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:** | **Generative AI for improving evidence access: Lessons learned from the development of chatbot for 3ie’s Development Evidence Portal** |
| **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):** | |
| In the last 15 years, a great deal of rigorous evidence on international development has been generated and synthesized. The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation’s (3ie) [Development Evidence Portal](https://developmentevidence.3ieimpact.org/) contains over 13,000 impact evaluations and over 1,000 systematic reviews. Despite this dramatic increase in the availability of evidence, policy makers still struggle to access, identify and utilize relevant evidence to inform their decisions. The rapidly evolving Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI) technology has the potential to convey large amounts of information present in evidence databases in a convenient way and allow humans to interact with it in a custom-made format, language, and level of complexity. It could possibly lower the transaction costs associated with accessing and understanding relevant evidence by presenting such evidence in a digestible manner. 3ie has experimented with Gen AI models (specifically, Large Language Models) to develop a chatbot to query and interact with the Development Evidence Portal.  In order to meet users where they are, our chatbot focuses on identifying the level of expertise, interests, goals and needs of the user to provide a custom response to the user’s queries. This can lower the barrier to evidence access for policymakers and evaluators with limited time and resources. We will present preliminary results from our trials of the chatbot where we compare the Gen AI-led output to human-led output on standard metrics such as accuracy, relevance, precision, and comprehension. We will also present on areas for improvement, areas for caution, and next steps. | |
| **Expected session outcome, key message, and takeaways (100 Words):** | |
| This session will provide insights into this process, lessons learned over the development and testing of the chatbot, and indications of future development in the field. The session will include: 1) an Overview of the evidence available from the Development Evidence Portal; 2) an Introduction to Understanding Generative AI: what it is and what it is not; 3) the Relevance for policy makers and evaluators; 4) Details of chatbot development; 5) Description of results so far and key learnings, including caveats and best practices; and 6) the Way forward for AI to leverage evidence databases for improved evidence access. | |

**Details of Session Facilitators:**

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| **Session Moderator**: | * Name: Thomas Kelly * Nationality: American * Gender: Male * 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: Devika Lakhote * Nationality: Indian * Gender: Female * Affiliation: 3ie * Contact information: dlakhote@3ieimpact.org |
|  | **Biography**  Devika Lakhote is a Data Scientist at 3ie. She provides technical and management leadership and support in the application of data science to impact evaluations and evidence synthesis. She specializes in causal inference, machine learning, and a toolkit of econometric and data science methods. Prior to joining 3ie, she received her PhD in Public Policy from the University of Chicago. Her doctoral research examines identity-based consumer behavior and the effectiveness of infrastructure policies targeted to marginalized identity groups. She also worked as a pre-doctoral researcher at Stanford University and holds a B.A. in Economics from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. |
| **Panellist/ Speaker 2:** | * Name: Douglas Glandon * Nationality: American * Gender: Male * Affiliation: GEC/IEG, World Bank * Contact information: [dglandon@worldbank.org](mailto:dglandon@worldbank.org) |
|  | **Biography**  Forthcoming |
| **Panellist/ Speaker 3:** | * Name: * Nationality: * Gender * Affiliation: * Contact information: |
|  | **Biography** |
| **Panellist/ Speaker 4:** | * Name: * Nationality: * Gender * Affiliation: * Contact information: |
|  | **Biography** |