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United Nations Evaluation Group



UNEG January 2015 Newsletter

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UNEG members, we would love to hear more about the work that you are doing! Please submit relevant news & publications to uneg.contact@undp.org or post on the UNEG Community of Practice Board.

Chair's message

Dear colleagues,

Happy 2015 – The International Year of Evaluation!

This New Year will be an amazing time for UNEG and evaluation practice at the global and country levels. 2014 was a highly exciting year as the first ever stand-alone United Nations resolution; emphasizing the importance of national evaluation capacity development, acknowledging the work of UNEG, and recognizing 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation; was unanimously approved on 19 December by the United Nations General Assembly.

I would like to thank all UNEG colleagues and partners for the great work done last year. I am proud to have led UNEG during these critical times. We have shown that with perseverance and hard work, we can successfully strengthen UNEG's position and standing as a trusted technical and advocacy partner to Member States and evaluation partners in the UN community and beyond.

2014 marked the first year of the implementation of the 2014-2017 Strategy and UNEG worked closely with dedicated partners to achieve targeted, tangible results. I am confident that 2015 will be the year of consolidation of our position and efforts – the year when we will support the development of the new sustainable development agenda and the implementation process of the new resolution. Furthermore, we will work on putting forth the professionalization of evaluation agenda and continue to nurture multi-level partnerships to support countries in building and sustaining national evaluation capacities.

On 17 December 2014 UNEG, EvalPartners and Member States lit the EvalTorch, renewing the partnership and joint commitment to work hand-in-hand to advocate for stronger evaluation functions at the UN and to enhance national evaluation capacities in order to prepare for the implementation of the new sustainable development agenda from 2016-2030. Currently, the torch is passed from partner to partner during national and international evaluation events in 2015 and is keeping the evaluation flame ignited around the world.

In the past few years, we have noticed an increase in demand for evaluation and have seen this evident again during the adoption of the resolution. The cross-regional support received for the resolution gives me confidence and bodes well for strengthening the evaluation functions in the post-2015 era. UNEG is in the best possible, strategic position to ensure that evaluation plays a greater role and helps to achieve better development results for the World We Want.

UNEG is professionally resourced to provide substantive contributions on evaluation functions, and is naturally positioned to create synergies between UN global policy-making and national evaluation processes; as such, UNEG can also contribute to translating global agenda(s) and best practices to country-level evaluation processes.

I appreciate your continued dedication, relentless passion, and continuous commitment to work towards strengthening evaluation functions at the UN and beyond.

I wish everyone much success and energy to continue our excellent legacy of work through 2015 and beyond.

Deborah

UNEG Update

The UN General Assembly Resolution "Capacity building for the evaluation of development activities at the Country-level" was adopted on 19 December 2014! This resolution was first presented and adopted by the UN General Assembly Second Committee on 13 November 2014. Please see below the resolution section for details.

UNEG strategic objective progress reports have been shared with UNEG members. Reports are available on the [UNEG website](#) - [member login needed](#).

UNEG 2015 Evaluation Week will take place from 9 to 13 March 2015, in the UN Headquarters in New York. More information will be shared soon. The evaluation week will be composed of three events:

- Annual General Meeting (AGM): 9 March morning; 10-11 March; and 12 March morning.
- High-level event: 9 March afternoon
- Evaluation Practice Exchange (EPE): 11 March afternoon and 12-13 March

Please click here for 2015 UNEG Evaluation Week details

Deborah Rugg, UNEG Chair and Director, Inspection and Evaluation Division, UN Office of Internal Oversight Services, and **Indran Naidoo**, UNEG Vice Chair and Director of UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, **attended the OECD-DAC Evalnet November Meeting**. UNEG is an observer of OECD-DAC Evalnet. Deborah was invited to make a keynote address on the status of evaluation at the UN and the recently adopted UN resolution on evaluation - [please click to view the presentation](#). As the UNEG Vice Chair for Evaluation Function, Indran updated participants on the status of the UNEG-DAC peer reviews ([please click to see Indran's Back to Office Report](#) - [member login required](#)).

Deborah Rugg, UNEG Chair and Director, Inspection and Evaluation Division, UN Office of Internal Oversight Services, **attended the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG) Fall 2014 Meeting** in Washington DC, from 4-5 December. UNEG is an observer of ECG. It participates in the ECG annual meetings during both spring and fall sessions.

UNGA Resolution "Capacity building for the evaluation of development activities at the country-level" was adopted!

For the first time in the history of the United Nations - a landmark, stand-alone United Nations General Assembly Resolution, titled "**Capacity building for the evaluation of development activities at country level**" has been approved through general consensus and cross-regional support of forty-two countries, during the **UN General Assembly Second Committee meeting of 13 November 2014** and adopted by the **United Nations General Assembly in the plenary session of 19 December 2014**.

The resolution emphasizes the importance of building capacities for the evaluation of development activities at country level. The value added of this resolution is that it changes the

business-as-usual approach. It allows for interaction and cooperation amongst all the relevant partners, including those of the UN System, the national and international stakeholders, to coordinate efforts to further strengthen the Member States capacities for evaluation. Most importantly, the resolution emphasizes that national ownership and national priorities form a strong base for building national capacities to manage and oversee evaluations.

Through this resolution, Member States agree that evaluation is an important component of development processes, and recognize evaluation as a country level tool that can help strengthen and support development results. As Deborah Rugg, Chair of UNEG said in an [interview discussing the UN Resolution on Evaluation](#), “This resolution was much needed because it elevates and highlights the need for better evaluation capacity for achieving better development results, especially at country level.”

Furthermore, this is the first time a UN resolution acknowledges that the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) has endorsed **2015 as the International Year of Evaluation** (initially declared by EvalPartners under the leadership of UN Women and IOCE) and builds on this momentum to foster capacity building and enhance partnerships for evaluation at the country level.

It is also significant to note that as an indication of how important sponsoring Member States felt the resolution was, they requested that the UN Secretary-General provide an update in 2016 on the progress made in building national evaluation capacities. This report will be considered during the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development (QCPR) of the United Nations system in 2016.

As Ambassador Thomson of the Mission of Fiji to the UN said while presenting this resolution to the UN Second Committee, “we know that building capacities takes time, so this resolution is aimed at countries like my own being able to attain the necessary skills to evaluate programmes and policies in the years ahead.” Through implementation of this resolution, countries will strengthen their national capacities to be prepared to start implementing the new sustainable development agenda in 2016.

In this regard, UNEG looks forward to working together with all partners to enhance national evaluation capacities during the 2015 International Year of Evaluation and beyond. **Evaluation will play a greater role and help to achieve better development results for the World We Want in 2015 and beyond!!**

List of countries co-sponsoring the resolution

The Mission of Fiji to the UN with the technical support from UNEG, initiated and presented the resolution to the Second Committee on behalf of Mexico, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa and Vanuatu.

On 13 November the following countries joined as co-sponsors: Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Kiribati, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Turkmenistan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Guinea, Serbia and Ukraine.

List of related links

[Link to the UNGA Second Committee- document A/C.2/69/L.35:](#)

[Link of the Official Documentation Services \(ODS\) to see access the official document](#)

A/RES/69/237:

[Video of the Second Committee \(13 November 2014\)](#)

[Video of the UNGA plenary session \(19 December 2014\)](#)

[Video of Ms. Deborah Rugg, UNEG Chair discussing the UN Resolution on Evaluation](#)

Additional information from UNEG and Partners

[See information note on the lighting of the evaluation torch event](#)

[See Mr. Marco Segone, UNEG Vice-Chair discussing the 2015 International Year of Evaluation and other activities.](#)

See what partners are saying on the new resolution

[Mission of Fiji to the UN](#)

[Fiji Newspaper](#)

[NEC Community of Practice](#)

[EvalPartners Main Website](#)

[EvalPartners - Evaluation Torch 2015](#)

[EvalPartners Newsletter](#)

[Australasian Evaluation Society Inc.](#)

[American Evaluation Association](#) - (newsletter coming soon)

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*Click to see the video of **Deborah Rugg, UNEG Chair, discusses the UNGA Resolution***

List of countries sponsoring the resolution:

The Permanent Mission of Fiji to the UN with the technical support from UNEG, initiated and presented the resolution to the Second Committee on behalf of Mexico, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa and Vanuatu. Other co-sponsoring member states include:

Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Kiribati, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Turkmenistan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Guinea, Serbia and Ukraine.

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Lighting of the Evaluation Torch for 2015 International Year of Evaluation

On 17 December, UNEG and the Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations hosted a small gathering with Member States, UN partners and EvalPartners to celebrate the adoption of the first stand-alone UN General Assembly resolution titled "Capacity building for the evaluation of development activities at the country-level". During this event, Ambassador Peter Thomson of Fiji (sponsor of the resolution), Ms. Deborah Rugg (UNEG Chair and Director OIOS IED) and Mr. Marco Segone (UNEG Vice-Chair, Co-Chair EvalPartners, and Director UN Women Independent Evaluation Office) lit the International Year of Evaluation Torch and passed it on to the other participants.



[Click here for event photos.](#)

The ceremony kicked-off celebration of the International Year of Evaluation. This is a historic time in which a renewed and stronger commitment between Member States, UNEG and EvalPartners has been declared. All partners have started to work hand-in-hand to advocate for stronger evaluation functions at the UN and for enhanced national evaluation capacities, in order to prepare for the implementation of the new sustainable development agenda.

The torch will be symbolically passed to other international and national evaluation partners during many evaluation events in 2015, the first of which will be at the Indian Evaluation Week in New Delhi in January 2015.

EvalWeek India becomes the first stop of the EvalTorch journey to celebrate the 2015 International Year of Evaluation!!

India is the first country to kick-start the celebrations of the International Year of evaluation by organizing EvalWeek India from 19-23 January 2015. Marco Segone, UNEG Vice-Chair and UN Women IEO Director passed the EvalTorch on to Rao Inderjit Singh, Honorable Minister of State for Planning (Independent Charge), Government of India.

[Please click here to view event details.](#)

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2015 International Year of Evaluation

UNEG joined EvalPartners and other partners to declare 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation.

The aim of designating 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation is to advocate and promote evaluation and evidence-based policy making at international, regional, national and local levels.

[More information on EvalYear is available here.](#)

Click to view the video of **Marco Segone, EvalPartners Co-Chair and UNEG Vice Chair, discuss EvalYear and its related activities.**

Events in the EvalYear are listed [here](#). Please also check [EvalYear 2015 map](#).

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Upcoming UNEG Leadership Transition

UNEG Chair

The term of the current UNEG Chair, **Deborah Rugg**, will come to an end in March 2015. Deborah has been UNEG Chair since 2013. **Marco Segone** (UN Women) was elected UNEG Chair 2015-2017 in October 2014. He will take on the responsibilities of Chair in March 2015.



UNEG Vice-Chair for Partnerships

As **Marco Segone** will take on the responsibilities of UNEG Chair in March 2015, his current role as the UNEG Vice-Chair for Partnerships will be open. **Colin Kirk** (UNICEF) was elected UNEG Vice-Chair for Partnerships 2015-2017 in October 2014. Colin will take on the responsibilities of Vice-Chair in March 2015 when Marco Segone steps down from his current role as Vice-Chair and begins his tenure as UNEG Chair.

UNEG Vice-Chair for System-Wide Initiatives

Effective 3 November 2014, OCHA has agreed to release **Scott Green** for a period of one year to serve as the Coordinator for the newly established Independent System-wide Evaluation (ISWE) Secretariat. The ISWE Secretariat, which is hosted by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), has been established in New York. The establishment of the ISWE Secretariat was approved by the United Nations General Assembly last year on a pilot basis in order to facilitate the planning, coordination, management and processing of independent system-wide evaluations which have been commissioned by the General Assembly and ECOSOC.

As a transitional measure, Scott has agreed to stay on in his current role as UNEG Vice-Chair responsible for System-Wide Initiatives until 2015 Annual General Meeting. **Helen Wedgwood** (WFP) was elected UNEG Vice-Chair for System-Wide Initiatives 2015-2017. She will take on the responsibilities of Vice-Chair in March 2015 when Scott Green steps down from his current Vice-Chair role.

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UNEG Publications

Resource Pack on Joint Evaluations

The Resource Pack on Joint Evaluations was produced by the previous UNEG Joint Evaluation Task Force (Co-Chaired by OCHA and UNICEF) to address the need for broad methodological guidance and the identification of good practices based on the group's collective experience. Taking into consideration the multitude of approaches and the diversity of actors who may be engaged in joint UN evaluation work, the purpose of the Resource Pack is to enhance system-wide programming efforts by strengthening the capacity of UN offices to engage in joint evaluations.

[Please click here for the online version of the report.](#)

[Please click here to download report.](#)

Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations

The Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations report was produced by UNEG as an in-depth guidance handbook to serve as a field guide to improve human rights and gender equality responsive evaluation throughout the UN system.

It complements the UNEG's Handbook "[Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation: Towards UNEG Guidance](#)," an abridged version that outlines practical steps on how to prepare, conduct and use HR & GE responsive evaluations. The present document deepens each of these aspects, and provides additional theoretical and applied information, tools and suggestions.

[Please click here for the online version of the report.](#)

[Please click here to download the report.](#)

For more UNEG publications, please visit [UNEG website](#).

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New Videos

Other videos available include:

[UNEG Chair and Vice-Chairs talk about the UNEG Strategy and the four Strategic Objectives.](#)

[2014 Evaluation Practice Exchange \(EPE\) & the Bangkok High-level Panel event](#)

UNEG Lessons & Insights Series: Interviewees were asked to provide their lessons and insights for the practice of evaluation. They include UNEG members and invited speakers for the 2014 EPE and the Bangkok High-level event.

For more videos, please visit the [UNEG YouTube Channel](#).

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UNEG Farewells & Welcomes

UNEG would like to acknowledge the contributions of our departing members and warmly welcome our new colleagues to the UNEG community. Names were listed based on approximate chronological order. Changes before the 2014 Annual General Meeting were not included here.

Farewell

- As of July 1, 2014, **Nayiri Dolabjian** retired from her position as Evaluation Officer at ICAO
- As of August 1, 2014, **Maria Santamaria Hergueta**, UNEG Head from WHO, moved away from the evaluation function.
- As of August 1, 2014, **Mark Pedersen**, Chief of Evaluation Team and UNEG Head from DPKO/DFS, moved to Integrated Training Service of DPKO/DFS.
- In September 2014, **Robert D. van den Berg**, UNEG Head from GEF, finished his term as Director of the Independent Evaluation Office at GEF. He continues to serve as President at the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS).
- **Kees Tuinenburg** finished his term as the interim Officer-in-Charge of IFAD Independent Office of Evaluation in mid-September 2014.
- **Petr Firbas** retired from his position as Chief of Evaluation Section at CTBTO in September 2014.

Welcome of New UNEG Heads

- United Nations Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (**DGACM**), Monitoring, Evaluation, Risk Management and Statistical Verification Unit (MERS) and United Nations Peace Building Support Office (**PBSO**), Financing for Peacebuilding Branch (FPB) joined UNEG as members in 2014. **Felix Carayon** (DGACM) and **Tammy Smith** (PBSO) serve as UNEG Heads on behalf of these two units.
- **Susanne Freuh**, former Executive Secretary of JIU and UNEG Observer, now serves as Director of UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service. She is the new UNEG Head from UNESCO.
- Starting August 1, 2014, **Elilarasu Renganathan**, Representative for Evaluation and Organizational Learning, WHO, serves as the UNEG Head.
- **Juha Uitto**, UNEG Executive Coordinator and Deputy Director of UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, joined GEF as the Director of the Independent Evaluation Office in September. He is the new UNEG Head from GEF.
- **Oanh Nguyen**, Evaluation Specialist at UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, now serves the role of UNEG Executive Coordinator. She joined IFAD Independent Office of Evaluation in 2007 and recently joined UNDP.
- **Oscar Garcia** was appointed Director of Independent Office of Evaluation at IFAD. He is the new UNEG Head from IFAD.
- **Annika Hansen** was appointed Chief of the Evaluations Team at DPKO/DFS. She is the new UNEG Head from DPKO/DFS.
- **Josep Vila** now serves as the acting UNEG Head from CTBTO.
- **Victoria Saiz-Omenaca**, OIC of the OCHA Evaluation Unit, is the new acting UNEG Head from OCHA.

*This is based on information made available to the UNEG secretariat. Please contact uneg.contact@undp.org to add any welcomes or farewells within the UNEG evaluation community.

UNEG Member Agency News

IFAD Independent Office of Evaluation December 2014 Newsletter

OIOS Inspection and Evaluation Division (IED) December 2014 Newsletter

UNDP Independent Evaluation Office December 2014 Newsletter

UN Women Independent Evaluation Office December 2014 Newsletter

More information on UNEG member agencies is available at [UNEG blog page](#)

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Vacancy Announcements (6 New Posts)

UNDP Seeks Team Principals - Evaluations of Results Development Activities (ERAD)

Apply by 30 January 2015

[Please click here for vacancy details.](#)

WFP Seeks Candidates for a M&E Talent Pool

Apply by 31 January 2015

[Please click here for vacancy details.](#)

UN Women Seeks Evaluation Consultant for Final Programme Evaluation

Apply by 2 February 2015

[Please click here for vacancy details.](#)

UN Women Seeks Evaluation Team Leader

Apply by 5 February 2015

[Please click here for vacancy details.](#)

FAO Calls for Expressions of Interest for Lead Consultant and Team Members

Apply by 6 February 2015

[Please click here for vacancy details.](#)

OCHA Seeks Expression of Interest for Roster of Vendors for Evaluations

Apply by 6 February 2015

[Please click here for vacancy details.](#)

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Resources:

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