

United Nations Evaluation Group

Norms and Standards for Evaluation



UNEG

United Nations Evaluation Group

UNEG Mission

- UNEG is a unique interagency professional network in the UN system that aims to advance the effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the UN system's work by promoting and strengthening evaluation.
- UNEG's mission is to:
 - promote the independence, credibility and usefulness of the evaluation function and evaluation across the UN system;
 - advocate for the importance of evaluation for learning, decision-making and accountability;
 - support the evaluation community in the UN system and beyond

UNEG Membership:

47 members and 3 observers

- ❖ Funds & programmes: ITC UNCDF UNICEF UNCTAD UNHCR UNDP UN-Women UNEP UN-Habitat UNODC UNFPA UNRWA UNV WFP (14)
- ❖ Specialized agencies: FAO ICAO IFAD ILO IMO UNESCO UNIDO WHO WIPO WMO (10)
- ❖ Related, associated and other organizations: CTBTO IAEA OPCW WTO IOM UNAIDS (6)
- ❖ Regional commissions: UNESCAP UNESCWA UNECA UNECE UNECLAC (5)
- ❖ Departments & offices: OCHA OHCHR OIOS DPI DPKO UNDESA PBSO DGACM (UNDSS (to be approved)) (8)
- ❖ Research and training institutes: UNICRI, UNITAR (2)
- ❖ Others: GEF PAHO (2)
- ❖ Observers: JIU SDG-F World Bank
- ❖ Institutional Partners: DAC Evalnet, ECG, IOCE, WSSCC

UNEG strategic objectives (SO)

- SO1: a stronger evaluation function
- SO2: strengthening use
- SO3: System-wide evaluations
- SO4: UNEG co-leading global evaluation partnership



Evaluation received increased prominence within the 2030 Agenda



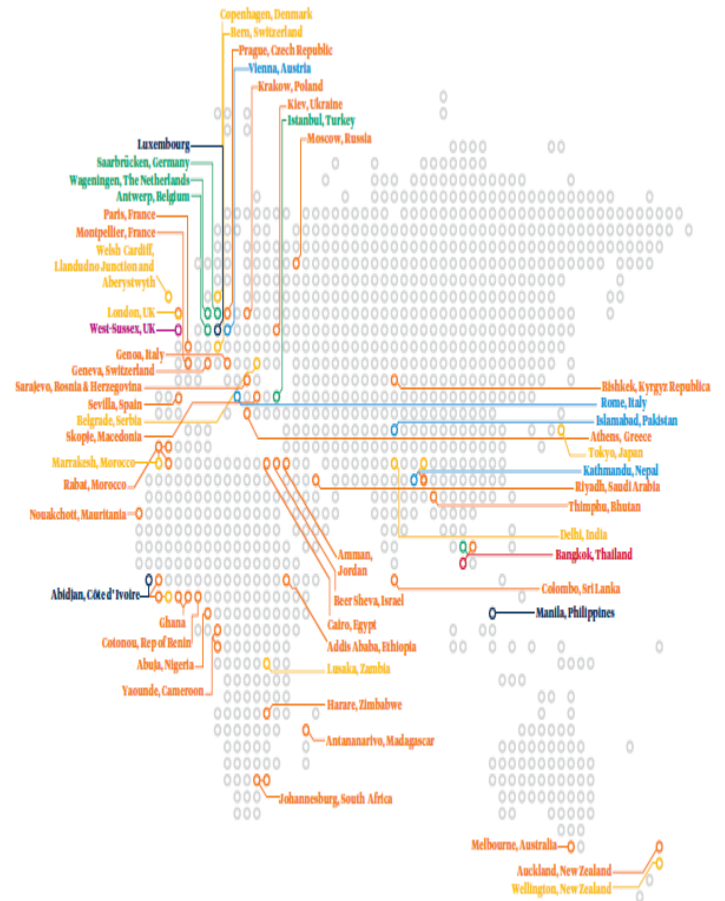
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92 events of the EvalYear



Events organised:

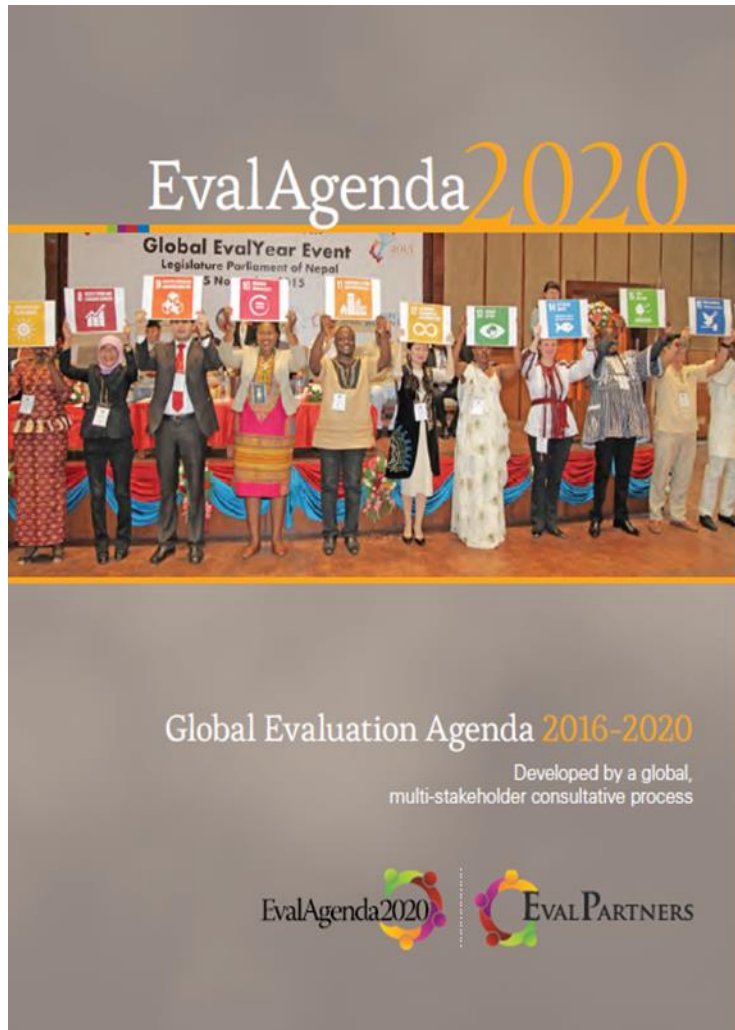
- by Evaluation Associations (VOPEs)
- by UN agencies
- by Governments
- by Parliamentary Forum
- by Multilateral Banks
- by Universities
- by Think Tanks





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Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020 launched



2016 Workplan implemented thanks to strong engagement

- 90% activities being implemented
- 38 Agencies and 188 members engaged in implementing UNEG workplan

UNEG Updated Norms and Standards

- N&S impact so far
- Why N&S have been updated
- What are the key enhancements
- Overview of 2016 Norms and Standards



N&S impact so far

- It has been used successfully to strengthen and harmonize evaluation practice and has served as a key reference for evaluators around the world.
- 2005 *Norms and Standards for Evaluation* has served as a landmark document for the United Nations and beyond.
 - At least 33 UNEG member agencies' evaluation policies/guidelines make reference to it
 - Numbers of downloads of 2005 *Norms and Standards* are both about 80,000 (as of July 2016)

Why N&S have been updated

The last decade has witnessed many changes in global, regional and national contexts, and in the practice of evaluation.

- The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 69/237 on “Building Capacity for the Evaluation of Development Activities at the Country Level.”
- The first-ever International Year of Evaluation.
- The adoption of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals



Why N&S have been updated

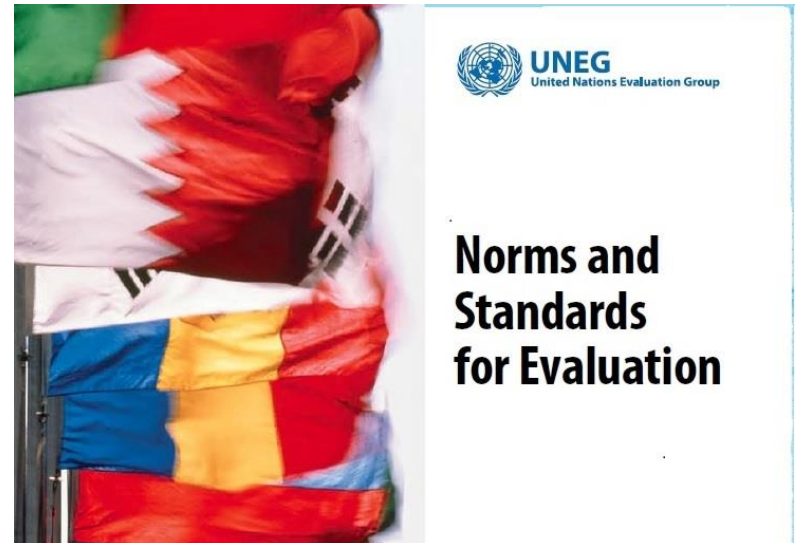
- This evolving context and the increasing demands for accountability and national ownership in evaluation require an **updated *Norms and Standards*** document in order to guide and further strengthen evaluation practices.

Adoption of the updated N&S

- UNEG working group and drafting group led the process - 2015/16
 - extensive consultation process,
 - several studies and surveys, and
 - participatory workshops
- Updated Norms and Standards were discussed and unanimously adopted at the 2016 UNEG Annual General Meeting in Geneva in April 2016

What are the key enhancements

- The 2016 *Norms and Standards* better reflect the strategic changes happened in the last 10 years
- Now consolidated into **one document**, norms and standards are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, reflecting the evolving context.



2016 Norms and Standards

- The ten general norms should be upheld in the conduct of any evaluation.
- The updated UNEG N&S includes 4 new Norms:
 - a) Internationally agreed principles, goals and targets;
 - b) Human rights and gender equality;
 - c) National evaluation capacities, and
 - d) Professionalism, with a stronger emphasis on the utility and use of evaluation.

New Norms

Norm 1: Internationally agreed principles, goals and targets

Within the United Nations system, it is the responsibility of evaluation managers and evaluators to uphold and promote, in their evaluation practice, the principles and values to which the United Nations is committed. In particular, they should respect, promote and contribute to the goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

New Norms

Norm 8: Human rights and gender equality

The universally recognized values and principles of human rights and gender equality need to be integrated into all stages of an evaluation. It is the responsibility of evaluators and evaluation managers to ensure that these values are respected, addressed and promoted, underpinning the commitment to the principle of ‘no-one left behind’.

New Norms

Norm 9: National evaluation capacities

The effective use of evaluation can make valuable contributions to accountability and learning and thereby justify actions to strengthen national evaluation capacities. In line with the General Assembly resolution A/RES/69/237 on building capacity for the evaluation of development activities at the country level, national evaluation capacities should be supported upon the request of Member States.

New Norms

Norm 10: Professionalism

Evaluations should be conducted with professionalism and integrity. Professionalism should contribute towards the credibility of evaluators, evaluation managers and evaluation heads, as well as the evaluation function. Key aspects include access to knowledge; education and training; adherence to ethics and to these norms and standards; utilization of evaluation competencies; and recognition of knowledge, skills and experience. This should be supported by an enabling environment, institutional structures and adequate resources.

2016 Norms and Standards

- The four institutional norms should be reflected in the management and governance of evaluation functions.
- The associated standards support the implementation of these normative principles.

Norms For evaluation

General Norms for Evaluation

- Norm 1: Internationally agreed principles, goals and targets
- Norm 2: Utility
- Norm 3: Credibility
- Norm 4: Independence
- Norm 5: Impartiality
- Norm 6: Ethics
- Norm 7: Transparency
- Norm 8: Human rights and gender equality
- Norm 9: National evaluation capacities
- Norm 10: Professionalism

Norms For evaluation

Institutional Norms for Evaluation in the United Nations System

- Norm 11: Enabling environment
- Norm 12: Evaluation policy
- Norm 13: Responsibility for the evaluation function
- Norm 14: Evaluation use and follow-up

Standards for evaluation

Standards 1: Institutional Framework

Standard 1.1: Institutional framework for evaluation

Standard 1.2: Evaluation policy

Standard 1.3: Evaluation plan and reporting

Standard 1.4: Management response and follow up

Standard 1.5: Disclosure policy

Standards 2: Management of the Evaluation Function

Standard 2.1: Head of evaluation

Standard 2.2: Evaluation guidelines

Standard 2.3: Responsiveness of the evaluation function

Standards 3: Evaluation Competencies

3.1 Competencies

3.2 Ethics



Standards for evaluation

Standards 4: Conduct of Evaluations

Standard 4.1: Timeliness and intentionality

Standard 4.2 Evaluability assessment

Standard 4.3 Terms of reference

Standard 4.4 Evaluation scope and objectives

Standard 4.5 Methodology

Standard 4.6 Stakeholder engagement and reference groups

Standard 4.7 Human rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming strategy

Standard 4.8 Selection and composition of evaluation teams

Standard 4.9 Evaluation report and products

Standard 4.10 Recommendations

Standard 4.11 Communication and dissemination

Standards 5. Quality

Standard 5.1 Quality assurance system

Standard 5.2 Quality control of the evaluation design

Standard 5.3 Quality control at the final stage of evaluation

2016 Norms and Standards

- The 2016 *Norms and Standards* will serve as the framework for the UNEG evaluation competencies, peer reviews and benchmarking initiatives.
- The 2016 UNEG *Norms and Standards* will be subject to periodic review and updating by UNEG members.

Q&A



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