

# Measuring Social Cohesion: The Role of Normative Choices in Indicator Design

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# Outline

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- I. Are **choices** underlying measurement design **normative**?
- II. Normative choices: levels and **desiderata**.
- III. Example of measurement of social cohesion at the ‘**macro**’ level:  
Social Sustainability Global Data Base.
- IV. Example of measurement of social cohesion at the ‘**micro**’ level:  
Multidimensional Exclusion.

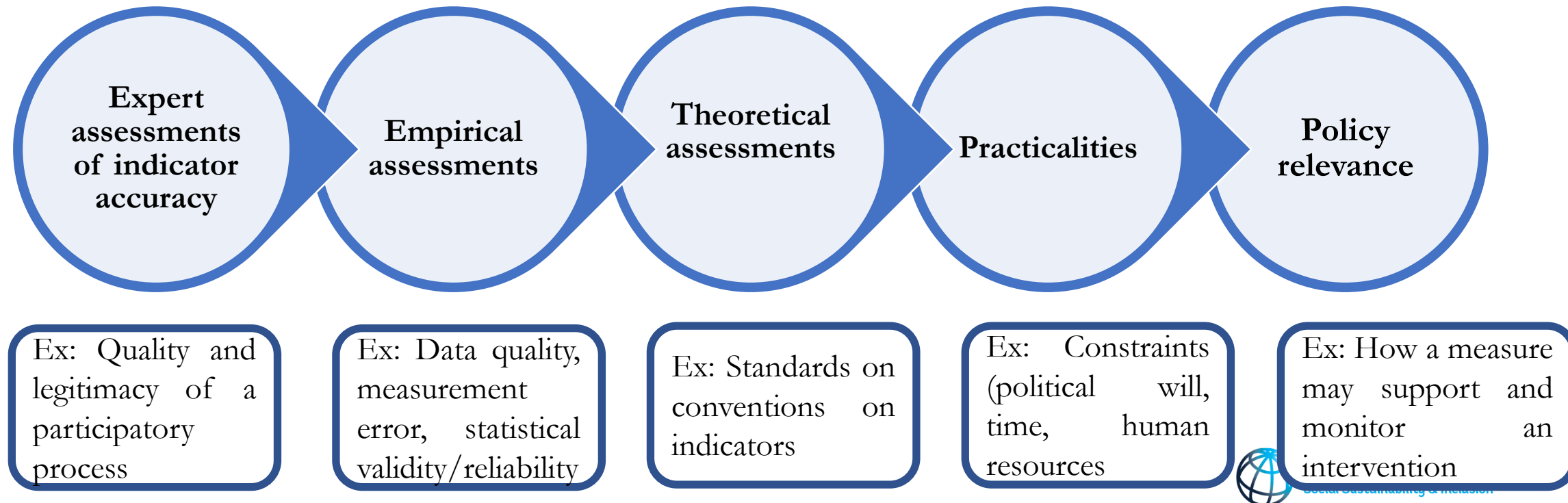
# I. Are choices underlying measurement design normative?

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- If **data** are **constrained** and exactly one variable exists, in what sense is its selection normative?
- Similarly, if an indicator is **redundant** or invalid according to statistical assessments, how is its **deselection normative**?
- And if an **experts** judges that one indicator of social cohesion is more **accurate** than another, in what way is a **choice** in its favour normative?

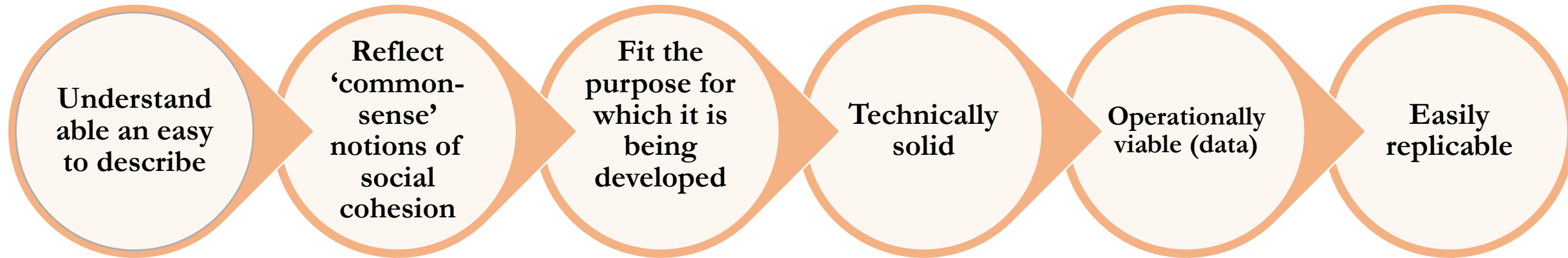
## II. Normative Choices Operate at Various Levels..

- At a **higher** meta-level, normative assessments draw upon different kinds of analyses: statistical, axiomatic, deliberative, practical, and policy-oriented, and include:



# ...leading to a Plural Desiderata for a Measure.

- Alkire, *et al* (2015) building on the recommendations of the Mexican Commission for designing a 'new' poverty measure (Székely, 2005) propose the **following criteria** when designing social indicators



# III. 'Social Sustainability Global Database and Dashboard

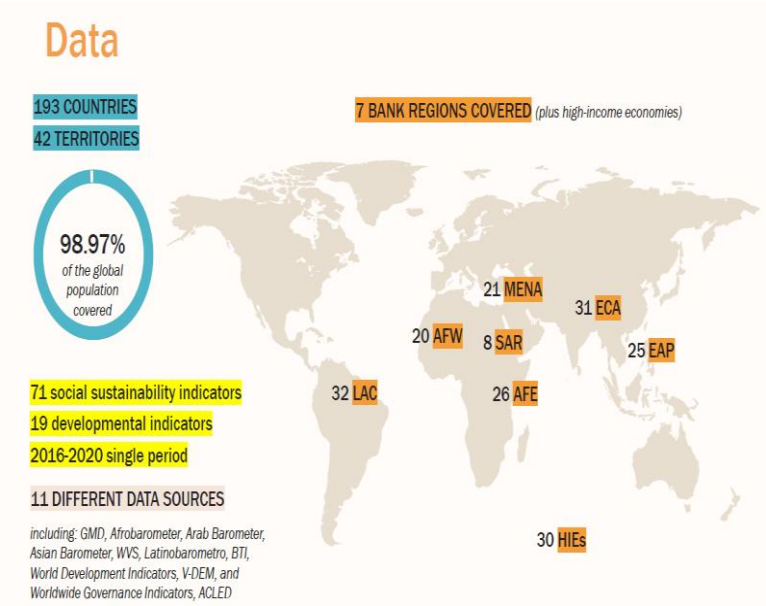
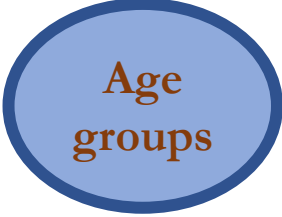








Tableau: 3 types of analytics - unpacked



# III. Social Sustainability Global Database: Social Cohesion and Social Capital

VARIABLES	OBSERVATIONS	BY GROUPS						SOURCE
								
<b>SOCIAL COHESION</b>								
Share of population that feels insecure in their neighborhood	85	X	X	X		X	X	WVS
Share of population for which racist behavior is frequent in their neighborhood	74	X	X	X		X	X	WVS
Share of population that participates in voluntary associations or community groups	43	X	X	X	X	X	X	Barometers/WVS
<b>SOCIAL CAPITAL</b>								
Share of population that say that most people can be trusted	86	X	X	X		X	X	Barometers/WVS
Share of population that mention they would NOT like to have as neighbors: "Homosexuals"	73	X	X	X		X	X	WVS
Share of population that say has confidence in the government	84	X	X	X		X	X	Barometers/WVS
Share of population that say has confidence in the police	85	X	X	X		X	X	Barometers/WVS

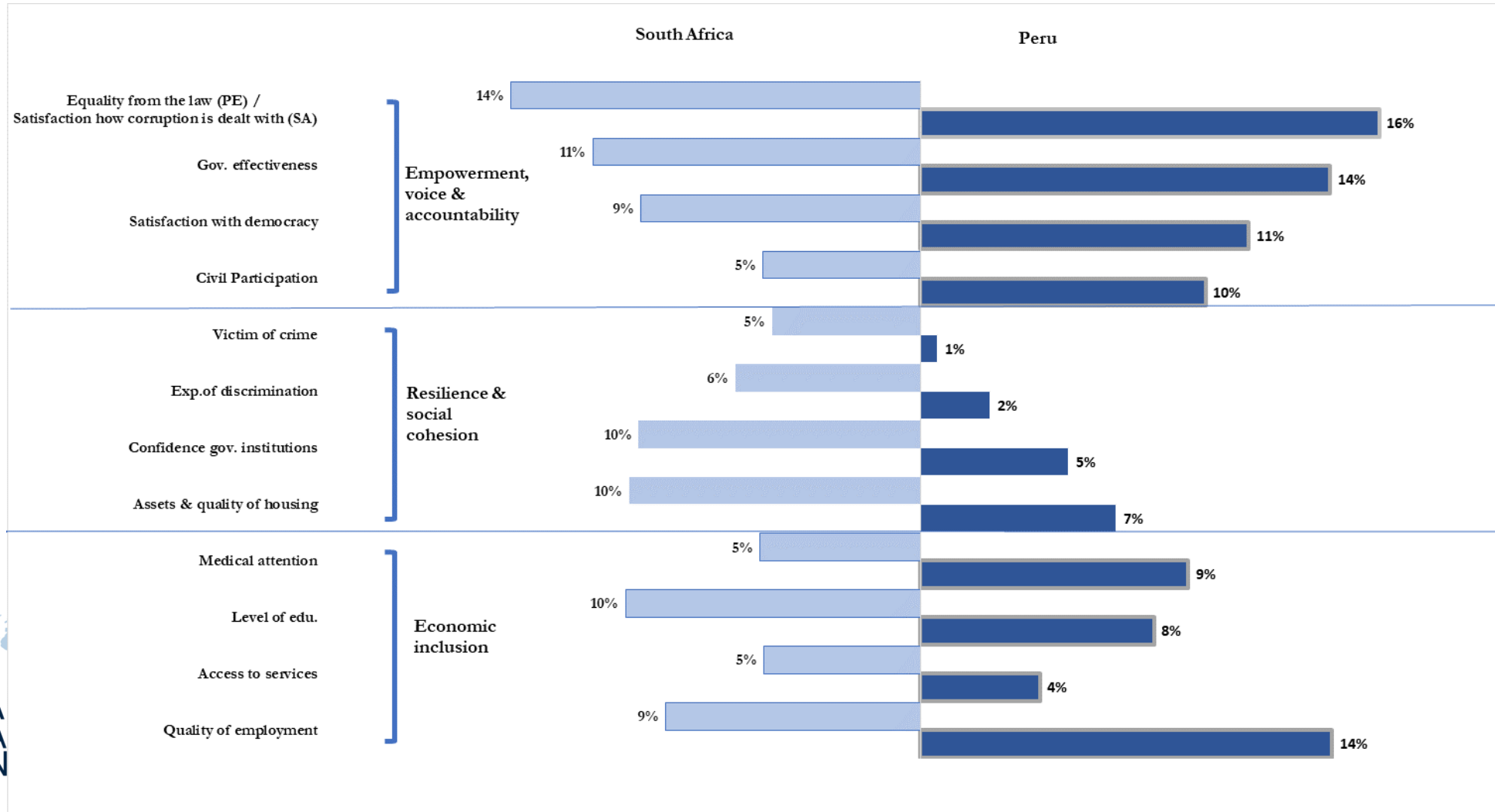
# IV. Multidimensional Exclusion: Efforts to ‘Harmonise’

- Applies a Counting Approach Methodology (Alkire and Foster 2011) to measure exclusion in **three dimensions: economic inclusion, resilience and social cohesion**, and empowerment voice and accountability. Uses microdata from Peru, and South Africa.

Dimension	Indicator <sup>(a)</sup>	Peru	South Africa
		Excluded if the person...	Excluded if the person...
Resilience and Social Cohesion	Resilience Possession of assets & quality of housing	lives in a household that has inadequate floor/roof/walls <sup>(b)</sup> , or is in the bottom third of the asset ownership distribution	lives in a household that has inadequate floor/roof/walls (a), or is in the bottom third of the asset ownership distribution
	Confidence on government institutions	lives in a household where at least one member has low confidence on government institutions	lives in a household where at least one member <b>distrusts</b> the national government
	Social Cohesion Experience of discrimination	lives in a household where at least one member has been discriminated against	feels they are in a group that is discriminated against
	Victim of crime	lives in a household where at least one member has been victim of a crime	lives in a household where one person has experienced burglary or assault in the past 5 years



# IV. Drivers of Multidimensional Exclusion



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# Thanks.



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