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2017 High-Level Panel Forum Highlights

#HLPF 2017

** Updated 19 July 2017*



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The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the overarching General Assembly mechanism for SDG policy coordination and this year took place from 10-19 July 2017. The HLPF focuses on how to meet the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which form part of a blueprint agreed by the international community in 2015 as part of a new drive to eradicate poverty and promote prosperity while also protecting the environment. The theme of this year's forum was **eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world**. In 2017, 43 countries volunteered to present their national voluntary reviews to the HLPF, and a total of 147 side events and 3 special events took place.

UNEG continues to engage with Member States and similar to last year participated in official 'side-events' through UNCTAD and UNDP which was held at UNICEF headquarters in New York. Following an introduction by the UNEG SO3 Vice-Chair Indran Naidoo, the UNEG Chair Susanne Frueh (UNESCO) moderated the Panel Discussion on **evaluation as a mechanism for effective national follow-up and review of progress towards the SDGs**, which brought more than 110 government, UN and civil society colleagues into attendance. Meanwhile, Indran also participated, together with Inga Sniukaite from UN Women, in a special **SDG Learning, Training and Practice** event organized by Madeeha Bajwa of UNCTAD. Below are the details of both these events.

Evaluation as a mechanism for effective national follow-up and review of progress towards the SDGs

Under the Strategic Objective 3 (SO 3) a HLPF side event was organized by the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office and hosted by UNICEF's Evaluation



Office. The event was held on 12th July on **evaluation as a mechanism for effective national follow-up and review of progress towards the SDGs**. Panelists from Botswana, Chile, Samoa, Switzerland and EvalSDGs presented on how evaluation informs decision making on the SDGs, and shared their progress in localizing and reviewing the SDGs.

The event was opened by Indran Naidoo (Director, Independent Evaluation Office, UNDP) and was moderated by Susanne Frueh (UNEG Chair & Director, Internal Oversight Service, UNESCO). Panelists included:

- Heidi Berner Herrera (Deputy Secretary of Social Evaluation, Ministry of Social Development, Chile)
- Ambassador Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia (Permanent Representative of Samoa to the UN)
- Burton S. Mguni (Deputy Statistician General – Economic & Social Statistics, National Statistical Organization of Botswana)
- Michael Gerber (Special Envoy for Global Sustainable Development, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland)
- Stefano D'Errico (Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Lead, IIED)

If you missed the event catch the recap. [Video](#) | [Photos](#)

SDGs Learning, Training and Practice Session on Evaluation



The Evaluation and Monitoring Unit and the New York Liaison Office of UNCTAD organized a HLPF special event on 10th July on **SDG's learning, practice and exchange on evaluation and the SDG follow-up**

and review mechanism.

Presenters shared experiences and perspectives on the different components of SDG's and evaluation which included role of statistics, data, SDG tracking systems, capacity building and developing gender-responsive national evaluation capacities to achieve the SDGs.

Nikhil Seth (Executive Director, UNITAR) opened the event and Chantal Line Carpentier (Chief, NY office, UNCTAD) moderated the session. Presenters included:

- Madeeha Bajwa (Chief of the Evaluation and Monitoring Unit, UNCTAD)
- Ambassador Modest Jonathan Mero (Permanent Representative of Tanzania to the UN)
- Indran Naidoo (Director, Independent Evaluation Office, UNDP and UNEG Vice-chair)
- Inga Sniukaite (Deputy Director, Independent Evaluation Office, UN Women)

To find out more on what was exchanged at the event please visit the [UNCTAD website](#).

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