

26-27 FEBRUARY 2020

COUNTED & VISIBLE:

GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE MEASUREMENT OF GENDER AND INTERSECTING INEQUALITIES

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Global conference on the measurement of gender equality, leave no one behind and intersecting inequalities

26-27 February 2020
New York

Concept Note

Background

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus Resolution 70/1: Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda). The Resolution states that "realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress". The prioritization of gender equality and women's rights is reflected in a cross-cutting manner throughout the 2030 Agenda, including the declaration, goals, targets and indicators, means of implementation and follow-up and review.

The historic and unprecedented ambition set out in these commitments must be matched by an equally ambitious drive to ensure their implementation at the global, regional and national level. Translating these goals and objectives into tangible national action and monitoring their implementation is imperative and will require an adequately resourced and authoritative monitoring and accountability framework. Robust indicators and quality data that address gender equality and women's empowerment in all its dimensions will provide a credible evidence base that can inform such policies and catalyse actions.

The 2030 Agenda pledges to leave no one behind and to ensure that the Goals and targets are met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, including to reach the furthest behind first. To identify those who are left behind, high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics is necessary. However, beyond data disaggregation, issues of importance to the most vulnerable – including those likely to be left behind in surveys and other data sources – should be debated, identified, measured, analysed, and acted upon.

Moreover, the 2030 Agenda's pledge "to reach the furthest behind first" also raises a fundamental question about whether data systems and data collection mechanisms are currently set up to prioritize the measurement and reporting of challenges that marginalized groups face, including ensuring their participation in decisions about what is measured, setting of priorities, allocation of resources etc.

Attention to intersecting inequalities, i.e. that gender inequalities intersect with other inequalities, including those based on class, race-ethnicity and ability, has also been a long-standing feature of feminist scholarship.

Objectives

On the margins of the 51st Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, UN Women, in collaboration with the UN Statistics Division (UNSD), will convene a global conference on the measurement of gender equality, leave no one behind and intersecting inequalities. The objective of the conference will be to a) create a common understanding among data users and producers on how to measure 'leave no one behind' and what it means from a gender perspective and b) contribute to current work on data disaggregation led by the IAEG-SDGs in order to better inform advocacy, policies and to promote accountability on gender equality and women's empowerment. Discussion and shared experience in gender and intersectionality will also contribute to discussions in inequalities related to other vulnerable groups.

Topics to be explored include: i) the importance of measuring gender and intersecting inequalities and its theoretical foundations; ii) multi-level data disaggregation and gender-responsive monitoring of the SDGs; iii) Innovations in data collection, analysis, dissemination and communication, including use of technology for measuring intersecting inequalities and iv) policy and programmatic uses of data on gender and intersecting inequalities. Although the main focus will be on gender statistics and analysis, some examples presented during the Conference will be relevant to or address other thematic areas.

The two-day event will take place on **26-27 February 2020 in New York (location tbd)**. Speakers and participants will include UN Agencies, government officials, leaders from private foundations and civil society organizations, as well as feminist researchers and economists.

Outcome

A report of the Global Conference will be prepared. Findings and recommendations from the Conference will also feed into and inform UN Women and UNSD's work on data disaggregation to better utilize existing household surveys to produce more disaggregated gender statistics and to prepare a global toolkit to guide SDGs monitoring.