

# Culture and Evaluation Interest Group

## *Highlights from 2017 and next steps*

UNEG Strategic Objective 3: Evaluation informs UN system-wide initiatives and emerging demands

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# Culture and Evaluation Interest Group

- Group established in 2016 under SO3 with UNESCO as convener
- **Members:** GEF, ILO, UNDP, ITC, PBSO, UNHCR
- **Purpose:** Applying principles of CRE in evaluation practice in order to ensure that the influence of culture on human behaviour is taken into consideration during all stages of evaluation



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# The Group's Work to Date

- **Early 2017:** Commissioning of discussion paper on **Culturally responsive evaluations in and outside the UN system**
- **2017 AGM:** decision to develop a practical and flexible toolkit for culturally responsive evaluations
- **Early 2018:** Concept Note for the **Development of Culturally Responsive Criteria for Evaluations**



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# Purpose of Concept Note

- Briefly describe CRE criteria
- Identify sample questions for its use
- Pin point the conditions for appropriate use of the criteria



# CRE as Evaluative Criteria

*The extent to which the evaluation acknowledges and responds to the values, norms, beliefs and the sociocultural contexts within which the policy, programme and/or project is implemented. This requires evaluators to be sensitive and responsive to the cultural context in which the policy, programme and/or project is operationalized at all stages of the evaluation process, particularly in instances when the participants' culture is known to have a major influence on outcomes.*



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# Using CRE Criteria

Examples of questions for each evaluation stage:

- **Design:** Does the evaluation identify important cultural groups and their differences?
- **Implementation:** Are cultural protocols and norms observed when undertaking data collection and fieldwork in-country?
- **Analysis/Reporting:** Does the evaluation examine outcomes through different cultural lenses?
- **Dissemination:** Is the chosen medium appropriate?

# Conditions for CRE use

- Consider CRE already during evaluability assessment stage
- Sample questions:
  - Is CRE integral to the purpose of the evaluation?
  - What information do potential users need?
  - Are CRE criteria useful or appropriate for this particular context?
  - Which CRE criterion will be most useful, considering available resources?





# Examples of Applicability

- Valuing indigenous knowledge
- Addressing inadequate attention to power and privilege
- Normative work, conventions on cultural diversity and heritage
- Moving beyond treating gender as a head count issue
- Immersing in social and cultural context to understand lives and experiences of stakeholders



# Way Forward

- UNEG colleagues are invited to further comment on this Concept Note
- Explore the possibility for contributing to discussion on the revision of DAC Criteria
- Explore the feasibility of organizing an international seminar on the subject of culturally responsive evaluation

# Thank you!

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