

2017 UNEG Evaluation Week High-Level Event

Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world

Date: Tuesday, 16 May, 2017

Time: 3:00-5:00 (Reception to follow)

Location: BR-A, Vienna International Center, Vienna

Introduction

The 2017 Evaluation Week will take place in Vienna between 15th and 19th May, 2017, with support of the Vienna-based UNEG member organizations.¹ Each year, the Evaluation Week provides a unique forum for UNEG members to get together once a year, face-to-face, to share and exchange latest activities, best practices and lessons and knowledge in evaluation. It is also an important business platform, where the Group's strategy and work plans are discussed with a view to setting the course for the upcoming year.

One of the key features of the Evaluation Week is the 'High-Level Event,' where a group of prominent development thinkers and practitioners are invited to discuss and directly engage UNEG members on issues of critical importance to today's development agenda. The High-Level Event at the 2017 Evaluation Week will focus on the subject: **"Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing World."** This topic corresponds to the theme of the 2017 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, convened every year under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. The HLPF is a central platform for following up and reviewing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).²

During the High-Level Event at UNEG's Evaluation Week, the participants will focus on the following specific SDG areas, as in the HLPF, which is expected to contribute to the further debate and discussions at the remaining Evaluation Week, as well as to the HLPF in 2017.

- Goal 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere (No Poverty)
- Goal 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (Zero Hunger)
- Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (Good Health and Well-Being)
- Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (Gender Equality);
- Goal 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)
- Goal 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (Life Below Water)

¹ Currently, there are four UNEG member agencies based in Vienna (and no observers): IAEA, UNIDO, UNODC, and CTBTO.

² For more information about the HLPF, pls visit <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>.

- Any other relevant topics (e.g. Humanitarian, decentralized, SWAP, culture, etc.)

The participants will present and discuss their own unique experience and practices in the relevant subject areas, including the critical role of evaluation and monitoring in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The key questions to be discussed include:

- What is the role of evaluation in achieving those SDG goals? What are some of the key opportunities, challenges, good practices and lessons learned?
- How do we ensure that the SDGs are properly reviewed/ evaluated in each country, engaging all relevant stakeholders?

Speakers

Welcome remarks

- Executive Director of one or more Vienna-based UN agency
- Marco Segone, UNEG Chair; Director, UN Women Independent Evaluation Office

Panelists

- **Peter Thomson**, President of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly; Permanent Representative of Fiji to the UN (to be confirmed)
- **Heidi Mendoza**, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services
- **Rachid Benmokhtar Benabdellah**, Minister of Education and Vocational Training of Morocco and President of National Observatory of Human Development
- **Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal**, Director General of Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Austria
- **Natalia Nikitenko**, Member of Parliament, Kyrgyzstan
- **Kelly McCarthy**, Director at the Global Impact Investing Network

Format

The event will employ a ‘talk show format,’ where the Chair will facilitate the individual presentations by the participants and the general, open discussions with the audience. The event will be live webcast and video-taped.

Audience

The audience will include the UN evaluation community, decision makers, and stakeholders from inside and outside the UN.

Who we are

The [United Nations Evaluation Group \(UNEG\)](#) is a professional network that brings together the offices responsible for evaluation in the UN system, including the specialized agencies, funds, programmes and affiliated organizations. UNEG currently has 47 such members and 3 observers. UNEG aims to foster independence, credibility and usefulness of the evaluation function across the UN system, promote the importance of evaluation for learning, decision-making and accountability, and support the evaluation community in the UN system and beyond.