The theme of the [**8th National Evaluation Capacities (NEC) Conference**](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnec.undp.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cfumika.ouchi%40undp.org%7C688eccec7aaa4394c11408dc866289a2%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C638533006444424862%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=30pZwg8whIfFnDXQ5n%2BcKAKELrEXX7F0oHrsqUIXpGU%3D&reserved=0) is ***“Responsive Evaluation: For Government, For Inclusion, For the Future.*** This 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 the SDGs. The Conference will take place in Beijing, China, from 14th to 18th October 2024. The first three days (14th -16th October) will be dedicated to the main conference, followed by a two-day post-conference training workshop (17th & 18th October 2024).

Session proposals are welcome and should be targeted at the primary audience of the 2024 NEC conference, **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, supreme audit institutions. Other evaluation stakeholders, include the **civil society, academia, private sector, UNDP and UN agencies and partner staff** engaged in supporting national governments on evaluation, governance and/or the SDG agenda.

**Session Guidelines**

1. Session topics should be linked to the overall conference theme and/or the three strands of [2024 NEC](https://nec.undp.org/conference/nec2024).
2. Session design should primarily focus on the needs of government participants, although session participants may come from a range of evaluation stakeholder groups.
3. Session moderator and panelists/speakers should include a good mix of stakeholder groups especially from the government and/ or other stakeholder groups. All panels should have a gender balance.
4. Session presentations should include practical examples of interest, experiences, best practices, issues and challenges relevant to fellow practitioners with potential to trigger a good discussion on the topic.
5. Presentations should be short, in the conference PowerPoint template (to be shared), visually attractive, convey key messages, and be made available with links to additional resource materials in advance of the conference. These will be made available to the participants during the conference and on the [2024 NEC](https://nec.undp.org/conference/nec2024) website following the conference.
6. Presentations by speakers/ panelists should not exceed 10 minutes. Maximum 12-15 slides. Slides should illustrate ideas - not the full script; and illustrations should be simple and easily understood. No commercial messages are allowed.
7. It is strongly encouraged that speakers/panelists represent both the global South and the global North and achieve gender balance.
8. Anticipated number of participants per session is between 100- 150.
9. Simultaneous interpretations will be available in English, Chinese, French and Spanish during sessions.

**2024 NEC: SESSION PROPOSAL TEMPLATE**

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| **Session Title:** | **Strengthening NES through Accessible, Actionable, and Relevant Evidence** |
| **Conference Streams (please specify):** | Stream A. Responsive National Evaluation Systems  Stream B. Inclusive National Evaluation Systems  Stream C. Future Driven Systems and Approaches |
| **Panel Format** |  |
| **Language:** | EnglishFrenchSpanish Chinese |
| **Session Description (250 Words):** | |
| 3ie will convene a panel of policymakers and practitioners from across Africa working in different capacities to strengthen regional and national evaluation systems. Lessons from their diverse experiences will provide insights into the role development organizations, funders, and policymakers can play in building a stronger culture of evidence generation and use. The panel will present diverse experiences with creating strong partnerships with government counterparts, building capacity, and providing tailored assistance that is actionable and responsive to the needs of the countries. We will also discuss dealing with complex linguistic and cultural differences and building resilience to withstand political and government changes.  As part of the discussion, we will present 3ie’s WACIE (West Africa Capacity-building and Impact Evaluation) program, which uses a holistic approach to supporting high-level policy-makers across the eight countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) by meeting policy-makers where they are in their evidence needs to ensure buy-in and responsiveness by those best placed to effect positive changes.  The West African Development Bank (BOAD) will provide a regional perspective in evaluating large-scale regional programs and supporting national governments, identifying opportunities and constraints that effect the implementation and sustainability of programs, and assisting the regional governing bodies and member countries to update processes.  The CLEAR- Anglophone center will discuss how they balance international best practice while also drawing extensively on local expertise to address the often-hidden power imbalances in the evaluation sector, and move towards a transformative, equitable, and locally driven theory and practice. | |
| **Expected session outcome, key message, and takeaways (100 Words):** | |
| Participants will come away from this panel with a better sense of building sustained, long-term collaborations. We will provide our lessons-learned on stakeholder engagement, creating buy-in from policymakers as well as those affected by the projects, and providing actionable evidence. We will discuss what it actually means to be responsive in various contexts, and the constraints and opportunities faced by our different types of organizations. Lastly, we will provide key takeaways for increasing locally-led evaluations and how they can strengthen the effectiveness of national evaluation systems. | |

**Details of Session Facilitators:**

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| **Session Moderator**: | * Name: Thomas Kelly, Director – Evidence for Policy and Learning * Nationality: USA * Gender: M * Affiliation: 3ie * Contact information: tkelly@3ieimpact.org |
| **Biography**  Thomas Kelly leads 3ie’s agenda to strengthen evidence cultures and to develop practical solutions to facilitate evidence use.  Thomas has over 25 years as an executive, researcher, and practitioner working to bring evidence to bear on efforts to improve development outcomes. Prior to joining 3ie, Thomas served as the Deputy Vice President for the Department of Policy and Evaluation at the Millennium Challenge Corporation, where he was responsible for strategic direction and technical oversight of MCC’s Monitoring and Evaluation, Economic Analysis, and Development Policy divisions. Previously, he also served as the Managing Director for the Threshold Program, Managing Director for Development Policy, and the Senior Director for Economic Policy at MCC.  Thomas was a member of the Economics Faculty at Middlebury College, a Fulbright Scholar in Kenya, and has taught at the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán and the Colegio de la Frontera Norte in Mexico. He began his career working in community-based NGOs in Mexico and Puerto Rico.  Thomas holds a PhD in Economics from the University of California, Riverside and a BA in Economics from the University of Notre Dame. |
| **Panellist/ Speaker 1:** | * Name: Anca Dumitrescu, Lead Evaluation Specialist * Nationality: USA * Gender: F * Affiliation: 3ie * Contact information: adumitrescu@3ieimpact.org |
|  | **Biography**  Anca Dumitrescu has over 15 years of experience working in research and evaluation in low- and middle-income countries. She provides strategic, technical, and operational management to inform project effectiveness, evidence uptake, and effective communication. She designs and supports impact and performance evaluations for projects across sectors, including education, agriculture, vocational training, and energy, using both quantitative and qualitative methods.  Anca leads 3ie’s West Africa Capacity Building and Impact Evaluation (WACIE) Program, a regional initiative focused on working closely with policymakers to improve the access and use of evidence for improved public policies in Francophone Africa. The program provides support to government counterparts and regional institutions, helping expand partnerships and strengthen the network of evidence practitioners, increase capacity, and improve access to evidence for informed decision-making. Anca has an MSc in Political Economy of Late Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science. |
| **Panellist/ Speaker 2:** | * Name: Damit Didier Amany * Nationality: Cote d’Ivoire * Gender : M * Affiliation: West Africa Development Bank (BOAD) * Contact information: damany@boad.org |
|  | **Biography**  Director for Project Evaluation Directorate at the West Africa Development Bank (BOAD), a regional financial institution dedicated to promoting and financing sustainable development in West Africa. Didier focuses on evaluating regional programs based on efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, impacts evaluation, learning, accountability, and leadership. He is involved in several working groups on these topics both at the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and internationally, including the Evaluation Platform for Regional African Development Institutions (EPRADI), the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), and the Harmonized Indicators for Private Sector Operations (HIPSO). Didier has a Master's degree in economics and a postgraduate diploma in statistical analysis applied to development from the National Advanced School of Applied Statistics and Economics (ENSEA) of Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), and additional certificates in impact evaluation (Carleton University; The Asia Pacific Finance and Development Institute), in computed general equilibrium modelling (Purdue University), and in financial programming (International Monetary Fund Institute). |
| **Panellist/ Speaker 3:** | * Name: Candice Morkel * Nationality: South Africa * Gender : Female * Affiliation: CLEAR-AA * Contact information: candice.morkel@wits.ac.za |
|  | **Biography**  Candice Morkel (PhD) is the Director of the Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results – Anglophone Africa (CLEAR-AA) and senior lecturer in Monitoring and Evaluation at Wits University. She has over 25 years’ experience in government, academia and the non-profit sector, specialising in development, M&E and public policy. As Director of CLEAR-AA, she works with governments and development partners across the African continent to help build better systems of evidence production and use. She has published peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and edited books on M&E, and supervises local and international Masters and PhD students in evaluation. She is a legacy Board Member of AfrEA, legacy chair of SAMEA and is currently a Board member of the International Evaluation Academy. |