



# UNEG AGM 2013 Decisions

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## 1. UNEG Strategy (the way forward):

- A Working Group was formed to draft a mid-term UNEG Strategy to be discussed at an extraordinary UNEG meeting in September/October 2013. The final decision on the Strategy will be made at this meeting.

### A. The UNEG Independent Assessment Report:

- The AGM took note of the Assessment Report.

### B. Strategy Working Group:

- Members will include: UNCDF, ITC, WHO, UNRWA, and UNEG Bureau
- There were several agencies volunteered to help drafting the strategy in specific areas if requested. These were: UNICEF, UNDP, OCHA, UN Women, GEF and ECE.
- The Working Group will use the assessment report, the options paper and the initial “the way forward” document distributed at the AGM as the basis of its work, and take into account the discussions that took place at the AGM 2013.
- It was also discussed that the value-added, complementarity and appropriate workstreams on humanitarian evaluation issues should be reflected appropriately in the Strategy.
- The Working Group will prepare an outline of the Strategy, a Zero Draft for comments and then a First Draft to be discussed at the extraordinary meeting, at which the final decisions on the Strategy will be made. The specific timeframe will be decided by the Working Group in its first meeting in May.
- AGM also agreed on the use of resources for additional inputs/analyses for the Working Group, if needed and feasible (e.g. hiring a consultant).
- The Strategy paper should be drafted in such a way that it could be used to communicate with external audience (in particular the management). It should provide a result-based strategy (e.g. logframe, theory of change). An annual work plan or other specific strategy papers (communication, partnership, publication, etc.) should be prepared separately.
- For transparency, the outline and drafts will be posted on the UNEG intranet.

### C. The extraordinary meeting:

- UNEG members will be consulted on the options proposed in terms of time and venue. The proposals on the table were: Rome, September/October and Washington DC, the week of 7 October. Exact time and location will be confirmed after consultations with the hosting agencies.

## 2. Decisions on Task Forces

### A. Document Review & Quality Assurance

- The responsibility for quality control rests primarily with the Task Forces. UNEG Heads participating in the Task Forces are expected to play a more proactive role in ensuring the quality of the draft documents before wider circulation to all UNEG Heads.

- The final quality-controlled draft will be circulated to all UNEG Heads, who will be given two weeks to comment.
- Once the comments from UNEG Heads above are appropriately reflected in the draft, the Task Force can consider it final.
- Once the Task Force finalized the draft as above, it can submit it to the secretariat for processing.
- The UNEG Secretariat is primarily responsible (as resources permit) for copy editing, design and formatting, printing and distribution.
- This process applies to the following existing draft publications:
  - Handbook on Evaluating Normative Work by the Evaluation of Normative Work Task Force. Proposed timeline: full review by the UNEG heads in May 2013; small working group among the Task Force members to finalize it in June 2013.
  - Human Rights and Gender Equality Guidance Document by the Human Rights and Gender Equality Task Force. Proposed timeline: finalization of the document by June 2013.
  - Guidance Note on Impact Evaluation for the UN by the Impact Evaluation Task Force.
  - Resource Pack on Joint Evaluations by the Joint Evaluation Task Force. Proposed timeline: complete the Resource Pack (including a guidance document and a tool kit) by mid-2013; piloting during 2013 to mid-2014; revision and finalization by the end of 2014.

## B. Other decisions on Task Forces

### Human Rights and Gender Equality Task Force

- UNEG endorsed the piloting of the SWAP indicator.

### Impact Evaluation Task Force

- UNEG Secretariat will establish a Community of Practice on impact evaluation.

### National Evaluation Capacity Development Task Force

- The Task Force is requested to propose an action plan before the summer (date to be decided) so that it can be taken into account in drafting the UNEG Strategy as appropriate.

### EPE

- EPE will continue to be organized alongside with the AGM.
- The venue, length and themes to be determined based on the plan for other events during the week. It will not be limited to the standard two-day EPE format.

### Joint Evaluation Task Force

- *UNDAF subgroup* was requested to submit its work plan in the form of a project proposal with a resource plan as applicable.
- AGM endorsed the way forward proposed by the *Joint Evaluation subgroup* on the Resource Pack on Joint Evaluations (complete the Resource Pack by mid-2013; piloting during 2013 to mid-2014; revision and finalization by the end of 2014).

### Peer Review Task Force

- UNEG endorsed the continuation of the Peer Review Task Force and the current form of partnership with DAC Evalnet in this regard.

- The role of the peer-review mechanism will be considered in the new UNEG Strategy, also taking into account such issues as the funding arrangement and the role of the Secretariat.
- The co-chairs will be Margareta de Goys (UNIDO) and Indran Naidoo (UNDP), replacing Rob D. van den Berg (GEF).

#### Norms and Standards Task Force

- On the Issues Paper, the AGM asked the Task Force to make clearer recommendations on the way forward.
- The AGM expressed a strong caution in revising the norms and standards at this moment, especially in the light of the GA resolution having made reference to them and the on-going policy formulation process on SWE.
- The Task Force was nevertheless invited to finalize the Issues Paper soon so that its recommendations could feed into the drafting of the UNEG Strategy.
- Bert Keuppens (UNESCO) will step down from the TF chair position.

#### Knowledge Management Working Group

- The priority was attached to work on the Communities of Practice (CoPs). As a starting point, impact evaluation, evaluation of normative work and decentralized evaluation could be considered as themes for CoP discussions.
- On evaluation database, an interest was expressed by UNAIDS to pursue this initiative. The AGM requested a project proposal to be submitted, prepared in consultation with the UNEG Secretariat.
- The AGM did not consider the UNEG Roster of consultants to be a priority.
- Each member agency should confirm or update their KM focal points to liaise with the Secretariat and the KM Working Group.

### **3. 2015 International Year of Evaluation**

- UNEG endorsed the concept of 2015 International Year of Evaluation
- UNEG Bureau will come up with a concept note and have discussions with UNEG Heads.
- UNEG will try to have the UN General Assembly endorse 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation.

### **4. Coordination between audit and evaluation functions**

- It was informed that some interested agencies (especially the ones co-located with audit function) are having informal discussions on issues surrounding collaboration between the audit and evaluation functions.
- If a formal statement to UN-RIAS from UNEG is needed, the UNEG Chair will share the proposal and get feedback from all UNEG members.

### **5. A letter from UNEG Chair to DAC Evalnet Chair**

- DAC Evalnet members has been conducting assessments and writing reports on multilateral organizations (including several UNEG members). However these exercises have often not been done within an appropriate framework. A letter from the UNEG Chair to the DAC

Evalnet Chair will be prepared to express the concerns and the UNEG position on this matter. Colin Kirk (UNICEF) will draft the letter with support from Rob D. van den Berg (GEF).

## 6. Membership and Observer Status Requests

- The applications and requests will be put on hold until the Strategy and criteria are decided.

## 7. Chair and vice-Chair Election

- The elections will be henceforth held with electronic means only, the results of which will be considered official.
- The UNEG Chair and the Vice-Chair would need to be elected. On the timing of this election, two options were put on the table as below. This needs to be decided by UNEG Heads.
  - Option 1: Organize an e-vote in the coming weeks following the AGM.
  - Option 2: Organize an e-vote after the envisaged extraordinary UNEG meeting to finalize the new Strategy, allowing the current Chair and Vice-Chair to carry through the UNEG reform process.
- The AGM provided the mandate to the incumbent Chair and Vice-Chair to continue in their positions until the next election is held.

## 8. Next AGM Venue and Time

- No consensus was reached on the venue. Several options put forward had received supports from more than a few member agencies. These were Geneva, Bonn, and a field location such as Bangkok or Addis Ababa. Further consultations will be held on this issue involving a wider range of UNEG Heads (including those who were not present).

## 9. The Role of the Secretariat

- Additional responsibilities placed on the Secretariat included:
  - Processing of publications, including copy editing, formatting, printing and distribution.
  - Creating and maintaining the infrastructure for the Communities of Practice.
  - Holding formal electronic elections as need arises.
  - Supporting the work of the Strategy Working Group.
  - Refurbishment and modernization of the UNEG website.
- The Secretariat will also respond to the need to enhance communications and continue to provide operational support as resource allows.

## 10. QCPR and system-wide evaluation

- UNEG is a member of the interim coordination mechanism (ICM) for system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development of the United Nations System (GA resolution 67/226). The ICM secretariat (DESA) and the consultant who is drafting the policy paper will approach UNEG members individually for interviews/consultations. No UNEG consensus will be needed.