

## Remarks Indran Naidoo, Director Independent Evaluation Office

Event title:	Towards Better Evaluation: Introducing the Newly Adopted Evaluation Criteria
Time & Venue:	12:30-2:00pm, Danny Kaye Hall, UNICEF House

Distinguished Members of the UNDP Executive Board and Representatives of Permanent Missions,

Fellow UN system staff colleagues,

Originating in 1991, the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria have been a key reference point to evaluation in the development cooperation arena, but also for evaluation commissioners and practitioners that serve decision-making processes that are not connected to the ODA phenomenon.

The function of evaluation is a component of good organizational governance in all jurisdictions; enabling determination of which policies and practices that work well and those that do not; supporting course-corrective learning and performance improvement as well as maintenance of checks-and-balances between governors, managers and intended beneficiaries and other stakeholders to public action.

At the core of credibility, independence and utility of the evaluation function lie the adherence to predictable and transparent criteria, as we go about telling the difference between success and failure.

But times change, and though the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria haven proven their durability; the evaluation function too can improve what it brings to organizational change.

After a nearly two-year global consultation and review process, the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD in December 2019 adopted a revised set of evaluation criteria; which is the subject of our presentations today. Tying in to the consultations among OECD-DAC members; UN evaluation offices members of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) have been engaged in this review process. At both the 2017 UNDP [National Evaluation Capacities \(NEC\) Conference](#) in Istanbul and at the October 2019 conference in Hurgada, Egypt, we facilitated broad discussion of the criteria, amongst UN agency professionals but also with national authorities outside DAC membership. Within the UNEG we have in fact had a Working Group dedicated to providing our feedback throughout the process. Most recently, in January our UNICEF colleagues organized a webinar discussing the revised evaluation criteria.

Today, on behalf of the Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you and introduce our speakers at this event. Speaking to the topic “**Towards Better Evaluation: Introducing the Newly Adopted Evaluation Criteria**” we have the Chair of OECD/DAC EvalNet, **Per Øyvind Bastøe**, Evaluation Director, NORAD and MFA Norway; as well as **Megan Kennedy-Chouane**, Head of Evaluation at OECD Development Co-operation Directorate and Secretariat in Paris.

Following the discussions in NY here today; I believe Per and Megan are moving on to have similar discussions with the World Bank constituency in Washington DC. Some of you may know that I on behalf of the IEO of UNDP recently signed an MOU with Alison Evans, the D-G of the Independent Evaluation Group of the World Bank to form a partnership for a Global Evaluation Initiative addressing country-level evaluation capacity development, within which I am sure there will be a key focus on the application of these criteria.

With me on podium I also have the Director of evaluation at UNICEF, George Laryea-Adjei; with whom we have been collaborating in organizing this event, and many others; who I’ll welcome to comment on the criteria following Per and Megan’s presentation. Our audience too will of course we welcome to give their comments and questions.

Without further ado, let me then give the floor to Per and Megan; take us through.....