



United Nations
Sustainable Development Group
System-Wide Evaluation Office



IEO | Independent
Evaluation
Office
United Nations Development Programme

unicef 
for every child



ANNOUNCEMENT : Side Event May 21 1:30 – 2:30pm
Conference Room B UN Secretariat Building

From Evidence to Action: The Strategic Role of Evaluation in Achieving the SDGs

This discussion will explore how United Nations entities support Member States in strengthening the use of evidence—specifically evaluation—within national systems. National Evaluation Capacity Development (NECD) takes diverse forms, tailored to the specific needs and contexts of individual governments and parliaments. United Nations Evaluation Offices will highlight the evolution of this work, illustrating how it has brought us to the current moment: prepared and committed to foster collaboration with governments, parliaments and other regional and national stakeholders to cultivate evidence and learning for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

United Nations evaluation offices will discuss their support for strengthening national evaluation systems, in response to General Assembly resolutions 79/226 Quadrennial comprehensive policy review; 69/237 Building capacity for the evaluation of development activities at the country level; 77/283 Strengthening Voluntary National Reviews through Country-led Evaluation; and 70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The conversation will also provide an opportunity for Member States to ask questions, reflect and share their insights and experience and/or strategies to advance evaluation as a tool for achievement of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The event will be co-led by Evaluation Offices from UNDP, UNICEF, and UN Women and moderated by the UN SDG System-Wide Evaluation Office (SWEO), recently established by the United Nations Secretary-General to incentivize collective learning across the United Nations development system.

The event will ask two fundamental questions – How can evaluation and NECD efforts adapt/evolve to best respond to contribute to accelerated progress towards the Global Goals? How can we work better in partnership and through evidence, to meet the challenges of our world today?

The event seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

- Recognize evaluation's important role in national policy and programme development and oversight
- Demonstrate the evolution of United Nations evaluation capacity development efforts that have transformed from primarily skills-based training to more complex and adaptive forms of capacity support for evaluative evidence for decision-making, with a focus on systems-strengthening.
- Support the harmonization of efforts by United Nations agencies in response to government needs for national evaluation capacity development



United Nations
Sustainable Development Group
System-Wide Evaluation Office



Independent
Evaluation
Office
United Nations Development Programme



We are honored to have the following distinguished participants on the panel (see biographies attached in alphabetical order by last name):

Opening remarks and moderation

- **Andrea Cook** – Executive Director, UN System-Wide Evaluation Office

Panelists

- **Isabelle Mercier**, Director, UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, and Chair, United Nations Evaluation Group ([UNDP-IEO](#))
- **Robert McCouch**, Director of Evaluation, UNICEF and Vice Chair, United Nations Evaluation Group ([UNICEF Evaluation](#))
- **Inga Kaplan**, Chief of Independent Evaluation Service, UN Women ([UN Women Evaluation](#))

For information on national evaluation capacities efforts undertaken across the UN system and further, please click on the following links:

UNEG <https://www.unevaluation.org/work-group/national-evaluation-capacity-development-working-group>

National Evaluation Capacities Conference <https://nec.undp.org/conference/nec2024>

Global Evaluation Initiative <https://www.globalevaluationinitiative.org>

AGENDA

Time	Segment	Speakers	Notes
1:30	Arrival and Welcome	Andrea Cook	The evolution on NECD
1:30 – 1:35	Introduction and Presentation of the Key Concepts		
1:35 – 1:50	Question 1 – How has work in national evaluation capacities evolved for your organization? What role are you holding and with whom?	Andrea Cook Isabelle Mercier Inga Kaplan Robert McCouch	Individual entity's efforts to support NECD work and how they have adapted and responded to needs for evidence and evaluation
1:50 – 2:05	Question 2 – In this rapidly changing world , where do you see the main challenges for governments and NECD, and how should UN	Andrea moderates Isabelle Mercier Inga Kaplan Robert McCouch	NECD is an enabler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gender-based and inclusive evidence • availability of accessible evidence • systems-focused positioning of evidence for



United Nations
Sustainable Development Group
System-Wide Evaluation Office



Independent
Evaluation
Office
United Nations Development Programme



	evaluation offices respond?		use in policy and programming <ul style="list-style-type: none">leveraging our collective technical capacity
2:05-2:25	Questions from member states	Andrea Cook moderates	
2:25 – 2:30	Final reflections from the panelists	Andrea Cook Isabelle Mercier Robert McCouch Inga Kaplan	Importance of knowing where we are going astray and using trusted evidence to help us get back on track