**Workshop on NES Assessment Tools (MESA, INCE) -** Concept note

**Titel**

Monitoring and evaluation systems assessment tools

**Introduction**

This training session aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of national evaluation systems by analysing their main components, relationships and overall capacity. It is targeted at public sector staff, international organization professionals, and academia and civil society members involved in M&E. The workshop will cover key elements of diagnostic tools like MESA and INCE, including real-world application experiences. Participants will gain insights into their roles within the system and learn to effectively communicate the importance of diagnostic tools for system improvement to decision-makers.

**Objective**

To comprehensively understand the functioning of national evaluation systems by identifying and analysing their main components, elucidating the relationships between these components, and assessing the overall capacity and effectiveness of the system as a whole.

**Participant´s profile**

* Public Sector Staff: Individuals working within the public sector who are connected to the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system.
* International Organization Staff: Professionals from international organizations who are involved in Evaluation Capacity Development (ECD).
* Academia and Civil Society Staff: Members of academic institutions and civil society organizations who are engaged in or linked to Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities.

**Content and structure**

The workshop will commence with an in-depth explanation of the key elements of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system. This will cover the structures, actors, and the relationships between them. Participants will engage in identifying the roles their respective institutions play within the system and will reflect on the ideal functions each group should fulfil for an effective M&E system.

In the second segment, the MESA and INCE will be introduced as diagnostic tools to describe and measure the capacities of M&E systems. Participants will have the opportunity to compare these instruments with other similar tools used in their countries or with their own experiences in applying MESA or INCE. The session will highlight the complementarity of these diagnostic tools.

Box1. Highlighting the complementarity of INCE and MESA:

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| **Complementarities** | | |
|  | INCE | MESA |
| **Focus** | Evaluation | Planning, Budgeting, monitoring and evaluation systems |
| **Approach** | Standardized tool and list of indicators to be answered | Flexible tool that suggests guiding questions to assess how current M&E systems work on national, subnational, sectoral levels |
| **Resources** | Less resource intensive, faster | The tool allows faster and longer (Full MESA ) engagements that could require extensive resources and be longer |
| **Objective** | Measurement, open dialogue space in strengthening systems | Basis for building strong intergovernmental collaboration for conducting the exercise and building capacity development strategy |
| **Measuring change** | Can use same tool to track change | MESA as a baseline, but less likely to repeat full exercise |
| **Community** | Vibrant community of practice (local evaluators, academic institutions, VOPEs) | Focused on building government ownership and engagement and collaborating with development partners (WB, UN institutions, others) |

The final segment will showcase real-world experiences in applying the MESA and INCE tools, focusing on good practices and challenges encountered during their implementation. This will provide participants with practical insights and lessons learned from the application of these diagnostic tools. The teams will share the INCE experience in Latin America. The MESA teams will showcase the examples of adopting MESAs to different contexts ( for example, conflict and fragile countries of Congo and Solomons, supporting country public policy modernization work in Uzbekistan and conducting city MESA in Brazil)

**Expected outcomes**

Participants will:

* Understand the monitoring and evaluation functions from a systemic perspective.
* Identify the role their organizations should play in the functioning of the M&E system.
* Comprehend the similarities and complementarities between various diagnostic tools of M&E systems, particularly MESA and INCE for different needs.
* Effectively communicate to decision-makers the importance of applying diagnostic tools before implementing improvements to strengthen M&E systems.

**Facilitators**

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