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**T**he United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) is a professional network that brings together the units responsible for evaluation in the UN system including the specialized agencies, funds, programmes and affiliated organizations. UNEG currently has 43 members and three observers.

UNEG aims to strengthen the objectivity, effectiveness and visibility of the evaluation function across the UN system and to advocate the importance of evaluation for learning, decision making and accountability. UNEG provides a forum for members to establish common norms and standards for evaluation; develop methodologies addressing UN concerns; strengthen evaluation functions through peer review and information exchange and establish partnerships with the wider evaluation community.

UNEG has an elected Chair and vice-Chair, and is supported by an Executive Coordinator and the UNEG Secretariat. UNEG's governance and ways of working are outlined in the UNEG Principles of Working Together (adopted in 2007 and last revised in 2012).

## Achievements to date:

In addition to fostering a forum for UN evaluation professionals to share information and experiences, UNEG has also published the following reports:

### Delivering as One (DaO)

UNEG has contributed to all phases of evaluating the DaO experience: UNEG conducted evaluability assessments of DaO in the eight pilot countries. UNEG provided technical support to the conduct of country-led evaluations through designated quality assurance panels. The UNEG Chair served in the evaluation management group for the independent evaluation.

### Joint Country-Level Evaluation – South Africa

The 2009 UNEG report “*Joint Evaluation of the Role and Contribution of the United Nations System in the Republic of South Africa*” was an outcome of a new approach to evaluation in the UN based on partnership between a national government and UNEG, promoting a joint approach to evaluation.

### Peer Reviews

Since 2005, in a joint initiative with the DAC Evaluation Network, UNEG has conducted peer reviews of the evaluation functions of GEF, OIOS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, UNEP, UN-Habitat and FAO. Follow-up peer reviews of UNDP and WFP are ongoing.

### UNEG Foundation and Guidance documents

As part of its commitment to strengthening and professionalizing the evaluation function, UNEG has developed norms and standards for evaluation in the UN system, job descriptions and core competencies for evaluators, core competencies for heads of evaluation, as well as ethical guidelines and a code of conduct for evaluation in the UN system.

### Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation

The UNEG Norms and Standards highlight the need for people-centred evaluation and for evaluators to consider human rights and gender equality. UNEG has recently developed a practical Handbook to address the gap in tools and frameworks for evaluation that fully reflect these considerations.

### Network of Networks for Impact Evaluation (NONIE) 2012 Meeting

UNEG hosted and documented the 2012 NONIE Meeting, a unique forum for information sharing on impact evaluation experiences and best practices.

**\*\*All documents mentioned above are available on the UNEG website\*\***

**Member Agencies:** [CTBTO](#) [FAO](#) [GEF](#) [IAEA](#) [ICAO](#) [IFAD](#) [ILO](#) [IMO](#) [IOM](#) [ITC](#) [OCHA](#) [OHCHR](#) [OPCW](#) [UNHCR](#) [DPI](#) [UNDSS\\*](#) [UNCDF](#) [UNICEF](#) [UNCTAD](#) [DPKO](#) [UNDESA](#) [UNDP](#) [UNESCAP](#) [UNESCWA](#) [UNECA](#) [UNECE](#) [UNECLAC](#) [UNESCO](#) [UN-Women](#) [UNEP](#) [UN-Habitat](#) [UNIDO](#) [OIOS](#) [UNODC](#) [UNFPA](#) [UNAIDS](#) [UNRWA](#) [UNV](#) [WFP](#) [WHO](#) [WIPO](#) [WMO](#) [WTO](#) (\*to be approved at 2013 AGM)

**Observers:** [JIU](#) [MDG-F](#) [World Bank](#)

**Institutional Partners:** [DAC Evalnet](#) [ECG](#) [IOCE](#)

# UNEG Norms and Standards for Evaluation

The UNEG Norms and Standards, published in 2005, contribute to the professionalization of the evaluation function by providing guidance to evaluation offices in preparing evaluation policies.

The UNEG Norms seek to facilitate system-wide collaboration on evaluation by ensuring that evaluation entities within the UN follow agreed-upon basic principles. They provide a reference for strengthening, professionalizing and improving the quality of evaluation in all entities of the United Nations system, including funds, programmes and specialized agencies.

*“The adoption of evaluation norms and standards by UNEG in 2005, in line with international standards for evaluation, constituted a landmark for the harmonization and simplification of the evaluation function in the United Nations system”*

*Extract from the United Nations General Assembly Resolution - Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations development system A/62/253 (Dec 2007)*

The UNEG Standards build upon the UNEG Norms and are drawn from best practices of UNEG members. They guide the establishment of the institutional framework, management of the evaluation function, conduct and use of evaluations; are a reference for the competencies of evaluation practitioners and work ethics; and are intended to be applied as appropriate within each organization.

## UNEG Work Programme 2012 – 2013

Defined and approved at the UNEG Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2012, the following Task Forces (TF) were established to deliver the UNEG Work Programme:

### Evaluation Approaches and Methods

#### Evaluation of Normative Work Task Force

The TF is conducting a stocktaking of current practices in evaluating normative work, culminating in guidelines on conducting such evaluations.

#### Human Rights and Gender Equality Task Force

The TF is finalizing and disseminating a guidance document for evaluators to integrate human rights and gender equality perspectives in the management and conduct of evaluations.

#### Impact Evaluation Task Force

The TF is developing an integrated guidance documents on impact evaluation (in the overall M&E system, for UN normative and institutional support work, and on methods for addressing attribution challenges) and participates in impact evaluation related networks.

### Evaluation Capacity Development

#### Evaluation Practice Exchange 2013 Seminar - Organising Committee

The group is preparing and conducting a 2-day EPE Seminar in April 2013 in New York.

#### National Evaluation Capacity Task Force

The TF is identifying good practices in national evaluation systems and facilitating south/south knowledge sharing. It also supports synergies between UNEG and global/regional evaluation associations.

### Harmonisation of Evaluation

#### Joint Evaluation Task Force

The TF is producing and disseminating guidance for UNDAF and joint evaluations, with a view to enhancing the quality of evaluations conducted by two or more partners.

### Strengthening the Evaluation Function

#### Peer Review Task Force

The TF is providing support to UNEG peer reviews and elaborating a lessons learnt study jointly with DAC Evalnet.

#### UNEG Norms and Standards Task Force

The TF is proposing ways in which the UNEG Norms and Standards could be revised, to be adopted at the 2013 Annual General Meeting.

#### Working Group on Knowledge Management

The group is working on a publication showcasing evaluation capacity in the UN System, creating a consultant roster and joint evaluation plan for UNEG, and on strengthening UNEG as a community of practice.