



# SDG indicator 16.7.2 at a glance: Inclusive and responsive decision-making

## Rationale

This indicator captures the extent to which various socio-demographic parts of the population feel that their views can impact public decision-making processes. It measures the extent to which people believe that politicians and/or political institutions will listen to, and act on, the opinions of ordinary citizens. High levels of political efficacy are correlated with trust in government, perceptions of the legitimacy of public institutions, higher levels of political participation, and with people's own life satisfaction.

## Data sources and measurement

Data is to be collected through official, nationally representative household surveys.

To address both dimensions covered by this indicator, two well-established survey questions are used:

- How much would you say the political system in [country X] allows people like you to have a say in what the government does?
- And how much would you say that the political system in [country] allows people like you to have an influence on politics?

Responses to each of the two questions should be recorded along a 5-point scale (plus response options refusal/don't know/no answer), namely:

1. Not at all
2. Very little
3. Some
4. A lot
5. A great deal

To derive a single composite estimate for the SDG indicator, data producers are advised to calculate the share of respondents who responded positively to each question (i.e. the percentage of respondents who responded 3-'some', 4-'a lot' or 5-'a great deal') and then to calculate the simple average of these two percentages.

## Recommended disaggregation

Disaggregation of this indicator is recommended along the following levels:

- Sex (*male; female*)
- Age group (*below 25 years; 25-34; 35-44; 45-54; 55-64; 65+*)
- Place of residence (*e.g. urban/rural, administrative region*)
- *Education level (primary; secondary; tertiary)*
- *Income level (by income quintile)*
- *Disability status (disability; no disability)*
- Nationally relevant population groups (*country-specific*)

## Methodological issues to keep in mind:

- Considering that many of the disaggregations above are by individual-level characteristics (as opposed to household-level characteristics), for results to be fully representative it is important for the survey vehicle to use a sampling approach that gives everyone in the household an equal chance to be selected for interview. Integrating the questions for SDG 16.7.2 in a household survey that targets household heads or "most informed respondent" only should be avoided.
- If the relevant survey for your country uses a different response scale than the one listed above, please see the "guidance note on using non-standard response scales for reporting on SDG indicator 16.7.2"
- Important to ensure good quality of local language translations with equivalence of meaning. Translations for main languages are available.