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# UNEG

## United Nations Evaluation Group

## UNEG Newsletter: November 2015

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the UNEG Community of Practice Board.*

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# UNEG Chair's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share with you the new issue of UNEG's quarterly newsletter.



On 25-27 September, Heads of States and Governments formally adopted a [new sustainable development agenda](#) and affirmed strong political commitment to its timely implementation, review and follow-up. The 2030 Agenda calls for ambitious, universal and transformative action over the next fifteen years, focusing on our shared planet, its people, and their prosperity, peace and partnership. We particularly welcome the pledge made by Member States that no one will be left behind, by realizing the human rights and sustainable development of all and achieving gender equality. In this vein, [the President of China called for an historic Global Leader Meeting on Gender Equality, in which 80 Heads of State participated and committed to act.](#)

For UNEG and the international evaluation community, it is exciting to note that “evaluation” has been integrated in this new Agenda. It indicates that, as part of the implementation of the Agenda, the follow-up and review processes will be informed by **country-led evaluations** and data. We believe that such evaluations can contribute powerfully towards strengthening and accelerating national development policies and programmes. We appreciate that the Agenda calls for **strengthening national evaluation programmes** as part of the efforts envisioned to enhance national capacity in developing countries.

We are proud to report that UNEG, with support from our partners, played a critical role in advocating the importance of evaluation during the intergovernmental negotiations for this new Agenda. This is another important milestone for UNEG and the international evaluation community, following the stand-alone United Nations General Assembly Resolution, "[Capacity building for the evaluation of development activities at the country level](#)", which was adopted in December 2014 ([click for more information](#)).

Throughout 2015, the global evaluation community has been celebrating the [International Year of Evaluation](#) with the aim of advocating and promoting evaluation and evidence-based policy-making at all levels. UNEG and its members are actively engaged in these activities. As invited by the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/237, UNEG and its members will stand ready to work in partnership with member states and other stakeholders to support, on request, country-led evaluation activities and the strengthening of national

evaluation capacity.

This is an historic opportunity for all of us. Let all of us, evaluators and policy makers from the United Nations, Governments, Civil Society Organizations, including Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation, Parliamentarians and private sector, join hands to make evaluation fit for the 2030 Sustainable development agenda, including by ensuring evaluation will be equity-focused and gender-responsive to make the ‘no one left behind’ promise, a reality.

Marco Segone  
UNEG Chair

For additional information on how evaluation is integrated in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, please visit

<http://www.unevaluation.org/mediacenter/newscenter/newsdetail/113>.

UNEG Workplan progress update (member login required) available at:

<http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/1782>

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## Evaluation Fit for 2030 Agenda

On the occasion of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, UNEG issued a public statement on “[Evaluation fit for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: A Commitment by Evaluators](#)”. It also sent letters to highlight the role of evaluation in the new Agenda to the [Permanent Missions of Members States](#) in New York, [Heads of UN Agencies](#), and the [UN Resident Coordinators](#).

In addition, UNEG is working with UNDG and UN DESA to integrate evaluation in the “UNDG Guidance Note on Supporting the Tailoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to National Contexts”, and the UN Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) report. (click to see sample letters. member login required)



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## Highlighted EvalYear Events Organized by UNEG Members

### Consultations with Parliamentarians

[Consultation with East Asian Parliamentarians in Strengthening Evaluation Function in National Development Agenda](#) and Consultation with Latin American Parliamentarians in Strengthening Evaluation Function in Post Development Agenda took place in August in Bangkok, Thailand, and in September in Panama City, respectively. The consultations were organized under the partnership of the Parliamentarians Forum for Development Evaluation, UNICEF, UN Women, EvalPartners and other organizations.

For additional information on the Consultation with East Asian Parliamentarians, please contact Ada Ocampo [aocampo@unicef.org](mailto:aocampo@unicef.org) or Yumiko Kanemitsu [yumiko.kanemitsu@unwomen.org](mailto:yumiko.kanemitsu@unwomen.org).

For additional information on the Consultation with Latin American Parliamentarians, please contact Ada Ocampo [aocampo@unicef.org](mailto:aocampo@unicef.org) or Laura Gonzalez [laura.gonzalez@unwomen.org](mailto:laura.gonzalez@unwomen.org).

## **SEVAL Annual Conference 2015 and the Geneva Evaluation Network (GEN) Pre-Conference for the International Year of Evaluation 2015 (3-4 September 2015, Geneva, Switzerland)**

The Swiss Evaluation Society (SEVAL) and the Geneva Evaluation Network (GEN) held their first-ever joint conference on 3-4 September. The Conference examined the independence of evaluation in practice. Moreover, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Parliamentary Control of the Administration – the evaluation service of the Swiss Parliament – attendees addressed the question of the institutional independence of evaluation services. Participants also looked at the bigger picture, examining the status of the independence of evaluation in Switzerland in an international perspective.

[Please click here for event details.](#)

For additional information, please contact Claude Hilfiker [claud.hilfiker@wipo.int](mailto:claud.hilfiker@wipo.int) and Craig Russon [russon@ilo.org](mailto:russon@ilo.org).

## **Making Effective Use of Evaluation in an Increasingly Complex World, Joint Conference organized by OECD, UNESCO, European Evaluation Society and French Evaluation Society (30 September 2015, Paris, France)**

The OECD, UNESCO, European and French Evaluation Societies joined hands in organising an event to discuss the use of evaluation within the context of the current challenges. The purpose of the event was to bring together decision makers and evaluators, the demand and the supply sides of evaluation, to discuss the use and impact of evaluation itself and how this could be improved.

[Please click here for event details.](#)

## **Fourth International Conference on National Evaluation Capacities (NEC) (26-30 October, Bangkok, Thailand)**



The Fourth International Conference on National Evaluation Capacities (NEC) took place in Bangkok, Thailand from 26 -30 October. This event was organized by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of UNDP in partnership with the Royal Thai Government. The conference was conducted in parallel and jointly organized with the 2015 International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS) Global

Assembly. Many UNEG colleagues attended the conference. Marco Segone, UNEG Chair, delivered a keynote speech.

The theme of the conference this year was Blending Evaluation Principles with Development Practices to Change People's Lives. The conference focused on how governments can develop the necessary national evaluation capacities to evaluate sustainable human development. Discussions deliberated on future priorities for a post-2015 global evaluation agenda to support the implementation of the up-coming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The goal of the NEC Conferences was to support the development of national evaluation capacity, by focusing on supporting the governments with which UNDP works with around the world. In partnership with a host government, NEC Conferences are held by the IEO in a new region every two years. The conferences are also a part of a broader architecture, in which UNEG plays a significant role by bringing together UN agencies and development partners to collaborate with each other and enhance the understanding and appreciation of evaluation as a powerful tool of public accountability and learning.

The dialogue on NEC can be followed on social media with [#NECbangkok](#).

[Please click here for event details.](#)

Video archives of NEC sessions are also available [here](#)

## Upcoming Events

**EvalYear Twitter Chat: Moving Toward a Global Evaluation Agenda, 2016-2020**



## #EvalYear Twitter Chat: Moving Toward a Global Evaluation Agenda, 2016-2020

Wednesday, 11 November: 9:00am- 9:30am EDT



[@unwomenEval](#) with the support of [@EvalPartners](#) is hosting a live Twitter chat featuring Marco Segone [@msegone](#), co-chair of EvalPartners, Chair of UNEG and Director, Independent Evaluation Office at UN Women, Natasha Kosheleva [@kosheleva\\_nat](#), co-chair of EvalPartners and Ziad Moussa [@lbziadmoussa](#), President of IOCE.

Tweet your questions on a global evaluation agenda using the hashtag [#EvalYear](#). Ask questions now and join us live on November 11, 9:00am EDT for answers!



*Date: Wednesday, 11 November*

*Time: 9:00am- 9:30am EDT*

*Location: Twitter [#EvalYear](#)*

In culmination of the International Year of Evaluation and leading up to the EvalPartners Global Evaluation Week at the Parliament of Nepal, [@unwomenEval](#) with the support of [@EvalPartners](#) is hosting a live Twitter chat on leading the international evaluation community toward a global evaluation agenda from 2016-2020.

Join us on **Wednesday, November 11 from 9:00am to 9:30am EDT** for a lively discussion featuring Marco Segone [@msegone](#), co-chair of EvalPartners, Chair of UNEG and Director, Independent Evaluation Office at UN Women, Natalia Kosheleva [@kosheleva\\_nat](#), co-chair of EvalPartners and Ziad Moussa [@lbziadmoussa](#), President of IOCE.

Tweet your questions and comments on a global evaluation agenda using the hashtag [#EvalYear](#). Start asking your questions today and join us live on November 11, 9:00am EDT for answers!

**Enhancing the evaluability of Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2): "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture" - Technical seminar jointly organized by the evaluation offices of FAO, IFAD, WFP and CGIAR**



# GOAL 2

END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND  
IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE  
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

More at [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal)



*Date: 17-18 November 2015*

*Location: IFAD Headquarters, Rome*

In the context of the initiatives for the International Year of Evaluation, the evaluation offices of the Rome-based agencies, which include, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the CGIAR (formerly known as the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) are jointly organizing a technical seminar entitled “Enhancing the evaluability of Sustainable Development Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”, which will take place on **17-18 November 2015 at IFAD Headquarters, in Rome**. This seminar is also part of the efforts of the UNEG Strategic Objective 3 (SO3) on system-wide initiatives. Its results will feed into the work of the SDGs working group under UNEG SO3.

The organization of this seminar is p UNEG Strategic Obejctive 3 The objective of the seminar is to contribute to a shared understanding of how SDG2 could be evaluated and identify actions needed to enable evaluations of SDG2 through the United Nations system, other international organizations or countries themselves. Specific objectives of the seminar are to: (i) share lessons learned on the evaluability of the MDGs and other partnership initiatives of similar scale (for example the Paris Declaration); (ii) jointly review key challenges for evaluation in relation to the post-2015 development agenda in general and SDG2 in particular; and (iii) identify concrete steps for RBAs towards building evaluability of SDG2.

The seminar will allow opening forward-looking discussions around four themes:

**1: The relevance of 'new metrics' for the evaluation of SDG2** — data

revolution and innovative approaches for capturing qualitative dimensions of human wellbeing

**2: Partnerships and development actors** — dealing with the increasing complexity of development processes and partnerships

**3: National M&E systems and data availability** — building on the progress made and addressing existing (capacity) gaps

**4: Demand for and use of evidence from evaluation** — understanding the political economy of evidence and developing a joint evaluation agenda for SDG2.

Read more: [Concept note](#) and [Provisional agenda](#)

For additional information, contact the SDG2 evaluation seminar secretariat:

[SDG2eval@ifad.org](mailto:SDG2eval@ifad.org)

**Global Evaluation Week**



*Date: 23 - 27 November 2015*

*Location: Kathmandu, Nepal*

EvalPartners, the global movement to strengthen national evaluation capacities, is planning to hold the Global Evaluation Week to commemorate the International Year of Evaluation (EvalYear) and launch the 2016-2020 evaluation agenda. The main EvalYear ceremony will be held in the Parliament of Nepal to strengthen an enabling environment for evaluation, including by promoting engagement of policy makers in evaluation and use of evidence from evaluation in policy-making.

Activities include:

- Celebration of the first International Year of Evaluation in a national parliament
- Launch of Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020
- Launch of the Global Parliamentary Forum for Evaluation
- Launch of the EvalGender+, the global partnership for equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluations;
- Launch of the EvalYouth, the global partnership for young evaluators;
- Launch of the EvalSDG

[Please click here for event details.](#)

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## New UNEG Members

## A tall, narrow water fountain in Geneva, Switzerland, with a Swiss flag flying to its right. The fountain is a slender column of water reaching high into a clear blue sky. To the right of the fountain, a Swiss flag with its characteristic red field and white cross is displayed on a tall pole. The background shows a dense urban landscape of Geneva, with buildings and a bridge visible across the water. The sky is a deep, clear blue.

# UNEG Webinars

## **Evidence Gap Map of Productive Safety Nets: A Tool for Evidence-Informed Policy and Strategic Research Prioritisation (22 September 2015)**

This event was organized in partnership with [The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation \(3ie\)](#). Martina Vojtkova from 3iE introduced an Evidence Gap Map and useful findings.

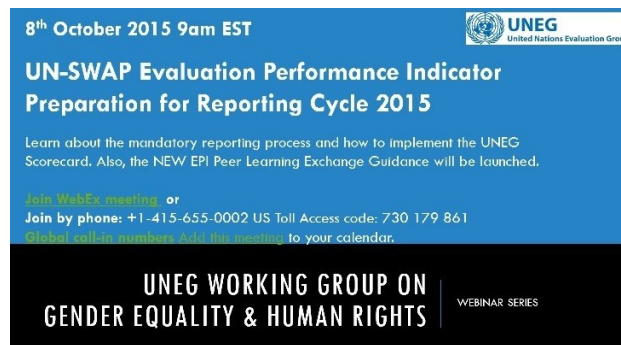
[The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation \(3ie\)](#), recently unveiled an [Evidence Gap Map](#) detailing what evidence exists on the effectiveness of productive safety net programs and where more evaluations are needed. Evidence gap maps are a new interactive tool that consolidates what we know about “what works” in particular sectors by mapping out evidence from systematic reviews and impact evaluations. The Evidence gap map of productive safety nets focuses on interventions that can help people sustainably escape poverty. It was commissioned by USAID with the aim to inform poverty eradication programming post 2015. The aim of the Evidence Gap Map is to enable policy-makers and practitioners to explore the findings of existing evidence on productive safety nets, facilitate evidence-based decision-making, and inform strategic research commissioning. Policymakers can easily choose focus areas such as social protection, financial services, and microenterprise support and interactively explore what evidence is available on their effects on 14 different poverty-related outcome categories.


Other useful readings: [Evidence Gap Maps: A Tool for Promoting Evidence-Informed Policy and Prioritizing Future Research](#)

PPT and video available at: <http://www.unevaluation.org/event/detail/433>

## **UN-SWAP Evaluation Performance Indicator: Preparation for Reporting Cycle 2015 (8 October 2015)**

The webinar introduced the mandatory UN-SWAP reporting process and explain how to implement the Scorecard. A New Evaluation Performance Indicators (EPI) Peer Learning Exchange Guidance was also launched.



8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 9am EST  United Nations Evaluation Group

**UN-SWAP Evaluation Performance Indicator  
Preparation for Reporting Cycle 2015**

Learn about the mandatory reporting process and how to implement the UNEG Scorecard. Also, the NEW EPI Peer Learning Exchange Guidance will be launched.

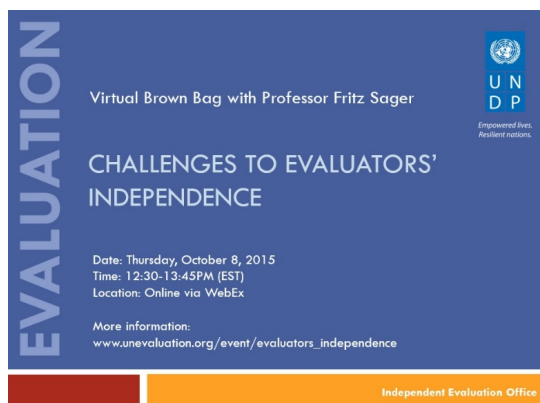
[Join WebEx meeting](#) or  
**Join by phone:** +1-415-655-0002 US Toll Access code: 730 179 861  
[Global call-in numbers](#) [Add this meeting](#) to your calendar.

**UNEG WORKING GROUP ON  
GENDER EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS** | WEBINAR SERIES

This webinar is part of the webinar series organized by the UNEG Working Group on Gender Equality & Human Rights. Please click here to see a previous webinar on "[UN SWAP Evaluation Performance Indicator: UNEG Member Results for 2014](#)".

PPT and video available at: <http://www.unevaluation.org/event/detail/436>

## Challenges to Evaluators' Independence (8 October 2015)




**EVALUATION**

Virtual Brown Bag with Professor Fritz Sager

**CHALLENGES TO EVALUATORS' INDEPENDENCE**

Date: Thursday, October 8, 2015  
Time: 12:30-13:45PM (EST)  
Location: Online via WebEx

More information:  
[www.unevaluation.org/event/evaluators\\_independence](http://www.unevaluation.org/event/evaluators_independence)

 **UNDP**  
Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

**Independent Evaluation Office**

This event was organized in partnership with the [UNDP Independent Evaluation Office \(IEO\)](#). [Fritz Sager](#) is a professor of political science at the Centre for Public Management, University of Bern, Switzerland. He presented findings and reflections emanating from a survey of evaluators in Switzerland and other countries -

regarding being subjected to influence or put under pressure in their evaluation work. For that study, Professor Sager was awarded the "PRIX Seval" at the annual congress of the Swiss Evaluation Association held in September 2015.

PPT available at: <http://www.unevaluation.org/event/detail/437>

## Webinar Discussion and Launch of the TRANSFORM Issue #5: "What have we learned from evaluations of corporate gender mainstreaming?" (22 October 2015)

This event was organized by the UNEG Working Group on Gender Equality and Human Rights in partnership with [UN Women Independent Evaluation Office](#) and the [Coordination Division](#) in collaboration. Representatives from UN Women, WFP, OHCHR, UNDP and NORAD discussed their experience on the one hand from an institutional perspective with gender mainstreaming and on the other hand evaluating such efforts. It was composed of two sessions.

**Session I** focused on the insights, conclusions and ways forward for Corporate Gender Equality Policies based on the UN Women review of evaluations of these policies (see the [Transform magazine](#)). **Session II** focused on how to enhance learning from evaluations of corporate gender equality policies based on the [UN Women review](#) and [UNDP](#) and [NORAD's](#) evaluations of their respective corporate gender equality policies.



PPT and video available at: <http://www.unevaluation.org/event/detail/444>

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## UNEG Blog

UNEG Blog was soft launched recently. Please contact [uneg.contact@undp.org](mailto:uneg.contact@undp.org) if you would like to contribute to it.



### Evaluation fit for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Commitment by Evaluators

By Marco Segone, Director, Evaluation Office, UN Women; Chair, United Nations Evaluation Group; Co-chair, EvalPartners

2015 marks a momentous year: following the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be launched next week. Heads of States and Governments will affirm their strong political commitment to the implementation... [continue reading »](#)



## Does Evaluation Advance Environment and Sustainable Development?

By Dr. Juha I. Uitto, Director, Independent Evaluation Office, Global Environment Facility

*Evaluating Environment in International Development*, edited by Juha Uitto, was published in 2014 by Routledge. As stated by Nidhi Khattri (World Bank, Independent Evaluation Group): “The book is a must read for anyone concerned about development and its effects on environment.” This blog...[continue reading »](#)

## Getting to the goals: what we know and don't know about sustainable solutions for poverty eradication

By Martina Vojtkova, 3iE Evaluation Specialist

This blog first appeared on the 3ie blog site [Evidence Matters](#). Martina Vojtkova an Evaluation Specialist in 3ie's Synthesis and Reviews team and an Associate Editor of the International Development Coordinating Group of the Campbell Collaboration. She helps coordinate systematic reviews commissioned by 3ie and other donors, provides quality... [continue reading »](#)

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## UNEG Member Agency Publications and Newsletters



*(What is presented below does not reflect a complete list of UNEG Members' activities. Please inform the UNEG Secretariat or post related information on the UNEG website under "agency announcements" for future inclusion.)*

## **Publications**

**IFAD:** Federative Republic of Brazil, Gente de Valor, Project Performance Assessment (September 2015)

**IFAD:** United Republic of Tanzania Country Programme Evaluation (September 2015)

**IFAD:** Republic of India Jharkhand-Chhattisgarh Tribal Development Programme Impact Evaluation (July 2015)

**WFP:** Lesotho CP 200369: A mid-term Operation Evaluation (August 2015)

**WFP:** Annual Synthesis of Operation Evaluations (2014 - 2015) Changing Course: From Implementing to Enabling (October 2015)

**WFP:** WFP/FAO/UNICEF/WHO/DFATD Canada Joint Evaluation of Renewed Effort Against Child Hunger and Under-nutrition (REACH): A Strategic Evaluation (November 2015)

**WFP:** Synthesis of the Evaluation Series of WFP's Emergency Preparedness and Response (2012 – 2015) (November 2015)

**WFP:** Annual Synthesis of Operation Evaluations (2014 - 2015) Changing Course: From Implementing to Enabling (November 2015)

**WFP:** 2012 Nutrition Policy: A Policy Evaluation (November 2015)

**WFP:** Tanzania: An evaluation of WFP's portfolio (2011– 2014) (November 2015)

## **Newsletters**

**EvalPartners** Newsletter # 19 (October 2015)

**European Evaluation Society** - Special Issue Newsletter (September 2015)

**IFAD:** Evaluation News - Issue 10 (September 2015)

**UN Women:** Newsletter #11 (September 2015)

**UNDP IEO** Evaluation News - Quarter 3 Newsletter (October 2015)

**UNICEF** Eval News Issue #64 "Evaluation in the UN System" (November 2015)

--- To view all past UNICEF Eval News issues, please visit:

[http://www.unicef.org/evaluation/index\\_86055.html](http://www.unicef.org/evaluation/index_86055.html)

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# Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

## **American Evaluation Association: "Exemplary Evaluations in a Multicultural World"**

**Date:** November 9-14, 2015

**Location:** Chicago, IL, USA

[Please click here for more information.](#)

## **Canadian Evaluation Society BC & Yukon Annual Conference: Collaboration, Contribution & Collective Impact**

**Date:** November 20, 2015

**Location:** Vancouver, BC

[Please click here for conference details.](#)

## **EvalPartners: Upcoming Events in Celebration of 2015 EvalYear**

**Date:** October-December 2015

**Location:** Varies

[Please click here for full calendar of events.](#)

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## Job Opportunities

### **UNICEF LACRO Invites Companies, Organizations and Institutions to Apply for a Regional Evaluation on Early Childhood Education (ECE)**

Apply by 11 November 2015

[Please click here for vacancy details.](#)

### **UNCTAD Seeks an Evaluation Consultant (EVA-15-08)**

Apply by 13 November 2015

[Please click here for vacancy details.](#)

## UNHCR Seeks SENIOR EVALUATION EXPERT (P4)

Apply by 17 November 2015

[Please click here for vacancy details](#)

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### Resources:

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If you have any questions, please contact [uneg.contact@undp.org](mailto:uneg.contact@undp.org)

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