

# Peer Review Working Group

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**UNEG**

United Nations Evaluation Group

# Presentation Overview

- Achievements during 2017-2018
- Key highlights from survey conducted
- Way forward, next steps for 2018-2019

## **Working Group Co-Chairs**

Inga Sniukaite, UN Women  
Michael Spilsbury, UNEP

## **Members**

UNDP, IAEA, UNESCO, GEF, UNICEF, UNIDO,  
UNRWA, UNFPA, OHCHR, UN Women, UNEP



# Achievements during 2017-2018

1. DAC/UNEG Peer Review of the Evaluation Function of UNICEF
2. External Strategic Review of the Evaluation Function of UNFPA
3. Survey on “Demand and Supply for Peer Reviews”
4. “Background Note on the UNEG Peer Review Mechanism”
5. “Modalities for Evaluating, Reviewing or Assessing an Evaluation Function”

# Demand and Supply for Peer Reviews

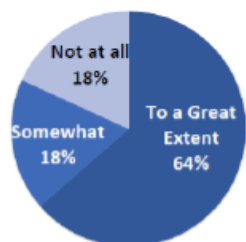
## Highlights from survey results

- Online survey conducted during the period January 26 to February 19 2018
- Circulated to 47 UNEG heads
- Total of 35 responses (74% response rate)

# Highlights from Survey on Demand and Supply for Peer Reviews

## Feedback from offices peer reviewed

Offices peer reviewed indicated that 64% of recommendations were implemented



Perception by offices peer reviewed on the process

### Strengths

1. Participation of EVALNET members
2. A review by those who understand evaluation in the context of UN agencies
3. Common, flexible, and tested framework against UNEG N&S

### Weaknesses

1. Perceived lack of independence
2. Resources to engage (time and money)
3. Lack of integration with formal decision-making process of Governing bodies
4. Varying depth and quality

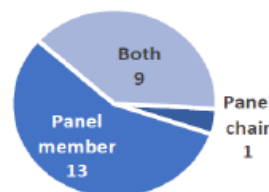
## Demand and supply for peer reviews

21 UNEG members likely to undertake a peer review

| Likely (21)   | Unlikely (14)   |
|---|---|
| *10 are "small" offices<br>*85% of office peer reviewed likely to do it again | *2 offices already peer reviewed<br>*10 "small" offices |

22 Evaluation offices have indicated their readiness to support peer reviews

% of respondents who did not indicate whether they could provide support or not cited resources constraints

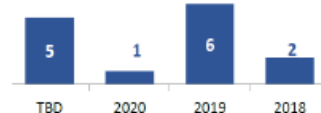


Half of the offices willing to provide some support have undergone a peer review

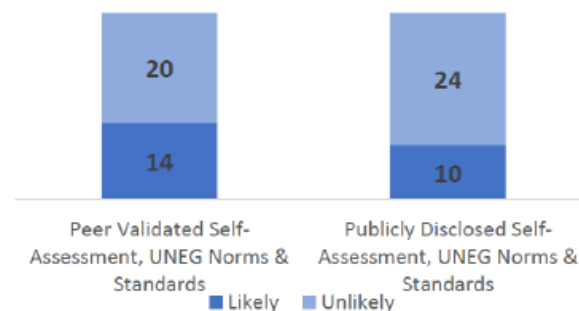
The main reasons cited for a peer review to be unlikely are:

1. Opportunity cost for small functions
2. Perceived lack of credibility/independence by boards
3. Evaluation function already covered by other assessments
4. Timing (recently completed, or function not mature enough)

9 UNEG members planning a peer review in the next 3 years



Some UNEG members indicate interest in exploring new modalities for peer reviews



# UNEG Peer Review Mechanism

Status and review past lessons



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## Status of Peer Reviews



**17** Peer reviews of **13** UN evaluation functions conducted since 2005

- **4** Agencies peer reviewed twice (UNDP, UNICEF, GEF, WFP)
- **1** bundled peer review (UNEP and UN-Habitat)
- About **1/3** of UNEG members peer reviewed



The average cost of a Peer review estimated at approx. 50,000 USD/ 40,000\* USD applying a “reduced framework”, without staff and panel members time/cost

The average duration of a peer review is **7.8 months / 6 months\*** applying a “reduced framework”.

\*Estimates based on figures reported by offices, and may not be captured consistently



Average panel is composed of **4 members** and **1 advisor**

**80%** of panel members & advisors participated in only **1 peer review**  
**53** panel members have volunteered  
**18** different advisors recruited



**7** were conducted applying a “reduced framework”

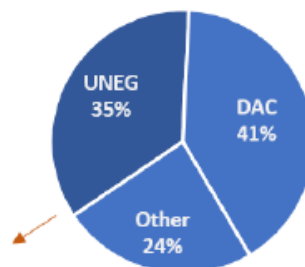
**1/3** of peer reviews have a published management response

**1/2** of peer reviews have published a lesson learned note, from which about **1/2** were joint lessons

Average of **1 peer review** completed by year  
 Maximum of **4 peer reviews** in a year (2012)



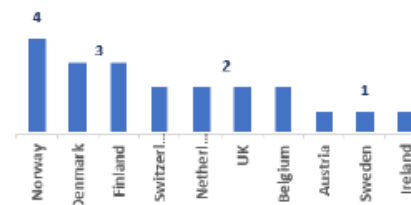
There is **Gender parity** in the overall participation of panel members, but **2/3** of consultants who have advised panel members were males



Participation from  
**7** Independent  
**4** MDBs  
**1** INGO, Foundation, VOPE

**10 Evalnet members** have participated in panels

Number of participations by Evalnet members






# Modalities for Evaluating, reviewing or assessing an Evaluation Function



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| Approaches that have previously been used by UN Evaluation functions   | Possible approaches to assessing UN evaluation functions                   | Other Assessment Providers (where the UN evaluation functions are the 'evaluand')   |
|--|--|---|
| Independent External Evaluations   | UNEG Peer–Validated Self-Assessment/ with or without EvalNet participation |  <b>JOINT INSPECTION UNIT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM</b> |
| 'Standard' UNEG Peer Reviews   | UNEG–Validated Self-Assessment   |    |
| 'Bundled' (but separate) UNEG Peer–Reviews   | A publicly disclosed Self-Assessment against UNEG Norms and Standards      |    |
| External Strategic Review governed by a Steering Committee (UNEG Head and a bilateral donor) and with input from an external panel of evaluation experts |  |   |

# Way forward:

## UNEG work plan 2018-2019

1. Institutionalize a validated self-assessment on UNEG Norms and Standards for all UNEG members
2. Approve UNEG peer review subgroup workplan:
  - Review of implementation of management responses for UNEG professional peer reviews
  - Guidance for a validated self-assessment