

## PLENARY SESSIONS



### 5.1 | Plenary 1: In an era of complexity and uncertainty, can we do without national systems?

#### Moderator

- ◆ **Dugan Fraser**, Programme Manager, Global Evaluation Initiative

#### Panellists

- ◆ **Viviana Casco Molinas**, Minister Executive Secretary, Technical Secretariat of Planning for Social and Economic Development, Paraguay
- ◆ **Susan Sulu**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination, Solomon Islands
- ◆ **Luc Joseph Okio**, Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister, in charge of State Reform, Republic of the Congo
- ◆ **Zoran Dimitrovski**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Local Self-government, North Macedonia

**How do we ensure National Evaluation Systems play a central role in responding to the pandemic and getting the SDGs back on track?**



- ♦ **Inclusive and participatory approaches should be prioritized** to build strong and resilient NES. A multi-stakeholder approach that gathers private sector, civil society and academia is key to ensure resilient monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems. This approach ensures the ownership and sustainability of evaluation processes and results.
- ♦ **Supportive legal and regulatory frameworks** that create demand for national M&E systems, adequate data and capacity of public institutions are critical to track the progress towards national development goals and inform policy design and implementation and evidence-based decision-making.
- ♦ There is a need to **embed M&E culture within public institutions and local governments**. Since the pandemic affected all sectors, the mobilization of resources changed, therefore all sectors should be able to evaluate and monitor the use of those resources.
- ♦ The crisis of the pandemic proved that it is important that **M&E systems are relevant and appropriate to the context**, which is a complex process that deals with systems, institutions and people. We need to be sensitive about how these systems are built.
- ♦ A common practice is to embed M&E into national development plans, linked to Agenda 2030. But **having evaluation plans does not guarantee political support for evaluation**; politicians need to have the political will and capacity to acknowledge the critical role of evaluation in addressing national development priorities.
- ♦ **Lack of resources - human and financial - impedes the successful establishment of NES** in developing countries. There is a need to strengthen both human and technical capacity in all levels of public institutions.
- ♦ **Demonstrating the added value of evaluation** for informed, evidence-based policy- and decision-making and learning can help to mitigate political resistance to reforms and implementing M&E systems.
- ♦ **National Evaluation Systems need to be appropriate and culturally-sensitive**. They need to intersect with subnational and local systems, and respond to local context and country priorities.

## Conclusion

To be resilient, national M&E systems need to be context-specific, culturally-sensitive and institutionalized within public institutions and national planning and budgeting processes. Establishing strong NES can take a long time, and needs continued and sustained efforts from governments, partners and all stakeholders.

## Quotes

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*“The biggest realization is that setting up a National Evaluation System is a complex and multidimensional process. We are dealing with systems, institutions and people. We need to be sensitive about how we approach building a country-wide system. There is a need to take a collaborative approach, and this can often take time and resources, but in the end, it helps to build ownership and ensures sustainability”.*

— **Susan Sulu**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination, Solomon Islands.

*“You can make state-of-the-art systems and institutions that will address the issue of evaluation... but at the end it would be nothing if you don't have a political will to implement the evaluation practices and obeying the evaluation policy for better policies for citizens”.*

— **Zoran Dimitrovski**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Local Self-government, North Macedonia



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*“There is a lot to learn, especially from others. I hope this will contribute to our understanding to improve the evaluation systems in my country.”*

— **Luc Joseph Okio**, Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister, in charge of State Reform, Republic of the Congo.

*“As we look back at the pandemic, we need to ask ourselves, was the M&E system in the country resilient enough and bounced-back to respond to the changing context? Did people immediately turn back to the National Evaluation Systems for evidence that would inform decision-making?”*

— **Dugan Fraser**, Programme Manager, Global Evaluation Initiative



## Watch the session



**Video recording of the Plenary 1:**

[NEC 2022 | Plenary 1 - In an era of complexity and uncertainty, can we do without national systems - YouTube](#)

