



14  
18  
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Beijing  
China

# Responsive evaluation: FOR GOVERNMENT, FOR INCLUSION, FOR THE FUTURE.



**NEC 2024** | NATIONAL EVALUATION CAPACITIES CONFERENCE  
全球国家评估能力会议

## Background

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 implementation of the SDGs can be accelerated globally through evaluation as a powerful tool that improves public accountability and contributes to positive development change.

Evaluation systems and capacity gaps at the national level, however, remain a major challenge among many countries. Since 2009, the Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP (UNDP IEO) has organized biennial National Evaluation Capacities (NEC) Conferences to tackle these issues in partnership with governments and national evaluation communities.

The 2024 NEC Conference is the eighth in the series of conferences and will be co-hosted by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) from 14 to 18 October 2024 in Yanqing District, Beijing, China.

The main theme of the 2024 NEC conference is **“Responsive Evaluation: For Government, For Inclusion, For the Future.”** This theme underscores the importance of sharing progress and lessons learned in strengthening national evaluation systems, their role in achieving the SDGs and other development goals, and how new technologies and approaches in evaluation can facilitate the achievement of these.

Conference sessions will be organized around the following sub-themes:

- **National Evaluation Systems** – Building strong evaluation systems ensuring use.
- **Inclusive Evaluation Systems** – Including citizens’ voice, alternative knowledge, evaluating complexity.
- **Future-driven Systems and Approaches** – Adapting technology, innovative approaches, synthesis and knowledge management.

## NEC 2024 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



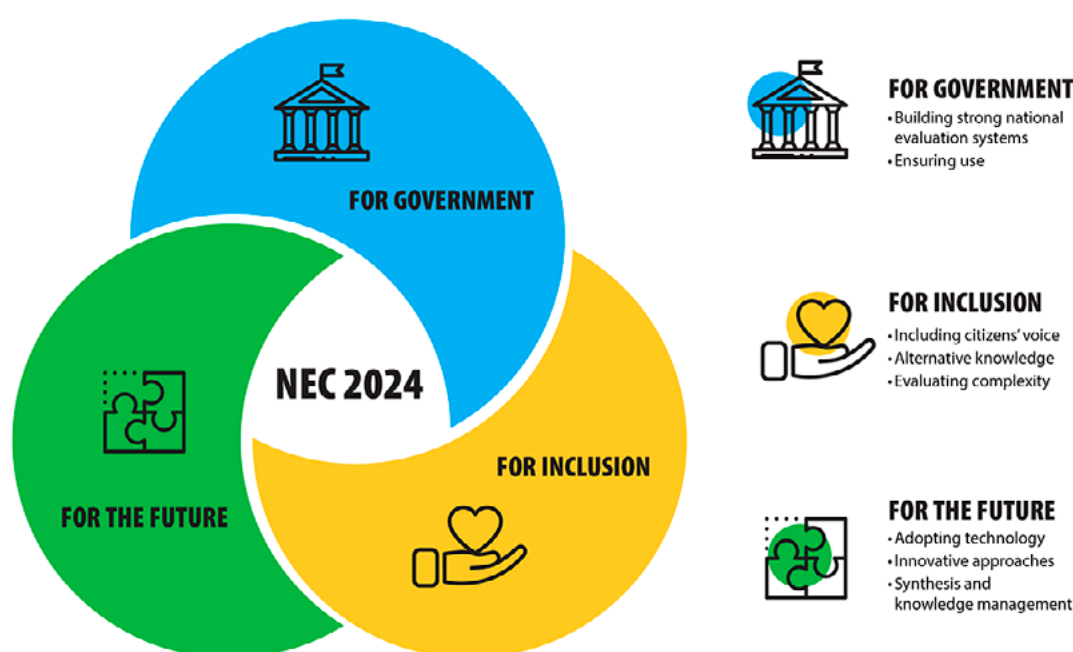
Foster existing and new partnerships to strengthen national evaluation systems, with an emphasis on South-South cooperation

## About the NEC

The first NEC Conference was held in Morocco in 2009. Since then, the Conference has been held in a different UNDP region: South Africa (2011), Brazil (2013), Thailand (2015), Türkiye (2017), Egypt (2019) and Italy (2022).

The NEC Conference has grown year on year, from 83 participants in Morocco to over 500 participants in Egypt. The 2022 NEC was smaller in size due to the COVID pandemic, but still brought together 300 participants from 103 countries with more than 1,300 participants joining sessions online.

In 2020, UNDP IEO joined forces with the World Bank Independent Evaluation Group and other partners to establish the Global Evaluation Initiative, bringing together different national evaluation capacity development initiatives under one umbrella, including the network of Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results (CLEAR) and training programmes such as the International Programme for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET). The NEC conference has been organized in collaboration with the Global Evaluation Initiative since 2022.



## Conference Format

The Conference will take place over five days between 14 and 18 October 2024. The first three days will be dedicated to the main conference (14–16 October 2024), followed by two days of post-conference professional training workshops (17–18 October 2024).

The Conference will be designed to provide participants with multiple spaces for engagement both through in-person and virtual sessions. A mix of plenary sessions and parallel strands on a range of topics will be organized, using a variety of formats including keynote speakers, paper presentations, and panel discussions, as well as innovative arrangements that facilitate more informal discussion and sharing of experiences between partners.

## Participants

The primary audience of the 2024 NEC conference is government officials from national and sub-national institutions directly and indirectly engaged with evaluation and public policy, including central planning and finance ministries, sectoral ministries, evaluation units, national statistical agencies, and supreme audit institutions. Other evaluation stakeholders include civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, UNDP and other UN agencies, international and regional financial institutions, evaluation networks, and other development partners engaged in supporting national governments with evaluation, governance, and the SDG agenda.

## Call for Abstracts



The **call for abstracts** with detailed instructions is available on the [conference website](#).

All invitees, including representatives from government and public institutions nominated by UNDP programme countries and partner institutions, are encouraged to submit an abstract on a theme related to one of the three main conference strands.

## Conference Registration and Fees

This is a 'by invitation only' conference. Conference participants are identified through UNDP country offices, regional bureaus, and partner institutions. As in the previous conferences, participants are requested to cover the costs of their participation in the Conference. Conference registration opens on 1 August 2024 and closes on 16 August 2024. There are no registration fees for the conference.

## Safety and Security at the Venue

NEC 2024 will be organized with the support of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA). The Conference will be held at the **Hyatt Regency Beijing Shiyuan, Yanqing District, Beijing**. The Yanqing District of Beijing is 90 km north-west of Beijing, 1.5 to 2 hours from the city of Beijing and the Beijing Capital International Airport.

## Bursary Programme

The availability of a financial aid/ bursary fund is, unfortunately, very limited this year. UNDP will establish a bursary fund on a limited scale, which will be earmarked particularly for those representing national institutions responsible for evaluations, policy making, and the work related to the SDGs.

Bursary applicants will be invited to submit an abstract on a topic related to the conference theme, accompanied by a statement of interest explaining how the conference and training programme will contribute to their current work in strengthening the national evaluation system.

## Contacts

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