

## **Harnessing and Leveraging the Power of Citizen-Generated Gender Data for Strengthening and Transforming Gender Data Systems and Institutions**

Side event for the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission for the Status of Women

*Date: 19 March 2024, 9:45 – 11:00am EST*

*In-person, United Nations DC2, 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room (DC2-2330)/Hybrid (link forthcoming)*

*Co-organizers: The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities for Sustainable Development (SGPwD), Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, International Civil Society Centre, Open Data Watch, Danish Institute for Human Rights, UNDESA- Statistics Division, UN Women*

### **Background**

Half-way through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and despite improvements, critical gender data gaps still exist across the SDGs in terms of geographic coverage, timeliness and the level of disaggregation required. Intensified efforts need to be made to fill those gaps. The Agenda 2030 asks that follow-up and review processes at all levels should be open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and support the reporting by all relevant stakeholders. Therefore, the successful as well as gender-sensitive implementation and monitoring of the Agenda needs the engagement of citizens, with particular attention to the voices of the poorest and most vulnerable – more often, women and girls.

While the Agenda has enabled a whole-of-society approach for its implementation, such approach needs to be further strengthened in gender data. This requires changes in mindset and power structure within the national gender data ecosystem that acknowledge the contribution of citizens and communities to gender data, i.e., taking an inclusive approach that involves various stakeholders, especially marginalized communities, and ensures the gender data reflects diverse perspectives. Partnerships among state institutions, academia, the private sector, CSOs, NGOs, women's advocates, and citizens facilitate the pooling of resources, knowledge and expertise. This collaborative approach can enhance the impact and reach of citizen generated data (CGD) for accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Thus, an enabling environment for the sustainable coordination, production, and use of citizen data needs to be promoted, implemented, and sustained.

### **An enabling environment for the sustainable coordination, production, and use of citizen data needs to be promoted, implemented, and sustained in national gender data ecosystems**

Within a well-functioning national gender data ecosystem, institutions need to be in place to effectively govern gender data. They include those that enact overarching strategic and policy objectives, such as an executive-level cross-functional group of key stakeholders that makes policy decisions, provides strategic direction, and mobilizes the necessary resources. To execute the strategy and manage the national gender data system, technical working group or task forces can then be established to address specific technical issues or to foster coordination and build

partnership. The role of national statistical offices in gender data governance, including citizen data, needs to be strengthened in setting standards on its production and use.

Laws and regulations governing gender data openness, usage, and protection are crucial. For citizen data pertaining to individuals, it is essential to have legal frameworks and regulations that address data privacy, ownership or control of data collected from citizens, and stipulations on who can use such data and how. Additionally, to facilitate the integration of citizen data into official statistics, national statistical laws would need to be adapted to recognize non-public institutions including citizens, communities and CSOs could also be legitimate producers of official statistics.

A well-functioning national gender data ecosystem requires adequate funding. Although the production of official statistics falls under the government's purview, it is vital to establish innovative funding mechanisms to ensure sustained financial support for citizens, communities, and civil society organizations in producing citizen-generated gender data.

### **Expressed need of Member States: The Copenhagen Framework on Citizen Data**

To address these challenges, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in collaboration with its partners, established the Collaborative on Citizen Data (the Collaborative) in April 2023 at the Fourth World Data Forum. One of the first initiatives of the Collaborative, co-Chaired by UNSD and UN Women, was the development of a draft Copenhagen Framework on Citizen Data. The framework outlines an operational definition and guiding principles for citizen data, provides a framework for creating an enabling environment that supports the coordination, production and use of citizen data, and presents a road map for the implementation of the conceptual framework.

As the Collaborative advances in refining, testing, and implementing the Copenhagen Framework, it is committed to fostering a collaborative environment that brings together all relevant parties within the national data ecosystem. This includes CSOs involved in data generation or usage, human rights organizations, researchers, and both public and private institutions that can forge partnerships with or support National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to drive inclusive data practices.

### **Objectives of the Session**

The session is aimed at soliciting input and feedback from the strong presence of CSOs, NGOs and representatives from the diverse community of the CSW68 on the Copenhagen Framework on Citizen Data and its implementation.

More specifically, the session aims to have an inclusive and participatory consultation with the CSW68 participants on (a) the feasibility and applicability of the Framework; (b) important elements required to foster an enabling environment for leveraging the power of citizen data, particularly in the context of gender data development and use; and (c) the interest in joining and contributing to the Collaborative.

The session will help the Collaborative further refine the Copenhagen Framework on Citizen Data, broaden the outreach and partnership of the Collaborative, and increase the impact of its work.

## Tentative Programme

Time	Topic	Proposed Speaker/Institution
9:45 – 9:50 am	<b>Welcome remarks and Setting the stage</b>	Jessamyn Encarnacion UN Women and <i>Co-Chair, Collaborative on Citizen Data</i>
9:51 – 10:05 am	<b>Overview of the Copenhagen Framework on Citizen Data</b>	Haoyi Chen <i>UN Statistics Division and Co-Chair, Collaborative on Citizen Data</i>
10:06 – 10:35 am	<b>Panel discussion focusing on the transformation</b>	Jenna Slotin (TBC) <i>Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A whole-of-society approach to citizen-generated gender data</li> </ul>	Debora Cobar <i>Plan International</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender data governance mechanisms and institutional arrangements</li> </ul>	Diane Bergeron <i>The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities for Sustainable Development (SGPWD) and the World Blind Union</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laws and regulations</li> </ul>	TBD <i>International Planned Parenthood Federation</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate funding for citizen's engagement in the national gender data ecosystem</li> </ul>	Francesca Perucci <i>Open Data Watch</i>
10:36 – 10:55 am	<b>Open discussion/Q&amp;A</b>	Jenna Slotin (TBC) <i>Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data</i>
10:55 – 11:00 am	<b>Closing remarks</b>	TBD <i>Government of Denmark and member of the Steering Committee of the Collaborative</i>