

SUMMARY OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL EVALUATION CAPACITIES

Solutions to Challenges Related to Independence, Credibility and Use of Evaluation

São Paulo, Brazil – 30 September to 2 October 2013

New York, October 2013: The **Third International Conference on National Evaluation Capacities** (NEC) held in São Paulo, Brazil, from 30 September to 2 October 2013 brought together 160 participants from 63 countries.

This was a three day conference hosted by the Evaluation Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Brazilian Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger (SAGI). The theme was *Solutions to Challenges Related to Independence, Credibility and Use of Evaluation*. The conference brought together representatives of national institutions responsible for commissioning, conducting and using evaluations of public policies, projects and programmes, as well as lead experts, practitioners, academia, civil society, Voluntary Organizations of Professional Evaluation (VOPEs), UNDP colleagues and other UN/development agencies from Africa, Arab States, Asia & the Pacific, Europe & the CIS, and Latin America & the Caribbean.

The opening reception on 29 September was hosted by CLEAR Latin America at the São Paulo Municipal Theatre and was toasted by **Ms. Cristina Galindez** (Administrative Coordinator of CLEAR Latin America), **Mr. Paulo Jannuzzi** (Secretary for Evaluation and Information Management of the Brazilian Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger), **Mr. Indran Naidoo** (Director of the UNDP Evaluation Office), **Mr. Jorge Chediek** (UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Brazil) and **Ms. Rebeca Grynspan** (Under-Secretary General and UNDP Associate Administrator).

Day One: 30 September

The conference was launched with welcoming remarks from Mr. Paulo Jannuzzi, Mr. Jorge Chediek, **Ms. Marianne Pinotti** (Municipal Secretary of People with Disabilities and Reduced Mobility, São Paulo), **Mr. Rogério Haman**, (São Paulo State Government Secretary of Social Development), and Mr. Indran Naidoo.

Ms. Rebeca Grynspan delivered the opening address calling attention to the fact that "Evaluations help us to bridge the gap between experience and knowledge". Ms. Grynspan also highlighted that use of evaluation for learning is a key responsibility of UNDP senior management at Headquarters and in country offices. Her full speech is accessible [here](#).



Ms. Rebeca Grynspan giving her opening address at the conference with Mr. Jorge Chediek, Brazil UN Resident Coordinator on the right



Mr. Jorge Chediek, Mr. Indran Naidoo, Mr. Paulo Jannuzzi, Mr. Rogério Haman and Ms. Marianne Pinotti opening the conference

Plenary session 1 commenced with the *dialogue on the importance of EvalYear* which was moderated by **Mr. Marco Segone** (Co-Chair of EvalPartners, and Senior Evaluation Specialist at the UNICEF Evaluation Office). **Mr. Asela Kalugampitiya** (Secretariat of EvalYear on behalf of EvalPartners, Sri Lanka) presented on EvalYear serving as a catalyst to strengthening evaluation by promoting policy making and promoting demand and use of evaluations. Mr. Kalugampitiya shared that EvalPartners in collaboration with the South-Asia Parliamentarians Forum on Development Evaluation have started a Global Mapping process of the countries that have national evaluation policies in place and which countries are in the process of discussing or implementing it. The findings from the process will identify key stakeholders in order to work and support further dialogues on national evaluation policy.

The presentation was followed by Sri Lankan panellists, **Hon. Kabir Hashim** (Member of Parliament, Leader of South Asia Parliamentarian Forum and Member of EvalPartners International Advisory Group), **Mr. Velayuthan Sivagnanasothy**, (Secretary, Ministry of Traditional Industries and Small Enterprise Development) and **Ms. Mallika Samaranayake**, (President of Community of Evaluators, South Asia) discussing the *importance of EvalYear* and *how governments, parliamentarians and VOPEs can work together to strengthen the demand and use of evaluation*. Plenary session 1 concluded by **declaring 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation (EvalYear)**, in order to advocate and promote evaluation and evidence-based policy making

at international, regional, national and local levels.



EvalYear declaration

The declaration was followed by plenary session 2 moderated by **Mr. Juha Uitto** (Deputy Director of the UNDP Evaluation Office) and Mr. Paulo Jannuzzi giving his key note address on *innovative solutions to challenges linked to use of evaluation*. Mr. Jannuzzi opened his address by stating that besides credibility and independence, usage and innovations are vital in evaluations. Mr. Jannuzzi shared that the social development ministry which he represents, works for developing services and programmes and their actions directly impact the population. It involves working with information and knowledge with clear targets which require actions that are innovative for management of their programmes. In order to guarantee the usage of information for programme improvement, he emphasised the need to produce and customize reports and proper strategies for the different agents involved - people from the street to the highest level of decision makers. Mr. Jannuzzi's paper is accessible [here](#).



Mr. Paulo Jannuzzi & Mr. Juha Uitto – Plenary Session 2

A lunch with a speaker was promoted by the Brazilian government with a presentation by **Mr. Marcelo Cabral** (Director of Management and Monitoring of the Brazilian Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger) on *how has evaluation influenced the Brazil Without Poverty Plan* (Plano Brazil Sem Miséria). In the afternoon, three simultaneous dialogues took place and participants engaged in solution forums to discuss potential commitments and interests in cooperating on south-south solutions to promote the use of evaluations.

Day one closed with a summary of the solution forums in plenary dialogue 1 moderated by **Ms. Ana Rosa Soares** (Evaluation Specialist of the UNDP Evaluation Office). Additionally, **Mr. Jimmy Kawaye** (Programme Coordinator for Development Effectiveness and Accounting Programme, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, Malawi), **Mr. Agustín Escobar** (Evaluation Expert, Consejo Nacional de Evaluación de la Política de Desarrollo Social, CONEVAL, Mexico), and **Ms. Ivett Subero** (Director of UN System Monitoring, Multilateral Cooperation Office, DIGECOOM, Ministry of Economy, Dominican Republic) elaborated on *innovative solutions to deal with challenges linked to use of evaluation*.

Day Two: 1 October

Innovative solutions to challenges linked to credibility of evaluations was the highlight of the discussions on the second day of the Conference. **Ms. María Bustelo** (President, European Evaluation Society and Associate Professor, Complutense University of Madrid) delivered the keynote address on *how to enhance and ensure credibility of evaluation for plenary session 3*. Ms. Bustelo stressed that Evaluators do not play a lone role in evaluation and that credibility in evaluations also depends on the institutions and systems where the evaluations are conceived, planned and managed. Her full paper and presentation can be accessed [here](#).



Ms. María Bustelo delivering her keynote address – Plenary Session 3

Immediately after, two simultaneous dialogues took place and participants engaged in solution forums to discuss potential commitments and interests in cooperating on south-south solutions to promote evaluation credibility. A lunch with a speaker was promoted by EvalPartners with presentations from African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) and South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA) Representatives on *how can VOPES best support governments in promoting NECD?*



Ms. Ana Rosa Soares, Ms. Ivett Subero, Mr. Jimmy Kawaye and Mr. Agustín Escobar discussing use of evaluation

Mr. Indran Naidoo moderated plenary dialogue 2 on *credibility of evaluations*. He highlighted that evaluation units need to be open to critique and engage with criticism and that evaluation policies serve as protection for evaluators. Mr. Naidoo also explained that a facilitative approach from evaluators empowers evaluations and that skills and competencies are essential for credible evaluations, as evaluation can be destructive if done wrong.

Plenary discussants **Ms. Martha McGuire** (Canadian Evaluation Society Representative and Treasurer of International Organisation for Cooperation in Evaluation Board, Canada), **Mr. Kobus van der Merwe** (Acting Deputy Director-General, Monitoring and Evaluation, Public Service Commission, South Africa), and **Mr. Clesencio Tizikara** (Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, Ghana) elaborated on *how to ensure and strengthen evaluation credibility*. Methods, credible arguments, trust in evaluator, evidence, honesty and reputation were some of the key elements mentioned necessary for credible evaluations.



Mr. Indran Naidoo, Mr. Kobus van der Merwe, Ms. Martha McGuire and Mr. Clesencio Tizikara in the plenary dialogue on creditability of evaluations

The dialogue was followed by plenary session 4, moderated by **Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang** (South-South Cooperation Lead Advisor in the UNDP Bureau for

Development Policy) in which **Mr. Thomas Winderl** (consultant for monitoring and evaluation, Austria) presented 6 innovations in evaluations: outcome harvesting, crowd sourcing, data exhaust, intelligent infrastructure, remote sensing and data visualization. More on this can be read [here](#). **Ms. Natalia Kosheleva** (President, International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation and EvalPartners co-chair, Russian Federation), discussed enabling environments for using innovations in evaluations. She also presented the innovation challenge winners which can be accessed [here](#).

Day two concluded with plenary session 5 on *how evaluations have influenced Brazilian programmes*. **Ms. Paula Montagner** (Deputy Secretary of Evaluation and Information Management of the Brazilian Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger) moderated presentations of the 'Program Bolsa Família' and 'Cistern Programme' presented by **Mr. Alexandre Rodrigues Pinto** and **Ms. Cecilia Ishikawa Lariú** of the Brazilian Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger.

Day Three: 2 October

Mr. Hans Martin Boehmer (Senior Manager, Independent Evaluation Group, Strategy, Communication, and Learning Department, World Bank) kicked off the last day of the conference by delivering his keynote address on *independence of evaluations* in plenary session 6. Mr. Boehmer emphasized the need for engaging with all stakeholders to build respect, trust and engagement and pointed out that this cycle helps analyse the need for independence in evaluations. He highlighted that evaluations need to respond to the goals and not the interests of an organization. Mr. Boehmer's full paper and presentation can be accessed [here](#).



Mr. Hans Martin Boehmer delivering his keynote address

The session was followed by two simultaneous dialogues where participants engaged in solution forums to discuss potential commitments and interests in cooperating on south-south solutions to promote independence of evaluations. A lunch with a speaker was promoted with presentations from Mr. Alexandro Rodrigues Pinto and Ms. Luciana Sardinha on the Brazilian Food Acquisition Program and M&E Surveys, Tools and training Courses

Plenary dialogue 3, highlighted how to ensure independent evaluations with Ms. **Ximena Fernández Ordoñez** (Evaluation Officer, IEG World Bank) and Ms. **Nidhi Khattri** (Head of CLEAR Secretariat) presenting a summary of the solution forums on independence of evaluations. Mr. Indran Naidoo moderated the rest of the dialogue with the keynote speakers Mr. Boehmer, Mr. Jannuzzi and Ms. Bustelo.

Following the plenary Mr. Juha Uitto moderated the close of the conference with a discussion on possible venues and themes for the next NEC conference. It was agreed that the next conference should take place in Asia and Sri Lanka and India offered to host. The conference closed with a presentation of 18 agreed commitments proposed by the participants to mutually cooperate in south-south solutions and contribute towards the 2015 International Year of Evaluation ([EvalYear](#)). More on the commitments can be read [here](#).

Material Available for Public Information

Live Streaming

All plenary sessions and plenary dialogues were live streamed and an online archive of the event is as follows:

[Opening of the conference](#)

[Plenary Session 1](#)

[Plenary Session 2](#)

[Plenary Dialogue 1- Use of Evaluations](#)

[Plenary Session 3](#)

[Plenary Dialogue 2- Credibility of Evaluations](#)

[Plenary Session 4](#)

[Plenary Session 5](#)

[Plenary Session 6](#)

[Plenary Dialogue 3 – Independence of Evaluations](#)

[Way forward and closing remarks](#)

Documents and Papers

Documents and papers related to the documents are available on the NEC website at www.nec2013.org.

Interviews with Participants

Listen to the views and opinions of the NEC participants on what national evaluation capacity, use, credibility and independence means to them. The following are available:

1. Afghanistan: Hon. (Mrs) Rangina Kargar, Member of Parliament – [Watch](#)
2. Argentina: Mr. Pablo Rodriguez-Bilella, Appointed member of EvalPartners Management Group, and CONICET (Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Tecnológicas), ReLAC and IDEAS Board Member – [Watch](#)
3. Bhutan: Hon. Jigmi Rinzin, Member of National Council – [Watch](#)

4. Egypt: Ms. Doha Abdelhamid, Evaluators Network of the Middle East and North Africa (EvalMENA), International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) – [Watch](#)
5. India: Mr. Santosh Mehrotra, Director General, Institute of Applied Manpower Research Planning Commission – [Watch](#)
6. Pakistan: Hon. Qaiser Jamal, MNA, Member, National Assembly, Parliament – [Watch](#)
7. Sri Lanka: Hon. Kabir Hashim, Member of Parliament, Leader of South Asia Parliamentarian Forum and member of EvalPartners International Advisory Group – [Watch](#)

Event Photos

Photos from the event can be accessed on the [online album](#). Please acknowledge credits to the UNDP Evaluation Office if you reproduce any of the photos.

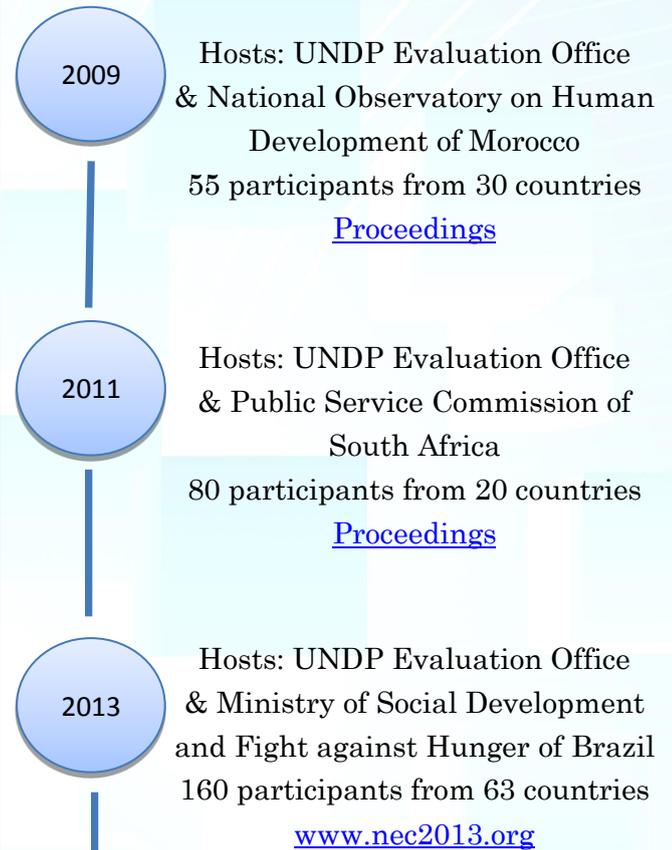
Twitter

There were approximately 300 original tweets from 29 September to 2 October through #NECbrazil. A compilation of the Twitter feed is available [here](#).

- 
UNDP_Evaluations @UNDP_Evaluation 30 Sep
 @RGrynspan Evaluation must be flexible and nimble without compromising credibility #NECbrazil
- 
UNDP_Evaluations @UNDP_Evaluation 2 Oct
 Paulo Jannuzzi @MDSComunicacao says sustainability and adaptability in evaluations needs focus #NECbrazil
pic.twitter.com/jz1SuW5iUR
- 
UNDP_Evaluations @UNDP_Evaluation 2 Oct
 @indran_n @UNDP_Evaluation: fundametal issue=who needs evaluations and define purpose of an evaluation using UNEG norms&standards #NECbrazil
- 
UNDP_Evaluations @UNDP_Evaluation 2 Oct
 Bustelo: organizational&behavioral independence, protection from outside interference&avoidance of conflict of interest important #NECbrazil
- 
UNDP_Evaluations @UNDP_Evaluation 2 Oct
 Hans Boehmer @WorldBank: evaluations need 2 respond 2 goals of the org & not interest of the organization #NECbrazil
pic.twitter.com/mzctVXUjud
- 
UNDP_Evaluations @UNDP_Evaluation 30 Sep
 @JuhaUitto- when eval produces credible evidence its an accountability function to share with stakeholders #NECbrazil

FACTS

NEC HISTORY



This event attracted over 160 participants in person and viewers globally for the live webcast. It was the first ever NEC event of this scale at which participants were able to actively engage and reach out to a wider range of stakeholders from across the globe.

The hosts would like to thank NEC participants, sponsors (CLEAR, IEG World Bank and EvalPartners) and donors (Governments of Finland, Norway and UK) for their contribution and commitment. The conference was a success and the post conference assessment can be accessed [here](#).



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

**United Nations Development Programme
Evaluation Office**

220 East 42nd Street
20th Floor
New York, NY 10017, USA

Tel. (646) 781 4200

Fax. (646) 781 4213

www.undp.org/evaluation

