

*Empowering Countries through Evaluation:
Evaluation as a country level tool for the new development agenda*
A High Level Side Event Organized by the United Nations Evaluation Group
Fourth Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)
Tentative Date: July 11, 2014
Concept Note

Background

The Secretary General, in his report “A life of dignity for all” (A/68/202) observed that “Strong monitoring and accountability will be crucial for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.” One of the four objectives of the Fourth Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) is to identify ways to enhance national and global accountability and effective monitoring of development cooperation. Specifically, the DCF seeks to support the development of minimum accountability standards and individual countries in their efforts to put in place full-fledged accountability mechanism and dialogue forums.¹

Thematic Focus: Evaluation

Evaluation is a powerful tool for greater national and global accountability in development cooperation. By explaining what works and what doesn’t work evaluation can help guide decision making, update priorities, and improve development results. Importantly, it also strengthens national ownership of development outcomes.

Objective and Expected Outcomes

This High Level Side Event will explore the role that evaluation can play in empowering countries. It will consider how building evaluation capacities at the country level can lead to greater ownership of the development agenda and how stronger national evaluation systems can be part of an inclusive and robust global accountability framework. In doing so, the side event will put the issue of national evaluation capacity building on the post-2015 development agenda, act as a catalyst for evaluation at the national, regional and global levels and within the UN system, and help create an enabling environment for evidence-based decision making.

¹Office of ECOSOC Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, *Preparation for the Development Cooperation Forum Phase IV: 2012 – 2014*. January 2013.

The panel will **contribute to the following themes of the DCF:**

- the engagement of the diversity of development cooperation actors and its implications at country level
- mutual accountability and transparency
- global monitoring and accountability for development cooperation

Organizing Partners

It will be organized by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), a professional network that brings together the units responsible for evaluation in the UN system. UNEG aims to promote the independence, credibility and usefulness of the evaluation function and evaluation across the UN system, to advocate for the importance of evaluation for learning, decision making and accountability and to support that evaluation community in the UN system and beyond.

Draft list of speakers/presenters

The speakers will include leaders in government, academia, philanthropy and the United Nations. To date we have three confirmed panellists:

- Amina Mohammed, Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning
- Kabir Hashim, Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka
- Ian Goldman, Deputy Director General and head of evaluation and research at the South African Presidency's Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation
- Others to be confirmed