



A United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Fit for Post-2015 agenda

A UNEG fit for purpose is an inclusive UNEG where its diversity is its richness. Therefore, a UNEG fit for purpose should consolidate the strengthening of evaluation functions in the United Nations by updating UNEG Norms and Standards, professionalizing the function and carrying out Peer Reviews, while sustaining the new frontiers and opportunities offered by the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals, the recent United Nations resolution on national evaluation capacity development and the Independent System Wide Evaluation work, among others.

As gender is strategic to achieve the post 2015 agenda, gender responsive evaluation should be central to evaluation in the United Nations system. UN Women has been an active member of UNEG in promoting the integration of gender equality into evaluation. Through UNEG, 11 United Nations Evaluation Offices pull resources and knowledge to produce the first ever [UN guidance on integrating human rights and gender equality](#) as well as the newly [revised indicator on evaluation for the System Wide Action Plan for gender equality and the empowerment of women](#). Both resources support the United Nations System in meeting its commitments to gender responsive evaluation.

UN Women Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) will continue its efforts to make sure gender equality will be more and more integrated in United Nations evaluation functions

Best regards

Marco Segone,
Director, Independent Evaluation Office, UN Women
Chair, United Nations Evaluation Group

46 UN agencies endorse Marco Segone as new UNEG Chair



On Monday, 9 March 2015 the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) opened its Annual General Meeting and Evaluation

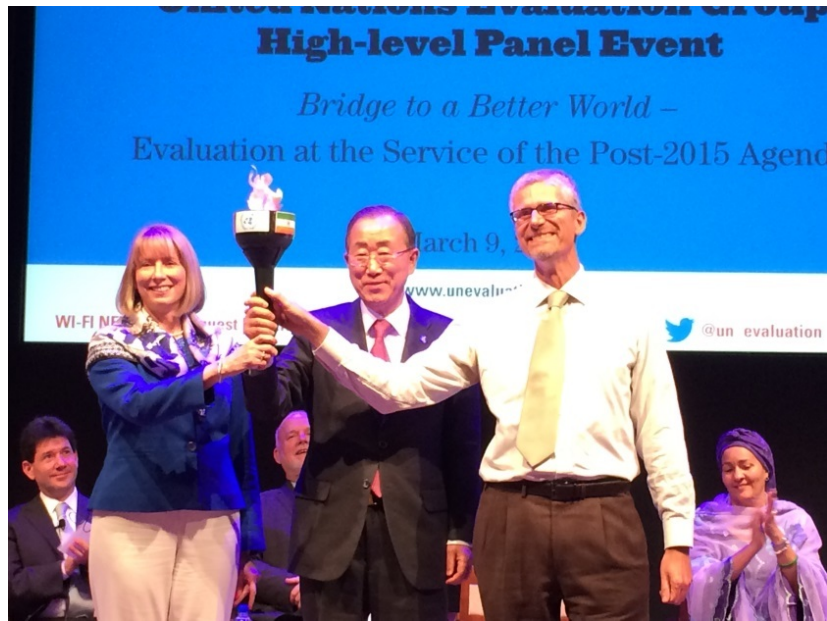
Practice Exchange Seminar with the goal of bringing together United Nations evaluators from all over the world to strategize evaluation for the post-2015 development agenda.

The UNEG evaluation week took place during the [2015 International Year of Evaluation](#) and in the context of the recently adopted United Nations resolution by the United Nations General Assembly on evaluation [A/RES/69/237](#) titled “Capacity building for the evaluation of development activities at country level”.

Marco Segone, Director of the UN Women Independent Evaluation Office was elected new UNEG Chair, together with the 4 Vice-chairs Indran Naidoo (UNDP), Helen Wedgwood (WFP), Robert Stryk (UNRWA) and Colin Kirk (UNICEF).

Read the UNGA Resolution on evaluation [here](#)

Read the UNEG Evaluation Week documents [here](#)



United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon lit the Evaluation Torch to celebrate 2015 the International year of Evaluation in the context of the UNEG Evaluation Week.

To be able to save lives we need good quality gender responsive evaluation

During the evaluation week, Marco Segone, Deborah Rugg and Colin Kirk spoke in a press conference to launch the new U N E G publication “Evidence Changes Lives: Realizing



Evaluation's Potential to Inform the Global Sustainable Development Goals”. The publication celebrates 2015 International Year of Evaluation and the approval of the new United Nations resolution on national evaluation capacity development.

As UNEG Chair, Marco Segone, presented a forward looking agenda focused on the need of high quality and gender responsive evaluation to understand structural development problems associated with continuous unequal power relations. For example, why women are excluded from political participation processes? To be able to understand this, it is imperative to look at the local context. Evidence needs to be generated by countries because it addresses key questions from national policy makers. For this to happen, Marco Segone emphasized the need to strengthen the capacity of countries to carry out gender responsive evaluation, and to mainstream evaluation within the post-2015 agenda. If evaluation informs national development strategies, it can change lives.

Watch the video of the UNEG Press Release [here](#)

Read the Flagship UNEG publication [here](#)

**United Nations
Secretary-General:
“All of us share a
responsibility to
strengthen the
evaluation
function”**



The UNEG High-level Panel Event “[Bridge to a Better World - Evaluation at the service of the Post-2015 Agenda](#)” kicked-off the 2015 UNEG Annual General Meeting and Evaluation Practice Exchange seminar on Monday March 9th. Over 150 people registered, including UNEG colleagues, United Nations executives and colleagues, and over 10 delegates from member states.

The Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon delivered opening remarks: “I welcome the designation of 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation -- the same year in which the United Nations marks its 70th anniversary and will take momentous decisions about our future prosperity, safety and well-being. Evaluation everywhere, and at every level, will play a key role in implementing the new development agenda”. He also added “Evaluation is not easy. Nor is it popular. But it is essential. The current constrained budgetary climate makes it more important than ever. All of us share a responsibility to strengthen this important function. I look forward to working with all of you to strengthen evaluation capacity so that it can play its rightful role in building lives of dignity for all.”

Ms. Amina Mohammed, Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning; H.E. Peter Thomson, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations; Mr. Miguel Szekely, Director of the Institute for Innovation in Education, Tecnologico de Monterrey, Mexico; and Ms. Nancy MacPherson, Managing Director, Evaluation, Rockefeller Foundation participated of the High Level event as featured panelists and discussed how building evaluation capacities can empower countries to adopt development policies and programmes that are appropriate, effective and responsive to the needs of their citizens.

Watch the High Level Event video [here](#)
Read the Secretary General Speech [here](#)
Access the biographies of the panelists [here](#)

UN Women at UNEG EPE

This year UN Women IEO staff facilitated 5 sessions during the Evaluation Practice Exchange Seminar. Below is a summary of each of the sessions.

Engendering United Nations Evaluation functions

Sabrina Evangelista (UN Women) organized a 'talk show' on integrating gender equality in evaluation – UN-SWAP. The format allowed for a casual exchange on experience of evaluation offices integrating gender equality in evaluation systems and reporting on UN-SWAP. Elisa Calcaterra (UNEP), shared that based on an internal review of evaluation systems, UNEP is taking steps to integrate gender equality more adequately in evaluation processes, including the Terms of Reference, engaging with the gender unit specialists, and seeking out training/staff development on the topic for its own evaluation office staff. Ramla Khalidi (ESCWA) shared that they have revised their evaluation policy to more adequately integrate gender equality and human rights principles, and have established integration of gender equality as a standard criteria for assessing the performance of managers. Chandi Kadirgamar and Karen Cadondon (UNDP) shared their experience conducting an external meta-evaluation and the lessons identified, which included the need to include a gender specialist in evaluation teams and allow for adequate time; they have also developed a 'How to note' that identifies key sources of GEWE data for evaluations. Sabrina Evangelista also shared UN Women experience, noting that the incorporation of the UN-SWAP evaluation performance indicators (EPI) into existing quality assurance processes enabled the UN-SWAP EPI to be streamlined. The participants engaged in a lively discussion, which indicated the interest amongst entities in sharing experience and identifying good practice in strengthening systems for gender-responsive evaluation.



Access the SWAP Technical Note [here](#)

Read more on UN Women Evaluation UN system coherence [here](#)

For more information, please contact Sabrina.evangelista@unwomen.org

Strengthening Decentralized Evaluation Functions

UN Women presented in the session on decentralized evaluations together with UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP and WFP. Messay Tassew (UN Women) presented the UN Women experience in establishing and implementing Global Evaluation Oversight System (a dashboard that presents 9 Key Performance Indicators for the evaluation function) and the enabling factors and challenges to decentralized evaluation function. UN Women management arrangement of decentralized evaluations and the unique role of Regional Evaluation Specialists were held up as a good example to ensure the impartiality, quality, credibility and utility of gender responsive decentralized evaluations. The session also enabled to exchange views and experience of various UN agencies in respect to strengthening decentralized evaluation functions and addressing the actual and potential challenges to impartiality.



Read more on the UN Women decentralized evaluation function [here](#)
For more information, please contact messay.tassew@unwomen.org

Managing thematic evaluations

A panel organized jointly by UNCDF and UN Women aimed to showcase innovations in managing thematic evaluation in the UN system. Inga Sniukaite (UN Women) presented the global thematic evaluation of UN Women's work on economic empowerment that was set out to push gender-responsiveness bar higher by systematically integrating a gender lens in the management, design and conduct of evaluation.



The evaluation deployed a number of innovative evaluation methods such as collaborative outcome reporting, participatory video, qualitative comparative analysis and others. This evaluation can serve as a good practice example on integrating a gender and human rights perspective in evaluation design as well as methodological innovation for UNEG and wider evaluation community.

Read more on UN Women corporate evaluations [here](#)
For more information, please contact Inga.sniukaite@unwomen.org

Professionalization of evaluation

Judita Jankovic (International Civil Aviation Organization) and Andrea Cook (UNFPA) organized a session on professionalization initiatives that could serve as inspiration for a UNEG initiative. The keynote speaker was Anna Hettinen (DFID) as DFID has developed a comprehensive professionalization



programme for the organization aimed at credentialing evaluators and providing incentive for all staff to obtain evaluation credentials. Sabrina Evangelista (UN Women) shared that the UN Women professionalization initiative is being launched in partnership with Human Resources and the UN Women Training Centre and, given that 90% of evaluations are completed at the decentralized level, it is aimed at enhancing quality of decentralized evaluation within the overall framework of UN Women's Evaluation Strategic Plan. Sally Burrows, World Food Programme, also shared their experience developing a professionalization initiative. The discussion identified key issues for consideration, such as linking with academic programmes, and appropriate approaches for UNEG; the general consensus was that UNEG should propose an overarching approach that can be adopted/adapted by individual organizations.

For more information, please contact Sabrina.evangelista@unwomen.org

Talk Show on National Evaluation Capacity Development

Florencia Tateossian (UN Women), Ada Ocampo (UNICEF), Javier Guarizo (UNIDO), and Ana Maria Soares (UNDP) hosted a talk show inviting 5 heads of UN evaluation offices (GEF, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women) to debate on national evaluation



capacity development in the context of the new UN resolution. Participants discussed the role of UN evaluation offices in promoting and managing national evaluation capacity development to build sustainable capacity to answer complex development issues, demonstrate results, promote learning and enable decision makers to make evidence based decisions.

Read more on UN Women strategy on strengthening national evaluation capacities [here](#)

For more information, please contact Florencia.tateossian@unwomen.org



In the spirit of transparency and information sharing, the Independent Evaluation Office at UN Women is proud to announce its new Twitter account at @UNWomenEval. Launching Friday, 20 March, the Independent Evaluation Office hopes to start and participate in open dialogue on gender responsive evaluation to achieve gender equality. Follow us at @UNWomenEval [live on 20 March] and contact Greta Karris (greta.karris@unwomen.org) with questions or for more information on social media.

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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