Resilient National Evaluation Systems for Sustainable Development

2022 NATIONAL EVALUATION CAPACITIES CONFERENCE (NEC 2022)

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

25-28 October 2022
ITC-ILO Conference and
Training Centre, Turin, Italy

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim for a better world by 2030 and seek to end poverty, fight inequality, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. The pandemic has put these goals at risk and has led to setbacks across many countries in attaining the SDGs. Evaluation plays a key role in the implementation of the SDGs capturing lessons and also ensuring public accountability. Despite the progress, evaluation systems and capacity gaps at the national level remain a major challenge among most countries.

To tackle these issues the Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP (UNDP IEO) has organized biennial National Evaluation Capacity (NEC) conferences in partnership with governments since 2009. In 2020, UNDP IEO joined forces with the World Bank IEG and many other partners to establish the Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI).

The 2022 NEC Conference is part of this collaborative offering and will take place from **25-28 October 2022 in Turin, Italy** and will focus on the overarching theme of "Resilient National Evaluation Systems for Sustainable Development". The conference will give renewed emphasis to sharing progress and lessons learned in strengthening national evaluation systems, and how – in light of the experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic – these systems are essential for countries to "build forward better" and get back on track towards the SDGs.

Building on the momentum created by past NEC conferences, the 2022 NEC conference will provide opportunities to:

Share progress, lessons, innovations, experiences and perspectives in strengthening national monitoring and evaluation systems

Enhance the skills of those commissioning, conducting, using and advocating for evaluation

Foster existing and new parnerships to strengthen national evaluation systems, with an emphasis on south-south cooperation

Conference sessions will be organized around three intersecting strands:

- **National evaluation systems:** people, processes and systems
- **Sustainable development:** people, planet and peace (with a focus on gender equality and social inclusion); climate change governance; fragility, conflict and violence
- **Methodological innovations** for a new world

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Submission is now open for proposed presentations or panel contributions until 13 June 2022.

We are pleased to invite government officials engaged in evaluation and/or the SDG agenda and its follow-up and review processes, evaluation professionals and other evaluation stakeholders to submit abstracts.

Submission procedure

Submit proposals online, through the dedicated portal on the NEC website.

The preferred language for submissions is English, but abstracts in Spanish or French will also be considered.

Proposed topics

Submissions related to the broad theme of resilient national evaluation systems are strongly encouraged. An inexhaustive list of suggested topics is listed below.

Practical examples of interest to fellow practitioners are particularly welcome. This could include innovation (an innovative nationally-led evaluation, new methods, ways of integrating the SDGs into an evaluation); examples of recommendations informing policy or procedure (an evaluation that led to policy change, experiences of institutionalizing evaluations and policy frameworks, a discussion between an evaluator and an evaluand about how an evaluation has been used, successful stakeholder engagement, or new institutional arrangements); or of challenges faced and lessons learned.

1. Resilient national evaluation systems: people, processes and systems

- Inclusive and resilient national evaluation systems: leaving no-one behind.
- Strengthening evidence-based decision making at the country level: challenges and recommendations.
- Progress in strengthening enabling environments, national evaluation policy frameworks and institutional arrangements.
- National policies and capabilities for evidence-based planning and results-based governance.
- Overcoming challenges in institutionalizing evaluation.

- Citizen engagement in national evaluation systems.
- Evaluation makes a difference: examples of evaluations leading to change.
- Partnerships with civil society and the private sector to bolster national evaluation capacities.
- Use of evaluation and knowledge management to inform national development strategies.
- Credible national data systems for evaluating progress towards the SDGs.

2. Sustainable development: people, planet and peace

People and prosperity

- Public sector governance, evaluations and the SDGs: lessons learned and challenges faced.
- Gender equality and social inclusion to leave no-one behind: what have we learned?

- Assessing multidimensional sustainability: lessons from livelihoods and social protection programmes.
- Leaving no-one behind: gender and human-rights responsive evaluations.
- Evaluation and inequalities.

Planet

- Evaluating climate governance: dealing with risks and uncertainty.
- Energy security, climate change and sustainable development: issues, challenges and lessons learned.
- Assessing the environment and social safeguards: lessons from evaluations.
- Evaluation challenges at the intersection of the environmental and the human spheres.
- Case studies of national evaluations of the SDGs/national sustainable development policies.

Peace and partnerships

- Evaluations in the context of fragility, conflict and peace: lessons and challenges.
- Social protection and resilience: lessons from livelihoods support programmes in crisis, fragile and humanitarian contexts.
- Evaluation and governance or peacebuilding.
- Private sector partnerships and their contributions to achieving the SDGs: rhetoric and reality.
- Evaluation and the private sector.
- Evaluations and civil society organizations, think tanks and academia.

3. Evaluation methods for a new world

- Innovations in evaluation: artificial intelligence, digital and geo-spatial techniques.
- Evaluations in the time of COVID-19: challenges and lessons learned.
- Evaluation and multi-dimensional realities (migration, for example).
- Dealing with complexity in evaluations in an increasingly interconnected world.
- Evaluations and Big Data: practical challenges and lessons learned.

- Outcome mapping: managing complexities beyond the sphere of control.
- Impact evaluations for real-time decision making.
- Evaluation in crisis contexts.
- Data innovations and evaluation.
- Context, culture and diversity in evaluation.
- Complexity and evaluation of progress towards the SDGs.
- Managing politics and power in evaluation.
- Behavioral science and evaluation.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection committee will review abstracts using the following criteria:

a. Relevance: The proposed presentation should be aligned with the conference theme and one or more of the conference strands.

b. Clarity and quality: The abstract should clearly explain the example to be presented. Authors should prepare their abstracts with care, ensuring that the reader will understand the background of the issue(s), and the objectives and relevance of the proposed topic for presentation.

c. Specificity and concreteness: The abstract must present a topic that includes concrete and specific examples (a good practice, lesson learned and/or a challenge that was overcome, for example).

d. Innovation: The abstract must show an innovation or introduce a new topic or application in the field of interest.

e. Gender equality and disability rights: Speakers will be selected with diversity and inclusion in mind, to promote a broad range of perspectives.

f. Diversity: The NEC organizing team aims to give space to as many different countries and cultural viewpoints as possible.

Based on these criteria and the potential added value of abstracts to the general theme, the selection committee will select proposals, and assign themes, sessions and the presentation form. The final decisions will be conveyed by or before 31 July 2022.

Authors of selected proposals will be invited to submit a short paper (3-4 pages) to be included in a publication of the conference proceedings.

For any questions over content or any other aspect of the abstracts, please email ieo.nec@undp.org.

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