

Strengthening and Harmonizing National Evaluation Capacities and capabilities among UNEG members

EPE Session NECD Working Group

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Session Objectives:

1-To move UNEG's NECD efforts from fragmented commitments to coherent, coordinated, and action-oriented strategies, by:

- Clarify UNEG's collective role in supporting NECD beyond policy intentions.
- Identify gaps and fragmentation in current NECD approaches and practices.
- Generate actionable recommendations to inform way forward and possibly a UNEG-wide NECD strategy, fostering national ownership, system-wide coordination, and sustainable evaluation capabilities.

2- Propose actionable recommendations for UNEG to:

- Strengthen coordination and reduce fragmentation.
- Align NECD efforts with national priorities through demand-driven approaches.
- Define clear roles and comparative advantages of UNEG members.

3- Lay the foundation for a -potential- UNEG NECD Strategy that promotes coherence, sustainability, and measurable results.



Setting the stage: Strengthening and Harmonizing National Evaluation Capacities and Capabilities Approaches among UNEG members

UN resolution A/RES/69/237 adopted 19 December 2014 stating:

The general Assembly :

- *Invites the entities of the United Nations development system, with the collaboration of national and international stakeholders, to support, upon request, efforts to further strengthen the capacity of Member States for evaluation, in accordance with their national policies and priorities;*

UN resolution A/RES/77/283 adopted 26 April 2023

- *Confirming that evaluations can inform, complement, and enrich the Voluntary National Reviews, explain the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (or lack thereof), and generate lessons on what needs to change to fast-track the achievement of the Goals,*
- *Confirming that evaluations can inform, complement, and enrich the Voluntary National Reviews, explain the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (or lack thereof), and generate lessons on what needs to change to fast-track the achievement of the Goals,*
- *Emphasizing that Country-led Evaluations of the Sustainable Development Goals implementation are instrumental in providing timely and credible evidence to regain and accelerate progress towards Agenda 2030 and its principles, especially Leave no one behind,*
- *Encourages all Member States to present regular Voluntary National Reviews with a Country-led Evaluation component as deemed relevant and useful at the country level in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, in line with the principles of the 2030 Agenda, taking into consideration that follow-up and review processes at all levels will be voluntary and country-led;*



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Key concepts:

- *Capacities: the skills and assets at individual, organizational, and institutional levels. Refer to a potential.*
- *Capabilities The ability to put these capacities (assets) in motion to actually deliver results and transformational changes. Refer to a system approach and demand-driven to NECB.*
- To enhance national evaluation capabilities, more attention needs to be paid to the Machinery of Government and Public Administration Systems, such as:
 - Strategic planning and policy making
 - Performance management and learning
 - Budgeting, resource allocation, and spending
 - Human resource management
 - Regulation
 - Accountability and transparency
 - Risk management and preparedness
 - Citizen's engagement and public trust
 - Legislative oversight and supreme audit institution oversights



Current situation - Presence of NECD in UNEG Evaluation Policies

No commitment to NECD (28)		Incidental commitment to NECD (5)	Medium commitment to NECD (9)	High commitment to NECD (5)
CTBTO	PBSO 2022	GCF 2021	UNAIDS 2019	UN Women 2020
DGACM	UNDESA 2021	ITC 2015	UNCTAD 2023	UNDP 2019 (UNV & UNCDF)
DPO	UNDPA	ILO 2017	UNECE 2021	UNFPA 2019; 2024
ECLAC 2011	UNECA 2014	UNESCO 2022	UNEP 2022	UNICEF 2023
GEF 2019	UNESCAP 2023	UNHCR 2022	UNIDO 2021	WFP 2022
FAO 2010	UNESCWA 2017		UNITAR 2021	
IAEA 2011	UN-Habitat 2013		UNODC 2022	
ICAO 2021	UNICRI 2015		UNRWA 2022	
ICC	UNOCT 2021		WHO 2018	
IFAD 2021	WIPO 2016			
IOM 2018	WMO 2023			
OCHA 2012	WTO			
OHCHR (N.D)				
OIOS				
OPCW 2012				
PAHO				



Key challenges with UNEG NECD Evaluation Policies

Challenges:

- UNEG member policies on NECD often lack a robust evidence base, with interventions not informed by thorough diagnostics of national evaluation systems.
- Few countries have conducted comprehensive evaluation capacity assessments, resulting in interventions that may address assumed rather than actual gaps in national evaluation systems.
- Current NECD efforts are mainly supply-driven, despite UNGA resolutions calling for member state-led support, leading to potential mismatches in priorities.
- Fragmentation exists at both UNEG member and intervention focus levels, with limited coordination and inconsistent implementation at global, regional, national, and sectoral levels.
- There is a lack of evaluation and assessment of NECD activities, making it difficult to understand their effectiveness, impact, and areas for improvement.
- Emerging evaluation issues, such as gender-responsive and culturally sensitive evaluation, are often missing in current policies, risking the development of non-responsive and inclusive evaluation systems.
- Limited funding for NECD hampers the ability to implement interventions effectively, highlighting the need for dedicated financial resources to support these efforts.



WORLD CAFÉ TABLES



Closing and Next Steps

Facilitators: NECD WG

13:30-13:45

13:45- 14:30 Setting the stage: Transition to World Café table – 15 minutes (x 3)

- **Rapporteurs Share Key Takeaways** (*5 min*)
 - Each table's rapporteur presents **key discussion insights** and **proposed actions**.
 - Facilitators highlight **cross-cutting themes, challenges, and next steps**.
- **14:45 - Interactive Q&A and Reflection** (*20 min*)
 - Participants reflect on **how their perspectives shifted** after engaging in role play.
 - UNEG members discuss **how to integrate these insights into their agencies' strategies**.

Next Steps

- **Summarize Key Insights**
 - Reaffirm the **importance of moving beyond commitments to implementation**.
 - Highlight the role of **country-led diagnostics, harmonized NECD efforts, and sustainable funding models**.
 - UNEG NECD strategy for 2025 Work plan of NECD WG?



INSTRUCTIONS Table 1: Distinguishing Evaluation Capabilities (NECpD) from Capacities (NECD) & Harmonizing UNEG Approaches

Facilitator: NECD WG

Objective: Clarify the distinction between evaluation capacity building and evaluation capability strengthening, and develop a shared framework for NECpD across UNEG members.

Role Play Characters:

- Ministry of Planning Official (seeking clarity on UNEG's role in national evaluation development)
- UN HQ Evaluation Office Representative (focused on supporting system strengthening)
- Multilateral Development Partner (interested in funding for sustainable evaluation systems)
- CSO Representative (advocating for participatory and culturally relevant governance and evaluation systems).

Guiding Questions:

1. How do we distinguish evaluation capacity building from capability strengthening?
2. What are the gaps in UNEG's current NECD approaches?
3. How can UNEG promote a shared framework for NECD across agencies?
4. What should be the minimum standards or principles for NECD?



INSTRUCTIONS Table 2: Moving from a Supply-Driven to a Demand-Driven NECD Approach

Facilitator: NECD WG

Objective: Discuss how UNEG members can shift from a supply-driven model—where NECD efforts are donor- or agency-led—to a demand-driven approach, where national governments take ownership of evaluation systems, and where capacities and capabilities building are driven by national systems needs.

Role Play Characters:

- **National Evaluation Office Director** (wants evaluations that serve national priorities)
- **UN Resident Coordinator** (concerned about aligning UN evaluation support with government needs)
- **Development Partner Representative** (interested in pooling resources to support country-led diagnostics)
- **National Evaluation Association (VOPE) Leader** (advocating for strengthening domestic evaluation ecosystems)

Guiding Questions:

- Why are many NECD efforts still driven by **external supply rather than national demand & needs**, what are the key drivers?
- How can UNEG members **support national governments to lead** their own evaluation diagnostics and NECD action plans?
- How can UNEG agencies ensure their **evaluation strategies respond to country needs rather than institutional mandates**?
- What mechanisms (e.g., UNSDCF, joint funding, regional partnerships) can help **shift evaluation from donor-driven to nationally owned**?
- How can national evaluation diagnostics be used to generate **policy-relevant evidence that drives demand for evaluation**?



INSTRUCTIONS Table 3: Strengthening National Leadership & Ensuring Sustainable Resource Allocation for NECD

Facilitator: NECD WG

Objective: Identify strategies for UNEG members to ensure governments take leadership in evaluation and allocate sustainable and predictable resources for NECD/NECpD.

Role Play Characters:

- **Ministry of Finance Representative** (concerned about integrating evaluation into national budgeting)
- **Country UN Evaluation Specialist** (advocating for UNEG's role in mobilizing funds for NECD) or
- **Regional UN Evaluation Specialist** (advocating for UNEG's role in mobilizing funds for NECD)
- **Regional Development Bank Representative** (interested in evaluation funding models)
- **VOPE Leader** (highlighting the importance of national evaluation standards)

Guiding Questions:

- How can UNEG ensure national governments take **leadership** in evaluation processes?
- How can governments –and UN mobilized resources - encouraged to **allocate sustainable funding** for NECD?
- What mechanisms (e.g., minimum 10% evaluation budget allocation, pooled funding) can be used to **increase NECD resources**?
- How can UNEG members **collaborate with development partners** (regional banks, VOPEs, academia) to support long-term NECD investments?

