Political and Public Affairs: A 'good fit' with current statistical production in South Africa?

Areas for Statistical Measurement	Data Sources Identified in the Framework		Statistics South Africa	
	Administrative data	HH/Population surveys	Data source	Statistics
<b>A. Participation in Electoral Processes and Referendums</b>				
<b>A.1. Voting-age population</b>	Yes, population registers	Yes, population censuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stats SA Census 2011 &amp; 2022.</li> <li>Voter's roll from the Electoral Commission of South Africa.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stats SA Census 2021 &amp; 2020 - Eligible voters by age group, geographical location.</li> <li>Voter registration statistics. Disaggregated by sex, age and geographical location. <a href="#">Link</a></li> </ul>
<b>A.2. Registered voters</b>	Yes, EMBs as primary source	Yes, for more disaggregated data, reasons for not registering, etc.		
<b>A.3. Voter turnout in presidential, legislative and local government elections and referendums</b>	Yes, EMBs as primary source (most reliable for voter turnout statistics)	Yes, for more disaggregated data, reasons for not voting, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voter's roll from the Electoral Commission of South Africa.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voter registration statistics. Disaggregated by sex, age and geographical location. <a href="#">Link</a></li> </ul>
<b>A.4. Registered electoral candidates</b>	Yes, EMBs/registers of political parties	Other types of surveys more relevant (candidate surveys)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political parties statistics from the Electoral Commission of South Africa.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics on candidates, representatives, political parties by age and geographical location. <a href="#">Link</a></li> </ul>

## Conceptual and Measurement Framework on Participation in Political and Public Affairs: A 'good fit' with current statistical production in South Africa?

Areas for Statistical Measurement	Data Sources Identified in the Framework		Statistics South Africa	
	Administrative data	HH/Population surveys	Data source	Statistics
<b>B. Participation in Political and Civic Life</b>				
<b>B.1. Members of political parties, including in leadership positions</b>	Yes, registers of political parties (partially)	Yes, but limited information. Other types of surveys more relevant (targeted surveys of political parties)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of all members of Parliament by political parties and national and provincial level. Published by Parliament.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics on political parties, including leadership positions, in Parliament. <a href="#">Link</a></li> </ul>
<b>B.2. Members of NGOs / civic associations whose aim is to influence the conduct of political and public affairs</b>	Limited information may exist (public registers of NGOs?)	Yes, but limited information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interview data from ad hoc surveys conducted by Parliamentary Monitoring Group (PMG). A survey focused on public hearings specifically looking at who the key participants are, why and how they get involved, their observations about Parliament's role in the process and what can be done to improve the process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics on participants in parliamentary public hearings by organisation. <a href="#">Link</a></li> </ul>

## Conceptual and Measurement Framework on Participation in Political and Public Affairs: A 'good fit' with current statistical production in South Africa?

Areas for Statistical Measurement	Data Sources Identified in the Framework		Statistics South Africa	
	Administrative data	HH/Population surveys	Data source	Statistics
<b>B. Participation in Political and Civic Life</b>				
<b>B.3. Participation in election-related activities, such as campaign activities and rallies (online and offline)</b>	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No data is collected but could be included in the GPSJS questionnaire</li> </ul>	
<b>B.4. Participation in other political and civic activities, including contacting government officials, participating in protests, contributing to local governance activities, etc. (online and offline)</b>	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No data is collected but could be included in the GPSJS questionnaire</li> </ul>	

## Conceptual and Measurement Framework on Participation in Political and Public Affairs: A 'good fit' with current statistical production in South Africa?

Areas for Statistical Measurement	Data Sources Identified in the Framework		Statistics South Africa	
	Administrative data	HH/Population surveys	Data source	Statistics
<b>C. Representation and Participation in Political Office</b>				
<b>C.1. Members of Parliament, including in leadership positions; and by manner of selection</b>	Yes, parliamentary secretariats	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of all members of Parliament by political parties and at national and provincial level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics on political parties, including leadership positions. Published by Parliament. <a href="#">Link</a></li> </ul>
<b>C.2. Ministers, including by type of portfolios held</b>	Yes, ministerial secretariats or President's or Prime Minister's Office	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of all Ministers, including the type of portfolios held.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics on Ministers by type of portfolios held. Published by Parliament. <a href="#">Link</a></li> </ul>
<b>C.3. Members of deliberative and executive bodies of local government</b>	Yes, EMBs as primary source	Other types of surveys more relevant (surveys/censuses of local government units)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provincial and Local Government Directory. Online database with contact information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics on members of executive bodies of local government. Published by Government</li> </ul>
<b>D. Representation in Judicial Bodies</b>				
<b>D.1. Court staff dealing with criminal, civil, and administrative matters, by level of court and category of occupation</b>	Yes, Judicial Services Commission, Ministry of Justice or similar body	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inter-Parliamentary Union (via World Bank); Office of Chief Justice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>So far, not published regularly, some statistics have been produced for the SDG reporting on 16.7.1.c b. <a href="#">Link</a></li> </ul>

# Conceptual and Measurement Framework on Participation in Political and Public Affairs: A 'good fit' with current statistical production in South Africa?

Areas for Statistical Measurement	Data Sources Identified in the Framework		Statistics South Africa	
	Administrative data	HH/Population surveys	Data source	Statistics
<b>E. Representation in Bodies of Public Service / Public Administration</b>				
<b>E.1. Employment in public service, by ministry/agency and by category of occupation</b>	Yes, Public Service Commission, Ministry of Public Administration or similar body	Yes, but small-sample survey (e.g. labor force survey) may not capture nuanced categories of occupation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Public Service and Administration (Persal data).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government employees by unit, sex, and age. Persal data is on request.</li> </ul>
<b>F. Representation in Informal Governance Bodies</b>				
<b>F.1. Members of informal popular assemblies with decision-making power over local issues and communities</b>	No	Targeted surveys (in relevant contexts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Not collected</b></li> </ul>	
<b>G. Enabling Environment of Participation</b>				
<b>G.1. Campaign finances</b>	Yes, register of political parties or equivalent administrative data source	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Party funding: Published declarations reports by Electoral Commission of South Africa.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics on contributions received by all registered political parties, i.e. donations exceeding R 100 000 made by a single donor to a single party in a financial year. A donor may make no donations to a political party above R15 million in a year. <a href="#">Link</a></li> </ul>









## Conceptual and Measurement Framework on Participation in Political and Public Affairs: A 'good fit' with current statistical production in South Africa?

Areas for Statistical Measurement	Data Sources Identified in the Framework		Statistics South Africa	
	Administrative data	HH/Population surveys	Data source	Statistics
<b>G. Enabling Environment of Participation</b>				
<b>G.2. Adult population who fears becoming / who is a victim of political intimidation or violence during electoral campaigns</b>	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible information from Election Satisfaction Survey (Ad hoc survey).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics on perceived political party tolerance, electoral freeness and fairness. <a href="#">Link</a></li> </ul>
<b>G.3. Candidates standing for elections who experienced violence and/or discrimination</b>	No	Yes, other types of surveys more relevant (candidate surveys)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Not systematic monitoring</b></li> </ul>	
<b>G.4. Members of political and public office who experienced violence and/or discrimination while in the office</b>	No	Yes, other types of surveys more relevant (surveys targeted to members of national and local legislatures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Not systematic monitoring</b></li> </ul>	
<b>G.5. Adult population with interest, information and knowledge on political and public affairs</b>	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data from Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) measuring the level of interest in government and political matters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics on individuals who discuss government and/or political matters with friends or family. Disaggregated by sex, age and geographical location. <a href="#">Link</a></li> <li>SHaSA Harmonized Module on Democratic Governance</li> </ul>

## Conceptual and Measurement Framework on Participation in Political and Public Affairs: A 'good fit' with current statistical production in South Africa?

Areas for Statistical Measurement	Data Sources Identified in the Framework		Statistics South Africa	
	Administrative data	HH/Population surveys	Data source	Statistics
<b>G. Enabling Environment of Participation</b>				
<b>G.6. Adult population with stereotyping attitudes and values</b>	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data from GPSJS measuring perceptions of adult population on several gender norms and societal issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics on perceptions of gender roles and equality by sex, age and geographical location. <a href="#">Link</a></li> </ul>
<b>G.7. Self-reported levels of political efficacy among adult population and youth</b>	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data from GPSJS measuring self-reported levels of 'external political efficacy', that is, the extent to which people think that politicians and/or political institutions will listen to, and act on, the opinions of ordinary citizens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics on level of external political efficacy by sex, age and geographical location. <a href="#">Link</a></li> <li>SHaSA Harmonized Module on Democratic Governance</li> </ul>
<b>G.8. Perceived levels of freedom to express any political opinion, to join any political organization, and to criticize government actions or performance/to participate in protests/demonstrations</b>	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data from GPSJS measuring the perceived level of human rights respected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics on the adult population who believes that specific human rights are respected. Disaggregated by sex, age and geographical location. <a href="#">Link</a></li> </ul>

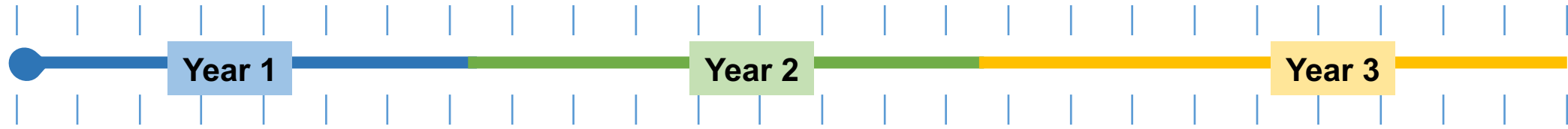
# Potential criteria for identifying core module questions

-  **Policy relevance:** Data should be 'actionable' / policy relevant
-  **Accuracy:** The accuracy of statistical information is the degree to which the output correctly describes the phenomena it was designed to measure
-  **Impact on data quality:** Should be limited. Sensitivity of topics should be taken into consideration.
-  **Timeliness** refers to the delay between the reference point to which the information pertains and the date on which the information becomes available - Statistics production time, periodicity and punctuality of statistical data and report.
-  **Comparability:** Ability to compare statistics on the same characteristic between different points in time, geographical areas or statistical domains.
-  **Impact on cost:** Should be limited. The module should not overload the questionnaire. Additional training sessions and interviews may be needed.
-  **Effect on sample size:** Should not affect sampling methodology / sample size
-  **Translation:** The questions should be easy to translate into local languages.

***The Cumulative Effect of Adding Modules:*** Even short modules increase the duration, cost, collection mode and complexity of the survey. These impacts are observed not only through data collection, but also through training and data processing. It is not often possible to add many add-ons while maintaining data quality throughout the survey.



# *A possible approach to consider:* South Africa's Governance Survey adopted a 3-year rotation plan



## Questionnaire content: Year 1, 2 and 3

Apr 2018 to Mar 2019

- Human rights & discrimination.
- Courts.
- Experience and resolution of disputes.
- Experience of victimisation.

Apr 2019 to Mar 2020

- Capable state.
- Trust in institutions.
- Corruption.
- **Participation in political & public affairs**
- Experience of victimisation.

Apr 2020 to Mar 2021

- Experience of victimisation.
- Details about victimisation experiences.
- Perceptions and attitudes related to crime and safety.
- Limited courts.

# Thank you

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# Design of a harmonized survey module: 2 parts

## 1. Participation in Electoral Processes and Referendums

Sub-dimensions	Areas for statistical measurement
A. Participation in Electoral Processes and Referendums	A.2. Registered voters
	A.3. Voter turnout in presidential, legislative and local government elections and referendums
G. Enabling Environment of Participation	G.9a. Barriers to voter registration
	G.9b. Barriers to voting
	G.2a. Adult population who fears becoming a victim of political intimidation or violence during electoral campaigns
	G.2b. Adult population who is a victim of political intimidation or violence during electoral campaigns

## 2. Participation in Political and Civic Life

Sub-dimensions	Areas for statistical measurement
B. Participation in Political and Civic Life	B.1. Members of political parties, including in leadership positions
	B.2. Members of NGOs / civic associations whose aim is to influence the conduct of political and public affairs
	B.3. Participation in election-related activities, such as campaign activities and rallies (online and offline)
	B.4. Participation in other political and civic activities, including contacting government officials, participating in protests, contributing to local governance activities, etc. (online and offline)
G. Enabling Environment of Participation	G.5. Adult population with interest, information and knowledge on political and public affairs
	G.6. Adult population with stereotyping attitudes and values
	G.7. Self-reported levels of political efficacy among adult population and youth
	G.8. Perceived levels of freedom to express any political opinion, to join any political organization, and to criticize government actions or performance/to participate in protests/demonstrations

# Next steps

- Pls write to us if you have further **feedback on proposed format** for the zero-draft questionnaire **& proposed approach** to working collectively on questionnaire design: [group.praia@gmail.com](mailto:group.praia@gmail.com)
- Pls start sharing your **comments** with the group on **first question set** (on Electoral Participation), using the shared Feedback Form
- We aim to share with you a zero-draft of the **second question set** (on Participation in Political and Civic Life) **in 2 weeks**
  - *Pls continue to share your national questionnaires with us!*
- **Next meeting in 3 weeks**, with a focus on the feedback received on the first question set. We will also introduce the 2<sup>nd</sup> question set and will continue to share practices.
  - *Pls let us know if you would like to share your experience!*

