

# EXCOM event on the occasion of the



## Evaluation for accountability and learning

**24 November 2015, 3:00-6:00 PM** , Palais des Nations, building A, room V

Recognising the strategic role of evaluation for evidence-based policy and decision making, member states have been calling for strengthening the evaluation functions at the United Nations. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) 'Analysis of the evaluation function in the United Nations System' and work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) to assess the evaluation functions of the UN Secretariat and their report 'Strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings of programme design, delivery and policy directives' show some positive developments but also persistent challenges in this area of work. The UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) will have an opportunity to learn more about the findings of these oversight bodies and hear the views of professional evaluators from the Geneva Evaluation Network (GEN) as well as evaluation officers from other organizations on how to strengthen evaluation function and to develop an evaluation culture, which is supportive of organisational learning and accountability. EXCOM members will also be informed about and discuss existing evaluation exercises and practices at UNECE, including internal and external evaluations. Following this discussion, participants will brainstorm on

- **How can evaluation better support strategic planning of member states?**
- **How can evaluation contribute to innovation, knowledge management and risk management of the organisation?**
- **How to ensure a balanced approach to evaluation as a means of organisational learning and a tool for accountability?**
- **How to strengthen independence, credibility and the utility of evaluation?**

**The UN general Assembly in its resolution 67/226 emphasized the importance of having 'independent, credible and useful evaluation functions, with sufficient resources, and promoting a culture of evaluation that ensures the active use of evaluation findings and recommendations in policy development and improving the functioning of the organization'. It also recommended norms and standards developed by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) for the use of evaluation in the United Nations System.**

## Programme:

*Introductory statement by **H.E. Ambassador Mukhtar Tileuberdi**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations and Chair of EXCOM*

*Welcome by **Mr. Christian Friis Bach**, Executive Secretary, UNECE*

**Dr. Craig Russon**, Senior Evaluation Officer, International Labour Organization, and GEN coordinator, *Introduction of the event and moderation*

*Panellists:*

**Dr. Sukai Prom-Jackson**, JIU Inspector, United Nations: *Evaluation Functions in the UN System*

**Mr. Eddie Yee Woo**, Director, Inspection and Evaluation (IED), and **Ms. Demetra Arapakos**, Chief of Section, OIOS, United Nations: *Evaluation functions in the UN Secretariat. Evaluation scorecards of the Regional Commissions*

**Ms. Zamira Eshmambetova**, Director, Programme Management Unit, UNECE: *Evaluation at UNECE : challenges and opportunities*

*Debate and conclusions*

The roundtable will result in a chairman's summary, containing specific recommendations to all stakeholders.

**The event will be followed by a reception to celebrate the International Year of Evaluation**

UNECE inter-governmental bodies have always viewed evaluation as an important means of ensuring organizational learning, strengthening accountability and improving programme performance. In 2005, the Commission asked the Secretariat 'to develop and streamline its evaluation functions and practices in conformity with the relevant decisions of the Commission and in compliance with the instructions of the Office for Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)'. In 2013, the Commission emphasized 'the importance of internal controls, oversight and evaluation functions... through proper evaluation, reporting and discussion on evaluation of subprogramme performance'.

In 2014 UNECE adopted a new evaluation policy, which defines the purpose and use of evaluation in UNECE, the evaluation institutional framework, and describes the types of evaluations in UNECE. In accordance with the policy, UNECE is subject to two types of evaluations: i) external, conducted by independent UN oversight bodies, such as OIOS and JIU; and internal, conducted by consultants. Four evaluations (one at the programme level and three at the subprogramme level) are conducted in a biennium as per the new policy.



**For more information or should you need an entry badge please contact Paola Deda at [paola.deda@unece.org](mailto:paola.deda@unece.org)**