

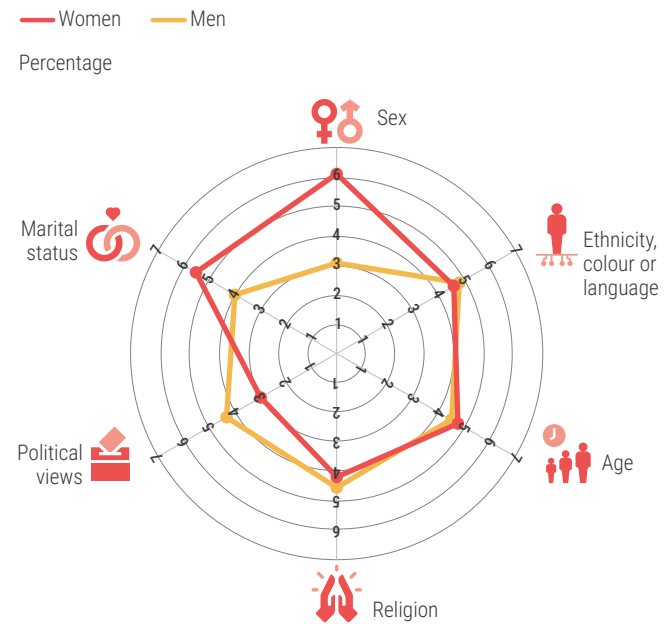


**PLACING WOMEN  
AND GIRLS AT THE CENTRE**

## Shedding light on global gender disparities and challenges towards gender equality

UN DESA and UN Women jointly published *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2023*, highlighting alarming gaps in gender equality and women's well-being, with an estimated additional \$360 billion per year needed to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. The report provided a comprehensive overview of global gender disparities and identifies key challenges hindering progress towards gender equality, including conflict, climate change, resistance to equality, and inadequate investment. It also sheds light on the often-overlooked needs of older women, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity in gender equality initiatives. The report urged policymakers to dismantle discriminatory laws, address the climate crisis, and ensure fair representation of women in leadership roles. It emphasized the

Proportion of the population experiencing discrimination, by selected grounds and sex, 2015–2022



Source: United Nations, 2023

pivotal roles older women play in sustainable development and calls for commitment to promote their well-being, financial security, and protection from violence. These insights underscore the need for comprehensive solutions to achieve gender equality globally.

## Taking stock of gender statistics on care economy in Africa

UN DESA provided an opportunity to take stock of and learn good practices in gender statistics and data management in Africa at the 9th United Nations Global Forum on Gender Statistics in August 2023 in Johannesburg, organized in collaboration with Statistics South Africa. Under the theme “Measuring what we value - gender statistics for an informed care economy”, the forum discussions focused on gender equality and the care economy; unpaid work and time use; violence against women and girls; legal identity and gender equality; and ways to improve data and evidence on the growing challenges and opportunities offered by the care economy, including gender mainstreaming efforts of the National Statistics Systems. The forum brought together 240 in-person participants (both producers and users of gender statistics) from national and international statistical offices, other government agencies, international organizations, academia, civil

society, and the donor community. Panellists and audience members strategized on how to make the best out of existing data, including by mainstreaming a gender lens into existing data processes, climate change statistics, and business and trade statistics.

## Empowering women as leaders in public institutions

UN DESA assisted several countries to identify and address gender gaps in public administration. Capacity-development modules were developed in partnership with Bhutan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mauritius, and Senegal, which were based on national and international reviews of practice to promote women leadership in public administration. Capacity development workshops were conducted in October and November 2023, laying the groundwork for national action plans to promote women's advancement in public sector leadership. Draft action plans were developed with UN DESA's support and validated nationally. Peer review workshops were held in Thailand and Mauritius in April and June 2024, involving countries from Africa and Asia-Pacific, including SIDS. These sessions promoted a community of practice to enhance gender-responsive strategies. In June 2024, a global workshop in the Republic of Korea further shared insights and lessons from these gender equality action plans.



9th Global Forum on Gender Statistics, Johannesburg, South Africa. | STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA

“ [The workshop] made me realize how I can contribute to small actions in my department to cater towards improving gender equality which will finally lead to achieving gender equality in public administration. Participant of the “Promoting the presence and leadership of women within public institutions at the national and local levels” workshop Bhutan in October 2023 ”



Workshop on “Promoting the presence and leadership of women within public institutions at the national and local levels” in October 2023 in Bhutan. | UN DESA