Manual to Support National Data Collection on
SDG Indicator 16.7.2:

Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

UNDP Oslo Governance Centre

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This Manual will be periodically reviewed as the indicator is further refined, building from methodological discussions, possible new recommended standards and national experiences in measuring SDG 16.7.2.

For assistance in data collecting, processing and computing data for this indicator, or if you have questions around the inputting of SDG 16.7.2 data through the UNDP SDG 16 Reporting Platform, please contact SDG16indicators@undp.org at the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre.

1. Introduction

SDG indicator 16.7.2, which measures the proportion of the population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group, complements indicator 16.7.1.

The two indicators are highly complementary as proportional representation alone is no guarantee that all population groups represented in public institutions have equal decision-making power, or that all population groups in the national population have equal opportunities to voice their interests and preferences and to influence public decision-making. Indicator 16.7.2 provides important additional information by focusing on the inclusiveness and responsiveness of decision-making, as perceived by the population.

UNDP has translated the methodology for measuring this indicator into a set of questions, which can be found in the **Governance Survey module** of the SDG 16 Survey Initiative Implementation Manual and Questionnaire. Additional information on this indicator can be found in its Metadata and Indicator Brief documents.

2. Rationale

SDG indicator 16.7.2 refers to the concept of "political efficacy", which can be defined as the "feeling that political and social change is possible and that the individual citizen can play a part in bringing about this change". This perception that people can impact decision-making is important, as it makes it worthwhile for them to perform their civic duties. High levels of political efficacy among citizens are regarded as desirable for democratic stability. Individuals who are confident about their ability to influence the actions of their government are more likely to support the democratic system of government.

System responsiveness, or "external efficacy", can be defined as the individual's belief in the responsiveness of the political system, i.e. policy-making processes and government decisions that respond to public demands or preferences. Levels of external efficacy across various population groups are important to measure, as they are correlated with trust in government and government evaluations, as well as perceptions of the legitimacy of public institutions. Higher levels of system responsiveness are also expected to be associated with higher levels of political participation, including voting in elections, and with people's own life satisfaction.

3. Related Indicators

SDG indicator 16.7.2 complements indicator 16.7.1 (under the same target 16.7 – "Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels") which draws on administrative data sources to measure the proportional representation of various population groups in public institutions. The two indicators are highly complementary as proportional representation alone is no guarantee that all population groups represented in public institutions have equal decision-making power, or that all population groups in the national population have equal opportunities to voice their interests and preferences and to influence public decision-making. Indicator 16.7.2 provides important additional information by focusing on the inclusiveness and responsiveness of decision-making, as perceived by the population (drawing from population surveys).

Indicator 16.7.2 can also be used to complement SDG target 10.2 on the promotion of the "social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status", which only has one indicator measuring economic exclusion (**SDG 10.2.1** – Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities). Indicator

16.7.2 therefore provides important additional information to measure progress against this target by providing data on *political* inclusion.

Similarly, 16.7.2 can also be used to complement SDG target 10.3 on "Ensuring equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard", which only has one indicator measuring felt discrimination on various grounds (**SDG 10.3.1** Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law). Indicator 16.7.2 therefore provides relevant additional information to measure progress against this target by helping to identify whether certain population groups might feel discriminated against in terms of their inclusion in public decision-making and the extent to which political institutions are responsive to their demands/preferences.

4. Key Concepts and Definitions

Decision-making: It is implicit in indicator 16.7.2 that "decision-making" refers to decision-making in the public governance realm (and not all decision-making).

Inclusive decision-making: Decision-making processes that provide people with an opportunity to "have a say", that is, to voice their demands, opinions and/or preferences to decision makers.

Responsive decision-making: Decision-making processes where politicians and/or political institutions listen to and act on the stated demands, opinions and/or preferences of people.

5. For National Statistical Offices (NSOs)

The methodology for the indicator can be found in the SDG 16 Survey Initiative, under the Governance Module, that includes indicator 16.6.2 (Satisfaction with Public Services) and the indicator 16.7.2 (External Political Efficacy). For the latter, please see the questionnaire in Annex 1 SDG 16 Governance module does not need national adaptations. Besides the mandatory components, the SDG 16 Questionnaire includes additional optional questions about voting participation, as the political efficacy construct has been regarded both as an important predictor of political participation and as a positive outcome of participation. Nonetheless, the two questions are very sensitive to translation, and it is advised to request guidance on the translation from the support team. Also, verified translations[1] of the mandatory items exist in the European Social Survey (ESS) archives (these are core questions in the ESS). The ESS archives may be consulted if a country shares a language in the ESS. [2]

A copy of the SDG 16 Governance module – Indicator 16.7.2 is found in Annex 1 with the necessary questions highlighted with an '*'. The reporting entity is encouraged to review this module and verify its alignment with their questionnaire. If the national methodology and questionnaire presents deviations from the recommended methodology and questionnaire, please highlight them in the metadata section of the reporting platform, in the space provided for *Other Methodological Notes/Deviation*. Additionally, we invite the national reporting entities to upload their questionnaires used to measure this indicator.

For assistance in data collecting, processing and computing data for this indicator, or if you have questions around the SDG 16 Governance module, please contact SDG16indicators@undp.org at the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre.

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[1] For translation method, see: ESS, (n.d.). *Translation*.

[2] ESS (n.d.-a). Country by Round (year).

6. Method of Computing SDG 16.7.2

1) NSOs first need to calculate the share of respondents who responded positively to each question (i.e. the cumulative percentage of respondents who responded 3-'some', 4-'a lot' or 5-'a great deal').[3]

For instance:

1. How much would you say the political system in [country X] allows people like you to <u>have a say</u> in what the government does?		*2. And how much would you say that the political system in [country] allows people like you to <u>have an influence</u> on politics?*	
1- *Not at all*	8%	1- *Not at all*	16%
2- *Very little*	22%	2- *Very little*	30%
3- *Some*	26%	3- *Some*	26%
4- *A lot*	34%	4- *A lot*	14%
5- *A great deal*	10%	5- *A great deal*	14%
% of those who responded positively (i.e. answer choices 3, 4 or 5)	**(26%+34%+10%) = 70%**	**% of those who responded positively (i.e. answer choices 3, 4 or 5)**	**(26%+14%+14%) = 54%**

2) Secondly, NSOs need to calculate the simple average of these two cumulative percentages. Continuing with the above example:
(70% + 54%) / 2 = 62%

<u>Note:</u> It is important for NSOs to clearly report, for each question, the number of respondents who selected "don't know" (DK), "no answer" (NA) or "refuse to answer" (RA), and to exclude such respondents from the calculation of cumulative shares of positive responses. For instance, if 65 out of 1000 respondents responded either one of these three options on the first question, the cumulative share of positive responses on this first question will be calculated out of a total of 935 respondents, and the reporting sheet will indicate that for this particular question, x respondents responded DK, y responded NA, and z responded RA.

Overall, global reporting on SDG 16.7.2 will require:
- Distributions of answers across all answer options, for each one of the two questions;
- Cumulative share of respondents who responded positively to each question (i.e. the cumulative percentage of respondents who responded 3-'some', 4-'a lot' or 5-'a great deal'); and
- simple average of these two cumulative percentages.

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[3] If this indicator is being calculated from an existing survey that uses a non-standard response scale, please contact UNDP at sdg16indicators@undp.org for guidance on identifying "positive" responses in non-standard response scales.

Indicator 16.7.2 aims to measure how individual beliefs in the inclusiveness and responsiveness of the political system differ across various demographic groups, including by sex, age, disability status and nationally relevant population groups. While empirical analysis confirmed the effect of these demographic variables on self-reported levels of external efficacy, other influential variables were identified, including income and education level. Moreover, since target 16.7 focuses on 'decision-making *at all levels*', disaggregation by place of residence (by administrative region e.g. by province, state, district; urban/rural) is also important to help identify areas in a given country where people feel most excluded from decision-making.

- **Sex:** Male/Female
- **Age groups:** It is recommended to follow UN standards for the production of age-disaggregated national population statistics, using the following age groups: (1) below 25 years old, (2) 25-34, (3) 35-44, (4) 45-54, (5) 55-64 and (6) 65 years old and above. Since age exhibits a negative relationship with external efficacy (evidence shows that older respondents report lower levels of political efficacy than younger respondents), a particular focus should be placed on older age brackets.
- **Disability status:** 'Disability' is an umbrella term covering long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder the full and effective participation of disabled persons in society on an equal basis with others[4]. If possible, NSOs are encouraged to add the Short Set of Questions on Disability developed by the Washington Group to the survey vehicle used to administer the two questions selected for 16.7.2 to disaggregate results by disability status.
- **Nationally relevant population groups** (groups with a distinct ethnicity, language, religion, indigenous status, nationality or other characteristics): The population of a country is a mosaic of different population groups that can be identified according to racial, ethnic, language, indigenous or migration status, religious affiliation, or sexual orientation, amongst other characteristics. For the purpose of this indicator, particular focus is placed on minorities. *Minority groups are* groups that are numerically inferior to the rest of the population of a state, in a non-dominant position, whose members—being nationals of the state—possess ethnic, religious or linguistic characteristics differing from those of the rest of the population and show, even if only implicitly, a sense of solidarity directed towards preserving their culture, traditions, religion or language.[5] While the nationality criterion included in the above definition has often been challenged, the requirement to be in a non-dominant position remains important (United Nations, 2010).[6] Collecting survey data disaggregated by population groups should be subject to the legality of compiling such data in a particular national context and to a careful assessment of the potential risks of collecting such data for the safety of respondents.
- **Income level:** By income quintile
- **Education level:** Primary education, Secondary education, Tertiary education
- **Place of residence:** by administrative region e.g. by province, state, district; urban/rural

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[4] UN General Assembly, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: resolution / adopted by the General Assembly, 24 January 2007, A/RES/61/106, available at: http://www.refworld.org/docid/45f973632.html

[5] Francesco Capotorti, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (1977).

[6] UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Minority Rights: International Standards and Guidance for Implementation, 2010, HR/PUB/10/3, http://www.refworld.org/docid/4db80ca52.html

Reporting institutions are encouraged to fill in as much information as possible when completing the table in UNDP SDG 16 Reporting Platform given the disaggregation complexity required to compute this indicator. An example of the SDG 16.7.2 reporting platform table is as follows:

	% of respondents who have respondent positively to ''How much would you say the political system in [country X] allows people like you to have a say in what the government does?' (positive responses refer to the answers 'some', 'a lot', 'a great deal')	% of respondents who have respondent positively to ''And how much would you say that the political system in [country] allows people like you to have an influence on politics?' (positive responses refer to the answers 'some', 'a lot', 'a great deal')	Percentage of individuals that have a positive response to both questions.
Total / National:			
Sex			
Male			
Female			
Urban/rural			
Urban			
Rural			
Education level			
Primary			
Secondary			
Tertiary			
Income or expenditure quintiles			
Quintile 1			
Quintile 2			
Quintile 3			
Quintile 4			
Quintile 5			
Disability status			
Disabled			
Not disabled			
Nationally relevant population group			
Population group A Specify:			
Population group B Specify:			
Population group C Specify:			
Age group			
Below 25			
25-34			
35-44			
45-54			
55-64			
65+			

8. Additional guidance in filling the information in the reporting platform

Important

Weighted Data

The data entered in the UNDP SDG 16 Reporting Platform should be weighted considering the following:

- A minimum of 25 unweighted individuals experiencing a dispute is necessary to provide weighted statistics on ethnic groups, citizenship and migration background

- Ethnic groups (A, B, C), Migration background (A, B, C) and Citizenship (A, B, C) should be defined at country level.

- Ethnic groups should not include majority ethnic groups

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9. Reference Documents

SDG 16 Survey Initiative Implementation Manual
https://www.undp.org/library/sdg16-survey-initiative-implementation-manual

Questionnaire: SDG 16 Survey Initiative Implementation Questionnaire
https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-03/UNDP-SDG16-Survey-Initiative-Implementation-Questionnaire.pdf

SDG 16.7.2 Metadata
https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/?Text=&Goal=16&Target=16.7

SDG 16.7.2 Indicator Brief
https://www1.undp.org/content/oslo-governance-centre/en/home/library/sdg-16-appetizer-indicator-16-7-2.html

Annex 1: Governance Module used to measure indicator SDG 16.7.2 as set out in the SDG 16 Survey Initiative Implementation Questionnaire

Source: SDG 16 Survey Initiative Implementation Questionnaire

16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive – External political efficacy (EPE)

<<Ask all>>
* EPE1. How much would you say the political system in [country] **allows people like you to have a say in what the government does?**
<<Read out, one response only>>

01 – Not at all	98 – Don't know
02 – Very little	99 – Prefer not to say
03 – Some	
04 – A lot	
05 – A great deal	

<<Ask all>>
* EPE2. And how much would you say that the political system in [country] **allows people like you to have an influence on politics?**
<<Read out, one response only>>

01 – Not at all	98 – Don't know
02 – Very little	99 – Prefer not to say
03 – Some	
04 – A lot	
05 – A great deal	