

UNEG March 2014 Newsletter

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Update on UNEG Strategy and Workplan

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, based on the **UNEG Strategy**, the UNEG Executive Group drafted a work plan and shared with you for comments in January 2014. The Executive Group is now reviewing the comments received and will reach out to colleagues who have expressed interest in contributing to specific strategic areas in order to assess the best way forward. The Executive Group will revise the draft work plan in the coming weeks before the Annual General Meeting.

Thank you so much for your continuous support and engagement!

Warm regards,

Deborah Rugg

UNEG Chair

on behalf of the Executive Group

[Click here for UNEG Chair Deborah Rugg discussing the new strategy](#)

[Click here to learn more about the strategy via a PowerPoint presentation](#)

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Update for the 2014 Evaluation Week in Bangkok

Following the guidance from the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) in Bangkok, it was decided that the EPE and the AGM will take place at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel (<http://www.royalorchidsheraton.com>).

EPE sessions will be videotaped and selected videos will be made available online.

[Click here for EPE and AGM information.](#)

If you have any questions about the EPE and the AGM, please contact uneg.contact@undp.org.

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UNEG High-Level Event

On February 26, 2014 during the Operational Activities for the Development Segment of ECOSOC, UNEG hosted the side event: ***Empowering Countries through Evaluation - the Global Movement towards the 2015 International Year of Evaluation.***

The event explored the role that evaluation can play to empower countries and allow them greater ownership of their development agenda by building evaluation capacities at country level and ensuring an enabling environment for evidence-based decision-making. It also discussed the declaration of UNEG and EvalPartners to make 2015 the International Year of Evaluation.

[Click here for the Event Concept Note and Videos.](#)

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2015 International Year of Evaluation

UNEG and **EvalPartners** have joined forces in declaring **2015 the International Year of Evaluation**. The global movement for 2015 International Year of Evaluation is making important progress:

- At the global level, consultative processes with Members States to develop a UN resolution on 2015 International Year of Evaluation is proceeding very well. The UNEG Executive Group has already met with Members States from Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG), and a core group is being constituted to table a UN resolution. A second high-level event –after the one in 2013 with the SG- was held on 26 February 2014.
- At the regional and national levels, 15 countries/VOPEs have already declared 2015 as Year of Evaluation. The African Evaluation Association recently declared this at their bi-annual African Conference.

EvalPartners took the initiative to include the logo of "2015 International Year of Evaluation" in its email signatures. **We encourage you to include the logo of the "2015 International year of Evaluation" in your email signatures** as well. If a critical mass support this action, it will be a cost-effective manner to raise awareness.

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UNEG Handbook for the Evaluation of Normative Work in the UN System is available now

The majority of organizations within the UN system are involved in normative work. For many, normative work is at the core of their mandate. The purpose of this handbook is to guide UN Agencies in conducting evaluations of their normative work. It is intended primarily for evaluation professionals in the UN system who are responsible for the management and / or conduct of evaluations of normative work.

[Click here for the full report.](#)

French and Spanish versions of this Handbook will be available soon.

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Messages from UNEG Member Agencies

1. A message from Indran Naidoo, Director, UNDP Independent Evaluation Office (IEO)

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you of the official change in name of the Evaluation Office (EO) to that of the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) which was approved at the first regular session of the UNDP Executive Board in January 2014.

The name change emphasizes the structural independence of the Evaluation Office and further clarifies its status to stakeholders. It also promotes credibility of the evaluations conducted by the IEO and underscores the critical role of the IEO as a provider of impartial assessments of UNDP results and performance. This change reflects the importance that the UNDP Executive Board and UNDP management place on transparency and accountability. Our collective work will be further strengthened by improving organizational effectiveness through the ongoing close collaboration and teamwork with all Bureaux and colleagues in the field. This shift is consistent with the efforts of our peers, including independent evaluation units within the Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce the launch of IEO's new website www.undp.org/evaluation. The site has been re-designed using tools and enhancements, to simplify and improve access to evaluation resources and enhance engagement. It features a new interactive design, improved searchability, easy navigation, new content structure and updated repository of our products.

I look forward to working together to strengthen the evaluation function.

Warm regards,

Indran

2. A message from Marco Segone, Director, UN Women Evaluation Office

The **UN Women Independent Evaluation Office** is pleased to announce the launch of the **Gender Equality Evaluation Portal**. The Gender Equality Evaluation Portal is an inter-active hub for gender evaluations, in which 300+ evaluations on gender equality policies, programmes and projects from different stakeholders and countries are available for free access.

The portal is framed around the 12 Areas of Concern outlined in the Beijing Platform for action, and further classified by evaluation type. It hosts evaluations completed between 2004 to present, published in English, Spanish, French and German. The Gender Equality Evaluation Portal has been designed to be dynamic, inter-active, open-content knowledge management system, where additional gender equality evaluations - and resources and tools – can be uploaded by users by registering at <https://genderevaluation.unwomen.org/accounts/login>

We greatly appreciate the support already provided by ADB; AFDB; APEC; AusAID; NORAD; BMZ ; CIDA; COMSEC; DANIDA; DFID; FAO; Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; IDB; IFAD; ILO; IOM; ODI; OIOS; OPM; Oxfam; SADEV; SDC; SIDA; UNDP; UNECA; UNECE; UNEP; UNESCO; UNFPA; UNHABITAT; UNHCR; UNICEF; UNIDO; USAID; WFP; World Bank; 3ie; UNESCWA. We now invite your organization to upload new relevant evaluations. Lessons learned and good practices identified in the 300+ evaluations available in the portal will be analysed and synthesized in a Global gender systemic review to be initiated shortly.

For additional comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Florencia Tateossian, UN Women Independent Evaluation Office at florencia.tateossian@unwomen.org

Best regards,

Marco

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Publications from Member Agencies

Report on the United Nations Secretariat Evaluation Scorecards 2010-2011 by OIOS/IED

Evaluation of WFP Gender Policy (2009 - 2013) by WFP

IFAD - Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations

IFAD - Georgia: Rural Development Project Project performance assessment

IFAD - Georgia: Rural Development Programme for Mountainous and Highland Areas Project performance assessment

IFAD - Bangladesh: Microfinance for Marginal and Small Farmers Project Project Performance Assessment

IFAD - Indonesia: Republic of Indonesia Country Programme Evaluation

IFAD - Small farmer poverty amidst Indonesia's rising prosperity

IFAD - Seizing strategic opportunities for rural poverty alleviation

UNDP - Assessment of Development Results: Angola

Please submit your publications in the **UNEG Community of Practice** or email them to uneg.contact@undp.org

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UNEG Members' Corner

Evaluating Environment and Development- Lessons from International Cooperation

(Published in *Evaluation: The International Journal of Theory, Research and Practice Journal*) by Juha I. Uitto, Deputy Director, Independent Evaluation Office, UNDP

We would love to hear more about the work that you are doing! Please submit relevant news & publications to uneg.contact@undp.org

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Please share information and discuss ideas at the **UNEG Community of Practice**

If you have any questions, please contact uneg.contact@undp.org

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