

Abstract 2 – NEC 2024 Conference in China

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

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Title of the abstract	Beyond Silos: Harnessing Multi-Stakeholder Alliances to Future-Proof National Evaluation Systems.
Conference session	<input type="checkbox"/> Stream A. Responsive National Evaluation Systems <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stream B. Inclusive National Evaluation Systems <input type="checkbox"/> Stream C. Future Driven Systems and Approaches
Name(s), title(s) and institutional affiliation(s) of all other authors / contributors (if applicable)	None
Preferred format:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal presentation (maximum 10 minutes) <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in a panel discussion where the experience can be shared <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in an interactive session where the example can be shared, without a formal presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____
I will need to apply for bursary support, if selected.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Language to be used for presentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese

Abstract Text (Max. 500 words)

In an era of rapid global change and complex societal challenges, the need for robust, adaptive, and forward-looking national evaluation systems has never been more critical. Evaluation systems are critical for assessing the impact of policies and programs, yet they often operate in silos disconnected from key stakeholders. Traditionally, the responsibility for developing robust national evaluation capacities has fallen primarily on government institutions. However, the complex nature of modern societal challenges necessitates a more inclusive and collaborative approach. This paper explores the potential of partnerships between government, civil society organisations (CSOs), and the private sector in strengthening national evaluation capacities. Such multi-sector collaborations can leverage diverse expertise, resources, and perspectives to

enhance the quality, scope, and impact of evaluations. This presentation will explore the transformative potential of multi-stakeholder alliances in strengthening and future-proofing national evaluation capacities, moving beyond traditional siloed approaches. It will examine the current landscape of national evaluation systems, highlighting their strengths and limitations.

This presentation posits that while government-led initiatives have been instrumental in establishing evaluation frameworks, the increasing complexity of policy issues demands a more inclusive and diverse approach. By engaging diverse partners from government, civil society, academia, and the private sector, evaluation systems can become more robust, relevant and responsive to emerging challenges. The presentation will highlight best practices and case studies of successful multi-stakeholder initiatives that have strengthened evaluation capacity, promoted data sharing, and amplified the use of evaluation evidence for decision-making.

The key questions that will inform the deliberations on this topic are:

- How can we effectively balance the diverse interests, priorities, and methodologies of different stakeholders while maintaining a cohesive and efficient national evaluation system?
- What mechanisms can be implemented to ensure equitable participation and decision-making power among all stakeholders in multi-sector evaluation alliances?
- In what ways can multi-stakeholder alliances enhance the adaptability and resilience of national evaluation systems to address emerging challenges such as rapid technological change, global crises, and evolving societal needs?

The presentation will highlight the essence of multi-stakeholder alliances in evaluation, encompassing government bodies, CSOs, private sector entities, and academic institutions. It emphasises the unique contributions each sector can bring: governments provide legitimacy and resources, civil society offers grassroots insights and community engagement, the private sector contributes innovative methodologies and efficiency-driven approaches, and academia brings rigorous research and emerging evaluation techniques. The presentation will propose a roadmap for countries seeking to implement multi-stakeholder evaluation alliances. This will include the key steps, potential challenges, and strategies for sustaining these partnerships over time. The presentation holds that by embracing this collaborative approach, nations can create evaluation systems that are not only more comprehensive and responsive but also better equipped to address future governance challenges and promote sustainable development. Participants will leave with actionable strategies for fostering collaborative evaluation ecosystems.