A GLOSSARY ON GENDER (IN)EQUALITY AND DATA*

Data refers to facts and statistics collected together for reference or analysis.

Bias refers to a preference or an inclination that inhibits impartial judgment.[1]

Stereotypes are generalised and oversimplified beliefs or ideas about a particular group of people, often based on assumptions or limited information.

Discrimination refers to any unfair treatment or arbitrary distinction based on a person's race, sex, gender, sexual orientation, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, disability, age, social origin or other similar shared characteristic or trait.

Inclusion is the deliberate and active effort to create a welcoming and supportive environment that values and respects the diverse perspectives, backgrounds, and abilities of all individuals, fostering a sense of belonging and ensuring equitable opportunities for participation and contribution.

Misinformation is when false information is shared, but no harm is intended.[2]

Disinformation is when false information is knowingly shared to cause harm.

Malinformation is when genuine information is shared to cause harm, often by moving information designed to stay private into the public sphere.

Disaggregated data is data that has been broken down by detailed sub-categories to elucidate underlying trends and patterns.

Sex disaggregated and gender disaggregated data refers to data collected and tabulated separately according to sex, gender identity and sexual orientation. This data allows policymakers to identify the diverse experiences, needs, capacities and barriers different groups face.

Gender statistics refers to statistics that adequately reflect gendered differences and inequalities in all areas of life.

Inclusive data refers to data collected for all people, regardless of their location, ethnicity, gender or age. It aims to close the data gaps that inadvertently facilitate discrimination and bias in monitoring, evaluation and decision-making for all of society.[3]

Gender digital divide is defined as gender biases coded into technology products, technology sector, and digital skills education. It can refer to women's lack of access to, use of, and professional development in computing work.

Gender data gap refers to the circumstance that most data on which organisational decisions are based appear to be biased in favour of men.

Data governance can be described as the policies, guidelines, standards, procedures and practices that regulate the generation, management, use and reuse of data. It addresses the overarching vision for data within a system and how it is shared, accessed and integrated while mitigating risks and maintaining risks. It applies to data within the private and public sectors and on how data is exchanged between them.[4]

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[1] UN Strategic Action Plan on Addressing Racism and Promoting Dignity for All in the United Nations Secretariat. https://hr.un.org/sites/hr.un.org/files/sap_final_report_0.pdf

[2] Internet Governance Forum Best Practice Forum on Gender and Digital Rights. Exploring the concept of gendered disinformation. https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/248/21181

[3] UN Women Inclusive data to leave no one behind – best practices in data disaggregation and use https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/63/official-meetings/Claudia%20Wells%20updated.pdf

[4] UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Data Governance across systems: exploring strategic for official statistics https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/events-details/un55sc-23022024-M-data-governance/

Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce. IP is protected in law by, for example, patents, copyright and trademarks, which enable people to earn recognition or financial benefit from what they invent or create.[5]

These definitions are a synthesis of existing definitions. They reflect the IGC's interpretation of these terms as used in context of the IGC Lunch and Learn event "Mapping gender (in)equality: The critical role of data".

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[5] World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), What is Intellectual Property? https://www.wipo.int/about-ip/en/