Background and Objective

Data not only measures progress, it inspires it. Until there are statistics that fully reflect existing gender inequalities, progress cannot be made to address them. If world leaders do not have the data to show how far behind women and girls are in the different aspect of society, the empowerment of women and girls will not be prioritized. Without data on a certain area or population group, the right policies cannot be designed, progress cannot be tracked and evaluated, and accountability cannot be ensured.

Without gender based data and statistics there is no credible path to achieving the SDGs. Data and statistics are important tools for devising policies to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment, assessing their impact, and ensuring accountability. At the international and regional level there have been important advances in normative and technical standards related to gender statistics. In the post-2015 agenda, localization of the Sustainable Development Goals will be critical to ensure their implementation at the national level. As with MDGs, targets that are not monitored due to lack of data are likely to receive less priority. Given these monitoring requirements the need to produce more and better data, including gender-sensitive indicators, is now greater than ever. This will increase the importance of, and demand for quality statistics by national governments. Without significant technical and financial support to tackle these challenges, there will be important gaps in our ability to adequately monitor the implementation of the SDGs.

While there has been progress, there are significant gaps in data about women and girls – from health, education, agriculture, employment, political participation to human security.

This side event will explore good practices and discuss some of the opportunities related to increasing the collection, analysis and use of gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data to make every women and girl count.

Themes and Speakers:

Chair of session: Dr. Ofa Ketuu, Director, Statistics for Development Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community

- The importance of Gender Data and Statistics for the achievement of the SDGs: Anna Karin Jatfors, UN Women Deputy Regional Director
- Agricultural censuses conducted with either a gender module or collection of sex-disaggregated data in Myanmar and Lao People’s Democratic Republic - Khin Mar Aye, Deputy Director General of the Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar and Samaychanh Boupha, Head of the Lao Statistics Bureau and Vice Minister of Planning and Investment, Vientiane, Lao PDR.
- Prevalence Data on Violence Against Women and Girls - Ingrid Fitzgerald, UNFPA Regional Technical Adviser, Gender and Human Rights.
1. **The importance of Gender Data and Statistics for the achievement of the SDGs** – Anna Karin Jatfors, UN Women Deputy Regional Director

**Key Questions for the Speaker:**
- Why is it important to close the gender data gap?
- Why are gender statistics important for achieving the SDGs?
- What are the key ways for governments to improve the availability, accessibility and use of gender statistics to inform policies, advocacy and accountability for delivering gender equality and women’s empowerment?

2. **Agricultural censuses conducted with either a gender module or collection of sex-disaggregated data in Myanmar and Lao People’s Democratic Republic** - Khin Mar Aye, Deputy Director General of the Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar and Samaychanh Boupha, Head of the Lao Statistics Bureau and Vice Minister of Planning and Investment, Vientiane, Lao PDR.

**Key Questions for the Speakers:**
- Based on your experience with sex-disaggregated data in the agricultural censuses, what strategy do you suggest to other countries to collect sex-disaggregated data on different domains?
- What is your experience of producing gender reports on agriculture based upon tabulation and analysis of data collected through agricultural censuses in your country? How did it help policy formulation to enhance the role of women in agriculture?


**Key Questions for the Speakers:**
- Why is it important to collect data on VAWG and how can it be used (including for SDG monitoring)? Why is it important to make sure VAWG prevalence data is comparable between countries?
- Why is it important to collect both VAWG prevalence survey data and administrative data from the police, justice, health and social services, CSOs and other service providers - what do each of these sources of data tell us?
- What are some of the ethical considerations around VAWG data collection and use?