IPU has a long track record of advocating for women’s and youth political participation.

Data collection is one important aspect of our work. Data is powerful; can draw attention to inequalities and act as a driver of change.

Been tracking the percentage of women in parliament since 1997. Percentage has risen slowly, from 11.3% in 1995 to 25.1% as of October 2020. We also have been age data in parliament since 2014 with the percentage of young MPs also slowly growing.

IPU data has contributed to advocacy efforts by many people in parliaments, in society, in international organizations.

The percentage of women in parliament was already an indicator for the MDGs, used in the UNDP Human Development Report and many other places.

We’re glad that this data is part of the SDG indicators, and that the scope of the indicator has expanded as my colleague Andy will describe in a minute.

We’re glad to work closely with UNDP and the other custodians of SDG indicators, particularly SDG 16, and to have this opportunity to speak with National Statistical Offices and parliamentary staff.

We’re grateful to the IPU member parliaments that provide the data and take measures to bring about greater political participation of women in parliament and greater gender equality in society.