



LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: EVALUATION FOR 2030

2019 National Evaluation
Capacities Conference

#NECdev

National Evaluation Capacities (NEC) Conference 2019

Leaving No One Behind: Evaluation for 2030

INTRODUCTION

UNDP Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) is organizing, in partnership with the Government of Egypt, Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, the National Evaluation Capacities (NEC) Conference 2019 in Hurghada, Egypt from 20 to 24 October 2019. The theme of the conference is **Leaving No One Behind: Evaluation for 2030**. The event will take place over five days, beginning with two days of intensive training workshops (20-21 October), followed by a three-day Conference (22-24 October).

The IEO organized the first NEC Conference a decade ago in Casablanca, Morocco, with 55 participants. The fifth and latest conference was held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2017, with more than 500 participants. To date the NEC conferences have engaged over 150 countries and their governments globally. More importantly, they have brought together influential players from oversight and accountability sectors within each of these countries to connect, engage and share about issues that fall within the ethos of good governance, evidence-based decision making and better performance management.

The NEC 2019 will build on the success of past conferences and will continue to provide a platform for discussing challenges to and opportunities for building national evaluation frameworks that will facilitate inclusive development that leaves no one behind. It will also provide participants a platform to voice evaluation issues and share experiences in the era of the SDGs.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

In 2015, 193 countries united to adopt the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a better world by 2030. These goals seek to end poverty, fight inequality, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. The implementation of the SDGs can be accelerated globally through evaluation, as a powerful tool that improves public accountability and

contributes to positive development change. Building on the momentum created by past [NEC conferences](#), the 2019 NEC Conference will provide opportunities to:



Conference sessions will be organized around three intersecting strands:

- **Strengthening national evaluation systems:** progress and partnerships
- **Evaluation practice and the SDGs:** people, planet prosperity, peace and partnerships for evidence-based policies
- **Transforming evaluation** for transformative development (new trends in evaluation)

The primary target audience of the NEC Conference 2019 will be **government officials from national and sub-national institutions** directly and indirectly engaged with evaluation and public policy (including central planning and finance ministries, sectoral ministries, parliamentarians, evaluation units, national statistical agencies, supreme audit institutions). Other stakeholders will include the private sector, civil society, academia, UNDP staff engaged in supporting national governments on evaluation, governance and/or the SDG agenda, evaluators (including young and emerging evaluators) and other development actors from UNDP programme countries, members of evaluation networks and the wider global evaluation community.

2019 NEC CONFERENCE FORMAT

The event will take place over five days, beginning with two days of pre-conference training workshops, followed by three days dedicated to the Conference.

The conference will be designed to provide all participants with multiple spaces for engagement. A mix of plenary sessions and parallel strands on a range of topics will be organized, using a variety of formats including key note speakers, paper presentations, and panel discussions, as well as innovative arrangements that facilitate more informal discussion and sharing of experiences between partners.

Two sets of one-day training workshops will be organized to allow participants to explore subjects in-depth with experts from around the world.

The main working language of the conference will be English, with selected sessions and training workshops organized in other selected UN languages. Interpretation from English into Arabic and French will be available for many sessions during the conference.

BURSARY PROGRAMME

Participating countries will be expected to finance the participation of their representatives in the conference. However, UNDP recognizes that participants from some programme countries may need to seek financial support. The

UNDP IEO is establishing a bursary fund to finance participants from programme countries who would not otherwise be able to attend the conference. Bursary recipients will be representatives of national institutions responsible for conducting and commissioning evaluations, policy makers, particularly those working on the SDGs, and other national evaluation stakeholders. Bursary applicants will be invited to submit an abstract on a topic related to NEC 2019 with a statement of interest, explaining how the Conference and training programme will contribute to their current work and how the knowledge acquired will be used to strengthen the national evaluation system.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

All interested conference participants will be invited to submit proposals for presentations that will contribute to the conference (abstracts). A call for abstracts will detailed guidance and submissions deadlines will be available on the conference website. All invitees, particularly government representatives from UNDP programme countries, will be encouraged to submit an abstract on a theme related to one of the three main conference strands.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND FEES

The Conference will be invitation-only, and there will be no registration fees for the Conference. Fees will be charged for the training workshops (\$200 per workshop). Conference registration will open in July 2019 and close on 22 August 2019.

CONFERENCE PARTNERS

UNDP IEO. At UNDP, evaluation is critical in helping countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion. By generating objective evidence, evaluation helps UNDP achieve greater accountability and facilitates improved learning from past experience. The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) promotes accountability and learning by conducting independent evaluations at the country, regional, and global levels, as well as on thematic topics of particular importance to the organization.

In addition, the IEO has contributed to strengthening evaluation capacity since 1987. It is part of the IEO mandate to promote national ownership and leadership in evaluation through country-led and joint evaluations, and to support the development of communities of practice, and to partner with professional evaluation networks to improve evaluation utility and credibility. The NEC Conference series is part of an IEO strategy to support the development of national evaluation capacity. These international conferences are distinctive in that they are global – the 2017 NEC Conference welcomed participants from 119 countries – and focused on supporting the governments with which UNDP works across the globe.

UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States. Anchored in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and committed to the principles of universality, equality and leaving no one behind, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States supports the Arab States region to achieve sustainable development by eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, accelerating structural transformations for sustainable development, and building resilience to crises and shocks. Within this work the Regional Bureau for Arab States responds to needs across development settings including Middle Income Countries, Net Contributor Countries and countries affected by crisis, with a view to support the building of resilience, leverage the promise of innovation, and prioritize the advance of women, youth and vulnerable

groups in a fast-moving development agenda as fraught with fragility as it is brimming with potential. In doing so RBAS endeavors to lead on specific development as well as a partner in galvanizing the efforts of the UN development system, international financial institutions, national and international partners, the private sector and civil society towards the collective outcomes envisaged in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform.

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt will co-host the conference. The Government of Egypt is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This commitment is reflected in its understanding of the intertwined nature of sustainable development and is embodied in the framework of Egypt’s national strategy, “Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030” (SDS). The Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform is the main entity responsible for coordinating, monitoring and evaluating efforts towards the SDGs in Egypt.

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