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

3:00-4:30 CET
08 December 2020

Opening remarks
By Malin Herwig, Director
Oslo Governance Centre
UNDP

• Thank you for joining us for this webinar which we are very pleased to be co-hosting with our partners at the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
• We have 198 people registered from across the world and we are excited about sharing with you some of the developments around the indicator SDG 16.7.1 that measures representation in public institutions relative to women, persons with disabilities, youth, and possibly, ethnic and religious minorities - in society as a whole and to hear from an incredible group of countries as they share their reflections on collecting data on indicator SDG 16.7.1
• While 16.7.1 appears as one indicator in the SDG framework, the truth is that it is actually three indicators, indicators SDG 16.7.1a on parliaments, SDG 16.7.1b on public service and SDG 16.7.1c on judiciary, each with a different way of calculating the indicator and different sources of data. Today we are going to unpack these three components and have a discussion around the indicators - on the methodology, the challenges and opportunities around data collection on this indicator as well as the partnerships that will need to be forged to make reporting on this data a reality.
• But before we dive into the presentations, I would like to highlight three points that would be good to consider in today’s discussion and in the future production and use of the indicators:
   1. First, this indicator is one of the most powerful indicators in the SDG framework. Why? Because if reported on correctly, it unMASKs where power lies in society - who has access to these positions of power, which groups are able to make decisions and who is not. ‘Leaving no one behind’ is a key principle of the SDG framework, but it isn’t enough. We must ensure that everyone has a ‘seat at the decision-making table’ – including as judges, parliamentarians, or civil servants. This indicator can help to measure how far we have come - as well as how far further we have yet to go - towards building more inclusive societies.
   2. Second, as we begin to take forward data collection on this indicator, we must remember that we are all learning and we cannot do this alone. The indicators – especially b and c – are quite new with only recently established global methodology and standards. As countries prepare to collect data on this indicator, it will be important to invest in the partnerships necessary to make reporting on this indicator a reality. To
collect data on the judiciary, for example, partnerships with court administration or judicial services commissions is necessary. To collect data on public administration, strong partnerships need to be developed with relevant departments. This will take time and will need to be navigated differently in different contexts and we stand ready to support as needed.

3. Finally, and most importantly, we must remember why this data is being collected and find ways of using the data to advocate for more inclusive and just governance processes. Without more inclusive processes, there will be no justice and without inclusive representation, there will be no peace. Often people’s confidence, legitimacy and trust in the state is closely linked with inclusive and representative decision-making processes and can be easily undermined if key positions in the civil service, justice system and parliament are not accessible to specific groups. We have seen that inclusive processes are needed not only to promote more inclusive and equitable development, but also to build and sustain peace.

UNDP remains committed to taking forward support on inclusive governance through its programming in over 170 countries and from the OGC we look forward to working with you to capture the data on this indicator and tell the story of where we stand today and how far we have come on representation of possible different population groups in decision making positions as envisioned in SDG 16.7.1. The stories we can tell through the data will hopefully be able to highlight and celebrate the multiple identities, realities and narratives that make up the fabric of our societies and showcase that inclusive representation is critical not just for SDG 16 but necessary to achieve the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

Thank you.