



Side event- **Women Leading Official Statistics: Leadership, Dialogue, and Connection** **57th Session UN Statistical Commission**

Tuesday, 3 March 2026
13h15 – 14h30 (NY time)
Hybrid format, UN Women HQ

UN Women, 220 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017
Conference room - 19th floor

Co-organized by: The Community of Women Leaders (coordinated by NSOs—INEGI, the Dominican Republic NSO, and the Belize NSO with support from the Statistical Conference of the Americas), UN Women under its flagship program Women Count, ECLAC.

The registration link is: [Women Leading Official Statistics: Leadership, Dialogue, and Connection – Fill out form](#)

Concept Note and preliminary agenda

1. Context

Despite important progress in women’s educational attainment and participation in public institutions, gender gaps in leadership positions remain significant worldwide. Globally, women occupy 30% of managerial positions and at the current pace of progress, achieving gender parity in management will take nearly a century (UN Women and DESA, 2025).

National Statistical Offices (NSOs), which play a critical role in shaping evidence-based policymaking, are no exception. While women often represent a substantial share of the statistical workforce, their presence in senior management and leadership positions remains limited, particularly in roles that influence strategic direction, institutional priorities, and governance. According to a report by the Partnership on Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) in 2021, globally, less than a quarter of senior leadership positions (chief statistician or similar) in NSO were women. In Latin America and the Caribbean, as of 2026, there are 15 women in managerial positions in NSOs (director, or chief) out of a total of 33 countries and territories.

In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), these gaps are shaped by structural barriers such as gender stereotypes, unequal access to leadership opportunities, limited visibility in decision-making spaces, and institutional cultures that often undervalue or overlook women’s leadership potential (ECLAC & UN Women, 2025). Addressing these challenges is essential not only to advance gender equality within NSOs, but also to strengthen the quality, relevance, and sustainability of national statistical systems. Diverse and gender-responsive leadership contributes to more inclusive institutional practices, enhances innovation, and improves the capacity of NSOs to respond to emerging data demands and complex policy challenges (Moreno-Gómez, Lafuente, & Vaillant, 2018).



Strengthening women’s leadership in National Statistical Offices is a strategic investment for advancing inclusive, resilient, and forward-looking national statistical systems. As NSOs face increasing demands related to data governance, innovation, coordination, and policy relevance, leadership capacities that go beyond technical expertise have become essential. In this context, a **high-level Women’s Leadership Strengthening Programme** has been jointly developed in the LAC region by the **Community of Women Leaders**, the Knowledge Transmission Network, UN Women, and ECLAC, under the Women Count project, to equip women leaders with core competencies needed to navigate complex institutional environments, exercise influence, and drive transformational change within statistical systems.

The programme aims to strengthen the leadership skills of women in senior and mid-level management positions within NSOs, promoting gender-responsive leadership and supporting the development of institutional action plans to advance gender equality in leadership. The initiative combines modular learning on key leadership competencies with executive coaching, peer exchange, and a virtual learning environment, fostering a regional community of women leaders aligned with broader international priorities on institutional capacity development, governance, and sustainable statistical systems.

Building on the programme launch, the side event will also provide a space for dialogue and connection among women leaders and institutional partners. A panel discussion will explore how women leaders in NSOs exercise influence, navigate institutional and political dynamics, and lead in contexts of complexity and uncertainty, aligning leadership development with broader discussions on governance, institutional resilience, and capacity-building in official statistics. In addition, a facilitated speed networking session will foster peer exchange, visibility, and collaboration, strengthen professional networks and reinforce a regional community of practice that supports women’s leadership across national statistical systems.

2. Objective of the event

The objective of this side event is to promote women’s leadership in National Statistical Offices as a key driver of institutional strengthening, effective governance, and gender-responsive official statistics. The event will combine dialogue, peer exchange, and regional networking, and will include the launch of the Leadership Programme for Women in National Statistical Offices in Latin America and the Caribbean.

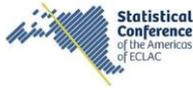
3. Proposed agenda

Moderation: *Marcelo Bisogno, Director of NSO of Uruguay*

13:10-13:15	Registration
13:15-13:21 (6 minutes)	Welcome and opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mildred Martínez, <i>Director of NSO of The Dominican Republic (3 minutes)</i> • Papa Seck, <i>Chief of Research and Data section, UN Women HQ (3 minutes)</i>



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13:21-13:36
(15 minutes)

ROUND TABLE> Leadership Competencies for Advancing Women’s Leadership across National Statistical Systems

Discussion: This panel will explore how women leaders in National Statistical Systems move to exercise strategic leadership, influence institutional decision-making, and drive organizational change. Drawing on regional and global experiences, the discussion will focus on the leadership competencies required to navigate complex systems, manage political and institutional dynamics, and lead effectively in contexts of uncertainty. Panelists will reflect on the challenges and opportunities faced by women in leadership roles within NSOs, the importance of gender-responsive leadership for strengthening statistical systems, and the role of targeted capacity-building, peer learning, and coaching in supporting women’s leadership pathways.

Moderator: Tiina Luige, Director Statistical Division, The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Introduces speakers and moderates the discussion

Speakers

- *Speaker 1: Diana Castillo-Trejo, General Director Statistical Institute of Belize*
- *Speaker 2: Elena Manzanera Díaz, President of the National Statistical Institute, Spain*

Outline: The moderator will pose discussion-trigger questions, one at a time, and every panellist will respond to one question before moving on to the next. At the end of the panel, the moderator may summarize the key takeaways.

Questions:

Discussion of Question 1: Speaker 1 (5 minutes)

- *What institutional or cultural barriers do women leaders commonly face in NSOs, and what strategies have proven effective in navigating or overcoming these challenges?*

Discussion of Question 2: Speaker 2 (5 minutes)

- *What role do peer networks, mentoring, and executive coaching play in strengthening women’s confidence, visibility, and leadership effectiveness within statistical systems?*

Final remarks from moderator

13:36- 14:04
(28 minutes)

Launch of the “High-level Women’s leadership strengthening program”

Moderator: Laura Vázquez Maggio, Representative of the Community of practices – INEGI

Introduces speakers and moderates the discussion

Speakers (13 minutes)

- *Speaker 1: Olga Barquero, Knowledge Transmission Network – INE Chile (13min)*



	<p>Comments (10 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Speaker 1: Rachael Beaven, Director Statistics Division, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (5 minutes)</i> • <i>Speaker 2: Leesha Delatie-Budair, Director General, Statistical Institute of Jamaica (5 minutes)</i> <p><u>Outline:</u> The session will begin with the moderator welcoming participants and introducing the representatives of the Knowledge Transmission Network (RTC). The RTC representatives will then jointly deliver the official launch of the “High-level Women’s leadership strengthening program”_through a two-voice presentation, highlighting the objectives, structure, and strategic relevance of the programme for strengthening women’s leadership in national statistical systems across the region. This will be followed by a round of brief reflections from representatives of NSOs, who will share perspectives on the importance of the programme and its relevance for advancing leadership development and institutional strengthening within their organizations.</p> <p><i>Final remarks from moderator</i></p>
<p>14h04 – 14:24 (20 minutes)</p>	<p>Dynamic activity: Leading through diversity</p> <p>Now we will move into a short dynamic activity as part of the Leadership Programme—an invitation to experience the course approach and facilitation style firsthand. It’s a quick preview of the learning dynamic that will guide the programme you’ve just been introduced to.</p> <p>Moderator: Grupo Minerva</p> <p><u>Outline:</u> Participants complete a quick learning-styles check (traditional vs. agile) and then explore, through short hypothetical scenarios, how different approaches complement each other when solving organizational challenges. The activity highlights both the benefits and the leadership challenges of managing diverse thinking styles, linking the discussion to the core competencies needed to lead heterogeneous teams effectively.</p>
<p>14:24-14:30 (6 minutes)</p>	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Shaida Badiee, Director Open Data Watch (3 mins)</i> • <i>Karen García, Statistician, Gender Affairs Division, Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (3 mins)</i>

Short Bios for speakers

	<p>Papa Alioune Seck, Chief of UN Women’s Research and Data Section</p> <p>Papa Alioune Seck is the Chief of UN Women’s Research and Data Section. He leads the organization’s agenda on research, data and statistics, and technology and innovation. He also oversees Women Count, UN Women’s global gender data programme. Since joining UN Women in 2009, Papa has co-authored several editions of UN Women’s flagship reports and contributed to various other research products. Prior to joining UN Women, Papa worked in UNDP’s Human Development Report (HDR) Office, co-authoring three global HDRs and a book on risk, vulnerability and human development.</p>
	<p>Elena Manzanera Díaz, President of the National Statistical Institute, Spain</p> <p>She holds the position of President of the NSI in Spain since August 2022. Graduate in Economics and Business Sciences from the University of Seville. She entered the Senior Statisticians Body of the Junta de Andalucía by competitive examination in 1994 and has a Doctoral program in “Methodology and Analysis of the Andalusian Economy” in the Department of Applied Economics II of the Faculty of Economics and Business Sciences of the University of Seville. She previously carried out a variety of functions at the Statistical and Cartography Institute of Andalusia, including the post of Director. She was Head of the Studies Service of the General Directorate of Andalusian Studies and head of the Tourism Planning and Analysis Service in the General Directorate of Tourism Planning.</p>
	<p>Laura Vázquez Maggio is the Director General of Integration, Analysis, and Research at INEGI.</p> <p>She holds a PhD in Social Sciences and Economics from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Australia, and a Bachelor’s degree in Economics with honors from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). She is also a professor at the Faculty of Economics at UNAM, where she teaches undergraduate courses in Development Economics and Economic Theory, as well as research methodology at the graduate level. She has been a member of Mexico’s National System of Researchers (SNI) since 2016. Her work has been primarily interdisciplinary, spanning the fields of economics, development, and migration, and has been published in various academic journals. Her most recent book (2025), co-authored with Francisco Reyes, is an updated socio-statistical study that maps the size, diversity, and political influence of Mexican communities across the United States.</p>



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Leesha Delatie-Budair is the Director General of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN).

Appointed in September 2025, and brings over two decades of experience in official statistics. Her leadership has been central to modernising Jamaica’s statistical systems and aligning them with international standards.

She previously served as Deputy Director-General and Director of Research, Design and Evaluation (RD&E), where she led national efforts to strengthen Jamaica’s statistical infrastructure and advance methodological innovation.

On the global stage, Leesha serves as Jamaica’s National Focal Point for SDG Indicators and has contributed as a member of the UN Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). She is also a lead chapter author on the UN Steering Committee for the revision of the Handbook on Household Surveys.

Leesha holds a Master of Science in Economic Development Policy from the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, along with a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Statistics. She completed advanced training in survey sampling at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and is a member of the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS).

Widely respected for her strategic vision and technical expertise, Leesha continues to champion data-driven development, strengthened statistical governance, and global collaboration to support high-quality, timely, and trusted official statistics.



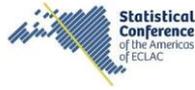
Tiina Luige is Director of the Statistical Division of the UNECE.

Tiina Luige is an Estonian national with 30 years of experience in official statistics at international level. Before joining the UNECE, Ms. Luige worked in the Tallinn Technical University as a lecturer and pursued PhD studies.

Tiina Luige joined the UNECE Statistical Division in 1995 where she has been working in different Sections dealing with economic, social, environment, and multi-domain statistics, and statistical modernization. Her work has covered a wide range of statistical activities, especially in her role as the Secretary of the Conference of European Statisticians – the governing body in statistics at the UNECE. Since 1. January 2024 Ms Luige is Director of the Statistical Division of the UNECE.



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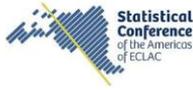
Marcelo Bisogno is currently the Director of the National Statistical Institute (INE) of Uruguay and the president of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

He was Executive Directors for Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay of the IDB and the IIC/BID Invest (2007-2020). He was the Dean of the Board of Directors of the IDB (2017-2018) and the IIC (2017-2020) and Chairman of the: Budget and Financial Policies Committee (IDB) 2013, Policy and Evaluation Committee (IDB) 2008, Audit Committee (IDB) 2012-2013, Committee of the Board of Executive Directors (IIC) 2015 and Audit committee (IIC) 2019-2020. He was previously Sr. Advisor for Uruguay to the Executive Director for Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Paraguay and Uruguay at the World Bank (2005-2006). Mr. Bisogno worked as a staff of both the World Bank (1994-2005) and the IDB (1992-94). At the World Bank he was Sr. Economist for the Development Economics (DEC) department and Country Economist for: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and the Slovak Republic, Europe and Central Asia vice-presidency (ECA).

Mr. Bisogno holds a Bachelor's degree from the Universidad de la Republica in Uruguay (UDELAR). He came to the United States as a Fulbright scholar. He has a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Kansas where he is also a PhD candidate. He has taught economics, statistics and financial mathematics both in Uruguay and at the University of Kansas. He has published several research papers in journals such as: European Economic Review, Economics of Transition and World Development. More recently, he has consulted for the United Nations, ALIDE, the IDB and ECLAC, in the areas of Multilateral Development Banks' strategies, financing and capitalization.



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Ms. Diana Castillo has served as the Director General of the Statistical Institute of Belize since August of 2020.

The first female to hold this position since its establishment. She has been a part of the Institute for the past 16 years, starting her career within the organization as a senior Statistician in the Economic Statistics Department, then serving as Manager of the SIB's newly established Data Dissemination department, before moving on to the position of Deputy Director General.

In her five years at the head of the SIB, she has overseen numerous major projects for the SIB, including the conduct of the 2022 Population and Housing Census, execution of the 2024 MICS7 survey, development and launch of the country's second National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, and securing of funding for the "Enabling of Belize's Statistical System" project. The latter is the largest ever grant received for the strengthening of the NSS in Belize, and included an unprecedented USD \$600,000 earmarked for scholarships for staff of the Institute. Under her leadership, the SIB's statistical work program has also been expanded to include new data products, and methodologies have been updated and improved.

Ms. Castillo has been working in the field of statistics for the past twenty-six years, having served in various capacities at the Central Bank of Belize and Ministry of Education. She holds a Master of Arts Degree in Applied Economics with a specialization in human resource economics from Ohio University and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from the University of South Florida.