

SDG indicator 16.7.1c at a glance: Inclusive representation in the judiciary



Rationale

Fair and inclusive legal systems are essential features of a functioning democratic state. This indicator measures the extent to which a country's judiciary is representative of the general population compared to the national proportion of various demographic groups. Judicial diversity and proportional representation in the legal system increases the perception among the population of a legitimate judiciary which can contribute to higher levels of trust of the national decision-making apparatus, and ultimately increase the efficiency and efficacy of judiciaries.

Data sources

Administrative records on the staffing of the judiciary, including the Human Resource Management Information Systems of Judicial Service Commissions and/or Ministries of Justice, or other similar competent bodies managing human resources for the judiciary, handling the appointment of judges and registrars, or otherwise having some oversight role over the judiciary. It is unlikely that existing survey data (e.g. from Labour Force Surveys) will be sufficient to report on this indicator.

Recommended disaggregation

Three-way disaggregation of positions in the judiciary, along the following cumulative levels:

1. Position types (*judges; registrars*)
2. Various demographic characteristics:
 - Sex (*male; female*)
 - Age group (*below 45 years; 45-54; 55-64; 65+*)
 - Disability status (*disabled; not disabled*);
 - Population sub-group (*country-specific*)
3. Levels of courts (*constitutional/supreme courts; higher-level courts; lower-level courts*)

While countries are expected to produce data on as many of the above disaggregations as possible, global reporting will focus on the first two disaggregations in the above list, namely by position type and the various demographic characteristics.

Methodological issues to keep in mind:

- Focus is on the formal court systems and does not include informal mechanisms (religious, tribal, or traditional dispute mechanisms)
- Information for part-time positions should be given in full-time equivalents
- After compiling the numbers and proportions of judiciary personnel as outlined above, ratios comparing these to national population distributions need to be calculated.
- The appropriate age ranges should be applied when selecting the national population comparators (i.e. depending on age of eligibility/ retirement for jobs as a registrar/judge).