Expert Group Meeting on the SIGI

Rethinking the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)

24-26 November 2020 | Virtual Meeting (zoom link)

To register click here

Background information

The OECD Development Centre's gender programme produces data and evidence-based analysis to identify the root causes of gender inequality and feed policy dialogue, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

The **Social Institutions and Gender Index** (SIGI) is a cross-country measure to capture the underlying, often invisible drivers of gender inequality. It measures discrimination in social institutions, i.e. formal and informal laws, social norms and practices, which adversely affect women's and girls' lives and consequently curtail their empowerment opportunities throughout their lifetime. Comprised of four dimensions, the SIGI spans major socio-economic areas that restrict women's and girl's rights, opportunities and access to crucial resources: discrimination in the family, restricted physical integrity, restricted access to productive and financial resources, and restricted civil liberties.

The SIGI was first created in 2009 and has since then been updated in 2012, 2014 and 2019. The 2019 edition covers 180 countries. The fifth edition is expected to be launched in 2023.

The SIGI includes **four components**:

1. 180 country profiles containing comprehensive qualitative information on legal frameworks and action plans to protect women's rights and promote gender equality;

2. The Gender, Institutions and Development Database (GID-DB) comprising indicators on the level of discrimination in laws, social norms and practices;

3. A policy simulator allowing policy makers to scope out reform options and assess their likely effects on gender equality in social institutions;

4. A cross-country ranking classifying 120 countries according to their level of discrimination in social institutions.

The SIGI offers **three levels of analysis**:

1. The SIGI Global Reports analyse performance in the four SIGI dimensions across the globe;

2. The SIGI Regional Reports focus on regional specificities by analysing sub-regional outcomes and region-specific recommendations.

3. The SIGI Country studies collect representative data to explore sub-national disparities and provide evidence to strengthen national policy-making.

Objectives of the meeting

In anticipation of the launch of the **fifth edition of the SIGI in 2023**, the OECD Development Centre organises an Expert Group Meeting (EGM). The EGM intends to review
- The SIGI's policy relevance;
- The SIGI's communication strategy;
- The SIGI's methodology and conceptual framework.

Participants will be invited to propose potential changes in the required areas and formulate recommendations regarding the collection of data, the communication of results and the development of policies. The meeting will engage with a large audience of SIGI users – data and gender experts, policy makers in the field, donor agencies, philanthropists, communication experts, policy makers as well as gender advocates. The overall objective is to further **strengthen the policy and research relevance and technical robustness** of the SIGI, in the context of the 2030 Agenda and in light of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and its effects on women and girls.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the EGM will be virtual and will be divided into three parts running over the course of three days. Participants will be invited for specific parts of the meeting depending on their time zone and areas of expertise.

	Date	Content	Primary audience
Part 1	24 Nov.	**SIGI's policy relevance and use** The aim of this session is to focus on SIGI users' needs and perceptions to improve its relevance both for the donor agencies and policy makers on the ground. Key questions: • *How to improve the policy relevance of the SIGI?* • *How can SIGI be best used to inform transformative policy-making?*	• Policy makers • Development Cooperation agencies • Development practitioners • Gender advocates and experts • Researchers and academics
Part 2	25 Nov.	**SIGI's communication and dissemination strategies** The aim of this session is to focus on sharing good practices to improve the communication and dissemination strategies of the SIGI and its different tools. Key questions: • *How to better communicate on gender data and statistics?* • *How to improve the communication and dissemination of the results of a complex composite indicator?* • *How can we further leverage digital tools and social media to deliver impactful messages and accelerate social transformation/social norms changes?*	• Policy makers • Development Cooperation agencies • Development practitioners • Gender advocates • Researchers and academics • Communication specialists • Composite indicator managers
Part 3	26 Nov.	**SIGI's conceptual framework and methodology** The aim is to focus on the conceptual framework as well as on the methodology – including the collection of data, the scoring process and the aggregation of the index. Key questions: • *Does the current SIGI framework comprehensively cover the most relevant issues pertaining to women's and girls' deprivation?* • *How to improve the collection and validation of data across 180 countries?* • *How to improve the scoring of qualitative information?* • *How to improve the implementation of the theoretical aggregation function?*	• Development practitioners • Gender experts • Data experts and statisticians • Composite index experts and managers

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Draft agenda of the SIGI EGM

NB: Speakers to be confirmed are marked with an (*)

Part 1: SIGI's policy relevance and use

Day 1 – 24 November 2020

14:45 – 15:00	**Sign in to the virtual meeting**

15:00 – 15:20 | **Welcoming remarks**
- **Ambassador Manuel Escudero**, Spain Permanent Representative to the OECD and Chair of the OECD Development Centre's Governing Board
- **Mario Pezzini,** Director of the OECD Development Centre and Special Advisor to the OECD Secretary General on Development
- **Ambassador Susanna Moorehead*,** Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)

15:20 – 15:40 | **Introduction to the SIGI and objectives of the EGM**
- **Bathylle Missika,** Head of the Network, Partnerships and Gender Division, OECD Development Centre

15:40 – 16:30 | **Session 1.1: The SIGI's policy relevance**
The SIGI primarily serves to inform and support policymakers in developing policies conducive to gender equality. The SIGI's impact also lies in its ability to promote greater awareness and integration of social norms within development strategies, notably in the context of the SDGs. This session will discuss how to strengthen the SIGI's policy relevance from governments' and development cooperation agencies' point of view to inform evidence-based policy, identify the behaviour change needed to achieve gender equality and help track progress on SDG 5.
- *Moderator*: **Bathylle Missika**, Head of the Network, Partnerships and Gender Division, OECD Development Centre
- *Discussants (5 minutes each)*:
  - **Christina Stummer***, Gender and Development Advisor, Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
  - **Corinne Huser***, Senior Gender Equality Policy Advisor, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
  - **Gheidy Gallo Santos***, Presidential Advisor on Gender Equality, Colombia
  - **Vicky Dillon***, Gender Equality Policy Lead, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland
- Open discussion *(25 minutes)*

16:30 – 16:40 | **Break**

16:40 – 17:30 | **Session 1.2: Use of the SIGI in the context of research and gender advocacy**
From gender advocates to researchers, from the index itself to the underlying variables and the qualitative information, SIGI data and analysis are widely used by multiple non-governmental actors for research, advocacy, information and analysis. This session will reflect on
→ How SIGI data have been used in gender analysis and development strategies by a variety of actors to date.
→ What tools these actors use (or do not use).

→ How do they connect the SIGI with other thematic issues (e.g. education, health, environment, etc.).
→ How these actors interpret the information provided by the SIGI.

- *Moderator*: **Hyeshin Park**, Economist and Gender Programme Co-ordinator, OECD Development Centre
- *Discussants (5 minutes each)*:
  o **Sarah Hendriks***, Director Programme, Policy & Intergovernmental Division**,** UN Women
  o **Barbara Rambousek***, Director for Gender and Economic Inclusion, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
  o **Valérie Meunier***, International Program Director, Fondation Chanel
  o **Alison Holder***, Director, Equal Measures 2030
- Open discussion *(30 minutes)*

17:30 – 17:40	**Recap of Day 1 and Next Steps**
	• **Gaëlle Ferrant**, Economist, OECD Development Centre

Day 2 – 25 November 2020

9:30 – 9:45	**Sign in to the virtual meeting**

9:45 – 10:00	**Introduction to the SIGI and objectives of the EGM**
	• **Bathylle Missika,** Head of the Network, Partnerships and Gender Division, OECD Development Centre

10:00 – 11:00	**Session 1.3: The SIGI's policy relevance | Second session**
	The session will repeat session 1.1 at a different time slot to allow __policy makers from other time zones__ to share their points of view on how to strengthen the SIGI's policy relevance to inform evidence-based policy, identify behaviour change strategies aim to achieve gender equality and help track progress on SDG 5.
	• *Moderator*: **Ayumi Yuasa**, Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre
	• *Discussants (5 minutes each)*:
	o **TBD**, Representative from Korea
	o **Toshihiro Omura*,** Development Assistance Policy Planning Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
	o **H.E Shamsa Saleh*,** Secretary-General of the UAE Gender Balance Council
	o **Deepali Khanna***, Managing Director of Asia Region Office, Rockefeller Foundation
	• Open discussion *(30 minutes)*

Part 2: SIGI's communication and dissemination strategies

Day 2 – 25 November 2020

13:45 – 14:00	**Sign in to the virtual meeting**
14:00 – 14:10	**Welcoming remarks** • **Bathylle Missika,** Head of the Network, Partnership and Gender Division, OECD Development Centre
14:10 – 14:30	**Introduction to the SIGI and its communication tools** • **Pierre de Boisséson**, Economist, OECD Development Centre
14:30 – 17:20	**Session 2.1: The SIGI's communication and dissemination strategies** *How to better communicate gender data, the results of a complex index and harness new digital tools and social media to deliver impactful messages and accelerate social transformation?* SIGI data and results are most valuable to users when they are easily found and accessed and when users find them relevant and understandable. In addition to producing and disseminating gender data, actions must be taken to better communicate and promote awareness, understanding and use of the SIGI. This session will feature six different expert-led presentations in virtual break out groups followed by open discussions on how to communicate gender messages and data as well as how to better convey results from composite indicators. • *Moderator*: **Felix Zimmermann**, Policy Research and Advice, OECD Development Centre

	Plenary discussion
14:30-15:05	***Discussion #1: Convening the right message to the right audience: Facts, issues and solutions*** • *Discussant*: **Carlien Sheele***, Director, European Institute for Gender Equality *(10 minutes)* • Open discussion *(25 minutes)*

	Breakout discussions

15:05-16:05	***Discussion #2: How to communicate effectively on gender statistics and composite indicators?*** What are the best practices on communicating using gender statistics and composite indicators? What are the pitfalls to avoid? How do we ensure users and policy makers understand what is being measured and what the aggregated score represents? • *Moderator:* **Felix Zimmermann**, Policy Research and Advice, OECD Development Centre • *Discussants*:	***Discussion #3: How to communicate effectively on qualitative information (i.e. laws and social norms)?*** The SIGI collects qualitative information that include legal frameworks and social norms, and provides country profiles. How should we engage with users and policy makers on these topics? How can we effectively convey the results of qualitative information and carry out messages around gendered social norms? • *Moderator:* **Alejandra Meneses**, Policy Analyst, OECD Development Centre • *Discussants:*

	Andres Vikat*, Chief of Section, Social and Demographic Statistics, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe *(10 minutes)* **Albert Motivans***, Head of Data and Insights, Equal Measures 2030 *(10 minutes)* • Open discussion *(40 minutes)*	**Caroline Harper***, Principal Research Fellow, Director of Programme Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, Overseas Development Institute *(10 minutes)* **Tea Trumbic***, Program Manager, Women, Business and the Law project, World Bank *(10 minutes)* • Open discussion *(40 minutes)*
16:05-16:20	*Break*	

Plenary discussion		
16:20-16-45	***Restitution of outcomes from breakout sessions*** • Key takeaways from both breakout sessions by moderators *(10 minutes)* • Open discussion *(15 minutes)*	
16:45-17-20	***Discussion #4: Novel uses of digital tools and social media*** • *Discussant*: **Nina Rabinovitch Blecker***, Director of Communications, Data2X *(10 minutes)* • Open discussion *(25 minutes)*	
17:20 – 17:30	**Wrap up of day 2 and next steps** • **Pierre de Boisséson,** Economist, OECD Development Centre	

Part 3: SIGI's conceptual framework and methodology

Day 3 – 26 November 2020

13:45 – 14:00	**Sign in to the virtual meeting**

14:00 – 14:10	**Welcoming remarks**

- **Bathylle Missika,** Head of the Network, Partnerships and Gender Division, OECD Development Centre

14:10 – 15:00	**Session 3.1: Does SIGI need additional indicators?**

Does the current SIGI framework comprehensively cover the most relevant issues pertaining to women's and girls' deprivation?

The session will first describe the current SIGI framework including its dimensions, indicators and variables. Then, it will present suggestions to include new data and emerging topics that will be discussed with gender experts.

The session aims to:
→ Identify additional critical areas to discrimination in social institutions faced by women and girls, which are not currently taken into account in the SIGI conceptual framework.
→ Recognise the SIGI indicators, which are no longer relevant to explain women's and girls' deprivation at the global level.
→ Evaluate the accuracy of variables and proxies used to measure the SIGI indicators and explore additional proxies to be included in the SIGI framework.

- *Presentation of the SIGI conceptual framework*: **Hyeshin Park**, Economist and Gender Programme Co-ordinator, OECD Development Centre *(10 minutes)*
- Discussants *(5 minutes each)*:
    - **Manos Antoninis***, Director, Global Education Monitoring Report, UNESCO
    - **Ludgarde Coppens***, Head of the SDG and Environment Statistics Unit, Science Division, UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
    - **Simonetta Zarrilli***, Chief of the Trade, Gender and Development Programme, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
    - **Anne-Laure Humbert***, Director Centre for Diversity Policy Research and Practice, Oxford Brookes University
- Open discussion *(20 minutes)*

15:00 – 15:10	**Break**

15:10 – 16:00	**Session 3.2: Processes of data collection and validation**

The SIGI build on a combination of qualitative and quantitative data, directly collected by the OECD or harnessed from secondary sources (World Bank, UN Women, World Values Survey, etc.). Qualitative information is collected through the SIGI questionnaire and validated by legal experts and governments. This session will discuss suggested improvements to both data collection – of qualitative and quantitative information – and validation process.
- *Presentation of the current processes for data collection and validation*: **Alejandra Meneses**, Policy Analyst, OECD Development Centre *(10 minutes)*
- *Discussants (5 minutes each)*:
    - **Nayda Almodóvar-Reteguis***, Gender Legal Expert, Women, Business and the Law, World Bank

- o **Silvina Aguirre***, Women's Rights Unit of the Directorate of Human Rights and Gender Issues, Ministry of Foreign Relations, Argentina
  - o **Laura Nonn***, SIGI external consultant
- Open discussion *(25 minutes)*

16:10 – 16:20	**Break**
16:20 – 17:20	**Session 3.3: Scoring process and aggregation function**

The SIGI country profiles contain qualitative information on the legal framework, national programmes and action plans aiming at promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. This qualitative information is quantified to be included in both the database and the composite indicator using the scoring manual. SIGI scores are then calculated following a multi-stage aggregation methodology that builds variables into indicators, indicators into dimensions and dimensions into the SIGI. This session will discuss suggested improvements to the scoring manual – notably regarding the score associated with discrimination towards some groups of women

- *Presentation of the current processes for data collection and validation*: **Gaelle Ferrant**, Economist, OECD Development Centre *(10 minutes)*
- *Discussants (5 minutes each)*:
  - o **Dr Andrea den Boer***, Principal Investigator on the WomanStats Project and Senior Lecturer in the School of Politics and International Relations, University of Kent
  - o **Dr Iñaki Permanyer***, Research Fellow, Center for Demographic Studies
  - o **Dr Eduardo Zambrano***, Professor of Economics, California Polytechnic State University
- Open discussion *(35 minutes)*

17:20-17:30	**Concluding remarks**

- **Bathylle Missika,** Head of the Network, Partnerships and Gender Division, OECD Development Centre