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Title of the abstract	Learnings from an SDG Evaluation in Ecuador - Assessing Governance to Address Chronic Child Malnutrition Based on the Principles of the 2030 Agenda
Conference session	X Stream A. Responsive National Evaluation Systems <input 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)	Nils Schulz Founding Partner MultiPolar nil.schulz@multipolar.net (Mr. Schulz is available for participation as well and could present and interact in English)
Preferred format:	X Formal presentation (maximum 10 minutes) X 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.	X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Language to be used for presentation	<input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French X Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese (Spanish for Ms. Aguilar, English for Mr. Schulz, our preferred option is Ms. Aguilar participating)

Abstract Text (max. 500 words)

Learnings from an SDG Evaluation in Ecuador - Assessing Governance to Address Chronic Child Malnutrition Based on the Principles of the 2030 Agenda

As one of the first country-led SDG evaluations, the evaluation of the multilevel, intersectoral governance by the Government of Ecuador for implementing public policies against chronic child malnutrition (CCM), a high strategic priority for the country, focuses on the process—specifically, the “how” and “why” of achieving the SDGs related to CCM.

Aligned with United Nations General Assembly resolution RES/77/283, the evaluation extends until September 2024. It uses the principles of the 2030 Agenda—Leave No One Behind, the integrated and indivisible nature of the SDGs, and shared responsibility—as cross-cutting approaches that permeate the entire evaluation methodology and cycle, and as evaluation criteria and specific questions.

The methodology includes extensive fieldwork at the territorial level, encompassing the voices of more than 920 people, contributing to the empowerment of local actors in their fight against CCM. Conducted in collaboration with the National Planning Secretariat of Ecuador within the framework of the DEval/FOCELAC+ initiative, this evaluation contains significant formative components, focusing both on the implementation of a country-led SDG evaluation and on the role of the evaluation in the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda at the national level.

Emerging lessons that will be consolidated through workshops in July 2024 and presented at the NEC conference, include:

- The feasibility and usefulness of the 2030 Agenda principles as criteria for evaluating public policies;
- The need for these principles to permeate the entire evaluation process, including fieldwork, to empower local actors and respect their specific social and cultural contexts, including different indigenous nationalities;
- The focus on the “how” and “why” of achieving the SDGs, from a perspective that considers the 2030 Agenda principles as a necessary guide to ensure greater impact on the most vulnerable groups;
- The mutual reinforcement between the use of the principles of the 2030 Agenda for the implementation of public policies and the quality of policy outcomes;
- The SDG evaluation as a shared learning route among all actors, generating a horizontal dynamic in the development of national evaluation capacities; and
- The vital role of national leadership in the effective design and implementation of the SDG evaluation, requiring significant efforts from the government, especially with a view to Leaving No One Behind as part of the process.

In conclusion, this pioneering evaluative work and the lessons learned can contribute to the debate on how to conduct evaluations aligned with the 2030 Agenda, and to implementing the General Assembly resolution to empower national and local governments in decision-making, governance, and transparency, and to develop more effective and equitable strategies, plans, and policies, thus accelerating the national and local transformations required for 2030 and beyond.