Workshop on Access to Justice

Indicator 16.7.1c on representation and participation in the Judiciary

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16.7.1a*

- Proportions of positions (by age group, sex, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local), including **(a) the legislatures;** (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions

16.7.1b

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16.7.1c

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*Under IPU custodianship

Why measure?

"It measures representation in the judiciary with respect to the sex, age, disability and population group status, and assesses how these correspond to the proportion of these groups in society as a whole."

Judiciary

Population

- When judiciaries are perceived to exclude certain groups, **individuals from excluded groups may be less willing to turn to courts** to access justice.
- Research shows that diversity in judicial positions renders decision-making by the judiciary:
  - **More responsive** to the concerns of the whole population; and
  - **More legitimate** in the eyes of citizens.

Court levels and decision-making positions

Count levels
Supreme / Constitutional Courts
Higher Level Courts
Lower Level Courts

Decision making positions
Judges - person authorized to decide cases in a court of law
Registrars - judicial officer of the court entrusted with judicial or quasi-judicial functions who has autonomous competence.

Computation

Computation method: **8 ratios of two proportions**

Women

Ratio 1 (Judges)	=	Proportion of female judges among all judges / Proportion of women in the working-age population
Ratio 2 (registrars)	=	Proportion of female registrars among all registrars / Proportion of women in the working-age population

Youth

Ratio 3 (judges)	=	Proportion of judges < 45 years among all judges / Proportion of individuals between eligibility age and 44 in the population
Ratio 4 (registrars)	=	Proportion of registrars < 45 years among all registrars / Proportion of individuals between eligibility age and 44 in the population

Pop. groups	Ratios 5 & 6 =	*For nationally relevant population groups*
Disability	Ratios 7 & 8 =	*For persons with a disability*

=0: No representation at all	=1: Equal representation as in population	<1: Representation is lower than in population	>1: Representation is higher than in population

Data at global level

First global call for data in May-August 2021

30+ countries

Lessons learned from the first global call data

- Although some countries could provide data on individuals with disability in public service, very few could provide the percentage of individuals with a disability in the population
- Further guidance needs to be developed on matching the national court levels to the ones on the indicator
- No constraints identified in collecting data on judges
- The most common reported data is the total **number of judges by sex**
- The reporting year ranges between 2016 and 2021

- We'll be going through the reported data and make it available to SDG Global Database in December 2021

Resources

Metadata
SDG indicator 16.7.1 (c): Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in the judiciary (national and local), compared to national distributions.

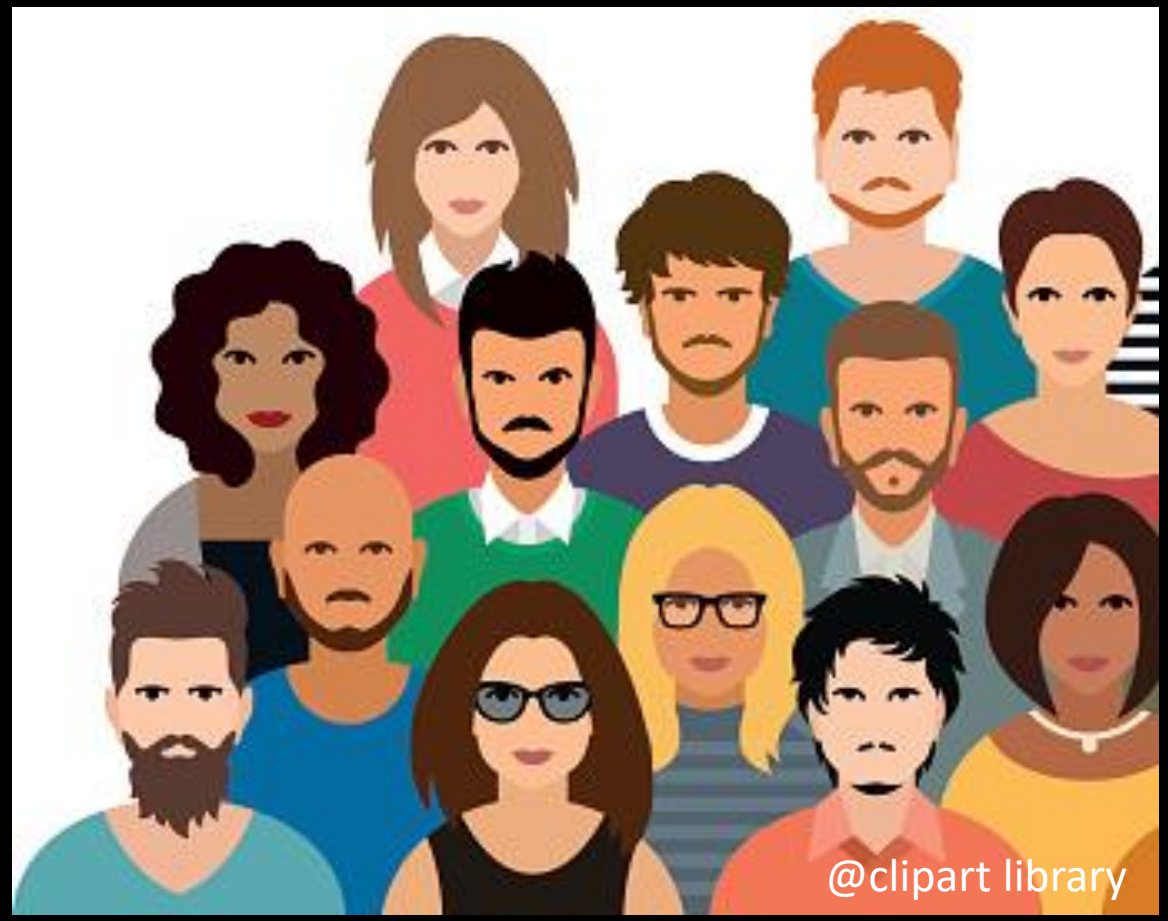
Praia City Group on Governance Statistics
Handbook on Governance Statistics
Governance Statistics in the COVID-19 Era

Policy Briefs:

- Advancing Inclusive Decision-Making for Sustainable Development: Representation in the Judiciary through SDG 16.7.1cfor Sustainable Development: Representation in the Judiciary through SDG 16.7.1c

- **SDG 16 Hub**

Advancing Inclusive Decision-Making for Sustainable Development: Representation in the Judiciary through SDG 16.7.1c

Thank you!

"As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.
" - *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (A/RES/70/1)