Interactive dialogue

Are the SDGs delivering for women and girls? A data perspective

Monday, 16 March 2020, 4.30 – 6.00 p.m., United Nations Headquarters

Concept note

Overview

The work on gender statistics can be traced back to the 1980s, following the proclamation of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976–1985). The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action gave strong impetus to this work, and the Commission on the Status of Women regularly calls for increasing the production and use of gender statistics. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, the need for availability of disaggregated data, as well as of gender statistics to support the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind, has significantly increased. The launch of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development in September 2019 has given further impetus to the efforts of States and other actors.

However, data and statistics on key areas of concern such as women’s poverty, women’s economic empowerment, or women and the environment are limited, and existing data is sometimes not or inadequately disaggregated to make visible the situation of marginalized women and girls, such as those living in rural areas or indigenous women and girls. Furthermore, even when gender statistics are available, more efforts are needed to increase their effective analysis and use to inform policies. To this end, innovative approaches in the collection, analysis and use of disaggregated data and gender statistics as well as collaboration between stakeholders are crucial.

The objective of the interactive dialogue is to showcase good practices and discuss opportunities for improving the production and use of gender statistics, as a tool for accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the realization of the SDGs.

Format and participation

The interactive dialogue will be chaired by Ms. Devita Abraham (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women. A moderator will support the Chair.

The interactive dialogue will start with presentations by a small number of panelists from national gender equality mechanisms, national statistical offices, the United Nations and civil society to share experiences and advances in gender statistics at national, regional and global levels and to identify the steps needed to address the remaining gaps. Good practices in fostering partnerships and increase collaboration between different data communities will also be discussed. The floor will then be open for comments and questions from Member States and other stakeholders in an
interactive dialogue. Panelists would respond to any questions posed and make short concluding comments, time permitting. The Chair will wrap up and close the meeting.

**Leading questions**

Participating stakeholders in the interactive dialogue are invited to address the following questions:

1. What steps are national statistical systems taking to better mainstream gender perspectives in all their statistical activities? What are recent experiences in this regard from efforts to monitor progress in the gender-responsive implementation of the SDGs?

2. What progress is being made in planning and developing gender-responsive national indicator frameworks and in producing data disaggregated by sex and other factors to better support national policy development and monitor results? What are key challenges and how can those be addressed?

3. How can United Nations entities, academia and civil society organizations help to strengthen data production and their use to inform evidence-based policies to achieve the SDGs for women and girls everywhere?

**Outcome**

The outcome of the discussion will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau.