

Who evaluates the evaluators?

This is an important question because evaluators must remain accountable, in addition to exemplify learning from and use of evaluation.

In 2014, UN Women Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) had the pleasure of being the subject of three external and independent reviews. These assessments included: United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Professional Peer Review; JIU Analysis of the evaluation function in the UN System; and the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) assessment of UN Women. The overall findings of these separate and independent reviews were aligned and complemented each other, providing a full-fledged assessment of the UN Women evaluation function. The Global Evaluation Advisory Committee reviewed, noted and agreed with the findings of all three external assessments (see below), and presented its own overall assessment and recommendations to the UN Women Executive Board.



UN Women Management agreed with them, and committed to implement the recommendations as stated in a formal Management Response presented to the Executive Board by the UN Women Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director. This is a good example of how evaluation functions can be held accountable to meet their mandate to support their own organizations' missions.

Best regards

Marco Segone,
Director, Independent Evaluation Office, UN Women

The Global Evaluation Advisory Committee concluded that UN Women has strong central evaluation capacity

The Global Evaluation Advisory Committee (GEAC) is composed of external independent evaluators representing different geographical areas and institutional backgrounds, including representatives from government evaluation systems, Voluntary Organizations of Professional Evaluators (VOPEs), academia, private foundations, Bretton Woods institutions, and senior management of UN Women. It is chaired by the Director-General of the Independent Evaluation Group at the World Bank Group. The Committee provides advice to the Under-Secretary-General / Executive Director and the Independent Evaluation Office on the evaluation function.

The GEAC met in December 2014 to discuss the findings of the external and independent assessments and provide advice to UN Women and its Executive Board. The GEAC noted and agreed with the findings of all three external assessments that UN Women has a strong central evaluation office, the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO). The assessments all found that IEO performs well against evaluation standards of independence, credibility and utility, and in comparison with other UN organizations.

Based on a review of the mandate of UN Women, the GEAC concluded that evaluation is central to the achievement of UN Women's mission and in supporting fulfillment of its transformational role. The GEAC emphasized that evaluation brings evidence and knowledge to the normative, operational and coordination work of UN Women, and complements its advocacy and research activities. The GEAC recognized that the transformational nature of the mandate of UN Women requires evaluation, reflection, learning and change without which the challenging mission of the organization would be hard to achieve. The GEAC saw a great opportunity in UN Women's management owning, internalizing and using evaluation findings in its own deliberations on international platforms, with partners, the Executive Board, and within UN Women. The GEAC concluded that a deliberate and proactive approach to using evaluative evidence will contribute towards better informed advocacy, normative and operational work and outcomes and provide strong signals within and beyond the organization about the importance of evidence and learning from experience.

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UN Women Executive Board appreciates the Global Evaluation Advisory Committee report

The UN Women Executive Board met on 9 February, 2015 and discussed the report submitted by the Global Evaluation Advisory Committee. It commended UN Women for the establishment of a strong enabling environment for evaluation; the strong performance of the Independent Evaluation Office based on the standards of independence, credibility and utility; the leadership by UN Women in promoting gender equality and responsive evaluation through coordination efforts within the UN system and partnerships, including at country level; and in fostering innovative partnerships for national evaluation capacity development.

The Executive Board requested UN Women to: (a) protect the strong performance of the Independent Evaluation Office and continue to strengthen the utility, credibility and independence of evaluation, in addition to innovation and country based partnerships for decentralized evaluations; (b) continue to demonstrate the importance of evaluation and to enhance the use of evaluation recommendations in its work; (c) continue to strengthen its evaluation capacities and to allocate adequate human and financial resources to the Independent Evaluation Office and the overall evaluation function; (d) continue to promote reporting against the United Nations System Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) Evaluation Indicator and conduct the analysis of the reports produced; (e) carry out an internal review of the current Evaluation Policy including with regards to the independence of the evaluation function, and report about it within the framework of the Annual Report on the Evaluation Function, to be considered by the Executive Board at the 2016 Annual session meeting.

[Executive Board decision](#)

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UN Women senior managers see evaluation as integral to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment

In its management response to the report of the GEAC, UN Women noted its appreciation for the recommendations and guidance provided. Since its inception, UN Women has placed great importance on ensuring a strong evaluation function in order to support the entity in demonstrating its results and accountability, using evaluation for decision-making and learning from evaluations to make progress in gender equality and women's empowerment. UN Women was pleased that the GEAC recognized gender responsive evaluation as essential for achieving the mission of UN Women: gender equality and women's empowerment. UN Women was also pleased that the GEAC concluded that central evaluation function is strong, consistent with the findings of the three external assessments of the UN Women evaluation function. UN Women accepted all recommendations of the GEAC and provided a comprehensive management response and action plan to address them. UN Women is committed to safeguarding and strengthening the evaluation function building on its strong foundation and taking it forward to ensure it continues to provide evaluations of strategic use to the organization and to the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Management Response [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#)

If you have completed a new evaluation related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please visit

<https://genderevaluation.unwomen.org/accounts/register> to submit it for inclusion in the UN Women Gender Equality Evaluation Portal .

About the Independent Evaluation Office

The UN Women Independent Evaluation Office main purpose is to enhance accountability, inform decision-making and contribute to learning on the best ways to achieve women's empowerment and gender equality through normative, operational and coordination work. UN Women Independent Evaluation Office also strengthens capacities for gender responsive evaluation within UN entities, governments and civil society organizations.

UN Women is the UN entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

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