

Stream 3: *National evaluation capacity in support to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

Lead Agencies: UNDP, UNICEF, UNODC

1. *Background*

September 2015 marks a milestone in the history of humanity. World leaders and international community committed to work towards a better world for all *leaving no one behind* by endorsing the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

The Agenda 2030 was adopted by the United Nations through General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/70/1](#). The Agenda, which is a comprehensive and people-centered set of universal and transformative development Goals and targets, stresses the importance of accountability at all levels and commits the Member States to engage in systematic follow-up and review of their work towards the achievement of the SDGs. The Agenda also calls upon the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions to actively support countries, especially developing countries, to establish an effective participatory, transparent and integrated follow up and review framework to be informed by country-led evaluation and disaggregated data.

Prior to the endorsement of the Agenda 2014, in December 2014, the United Nations General Assembly approved a stand-alone resolution on evaluation entitled: “Capacity building for the evaluation of development activities at country level”. [Resolution 69/237](#) invites United Nations entities “to support, upon request, efforts to further strengthen the capacity of Member States for evaluation in accordance with their national policies and priorities”.

Against this backdrop, national evaluation capacity development support (NECD); and enhanced decentralized country-level evaluations have increasingly become an important area for UNEG’s engagement. In this vein, it is considered important to discuss and agree, among other things on, What is the role of UNEG and of specific agencies in terms of NECD? To what extent it is relevant and urgent for UNEG to demonstrate its commitment towards supporting countries to account on progress towards the SDGs?

2. *Purpose and Objectives*

The session intends to generate a debate around NECD in the frame of the two General Assembly Resolutions cited above. By the end of the session, it is expected that the audience would have agreed on concrete action points to inform UNEG’s future directions in terms of NECD.

Session objectives are as follows:

- i) Raise awareness on the importance of NECD in the frame of the 2030 Agenda and the UN Resolution for Capacity Building at the Country Level.

- ii) Take stock of what each agency has done and achieved in terms of national evaluation capacity development especially at the enabling environment and institutional levels.
 - o For this “taking stock” exercise, we have prepared a survey to be completed by all UNEG agencies
- iii) Exchange experiences and lessons on NECD;
- iv) Agree on action points that will inform the formulation of a UNEG strategy on NECD in the frame of the 20130 Agenda.

3. **Format**

The session will be organized in the following way:

- i) Brief presentations on”
 - i. Findings on the survey on NECD
 - ii. UNDP – lessons from NEC Conference
 - iii. UNICEF – key messages from NECD experience
- ii) The NECD debate: This part will be the central part of the session and will be organized in the form of a panel where panelists are expected to discuss and respond to pre-established questions from the perspective of:
 - i. The Government
 - ii. The UN
 - iii. Bilateral Organizations
 - iv. Civil society organizations
- iii) Commitments on NECD: based on the presentations and on the debate, agencies will agree to join NECD activities, among others:
 - i. National capacity development support to specific countries;
 - ii. Documentation and dissemination of good practices
 - iii. Advocacy initiatives
 - iv. Establishing a UNEG taskforce for a strategy on NECD in the frame of the 2010 Agenda.
- iv) Wrap-up and action points.