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**National Evaluation Capacities Conference 2017 (NEC 2017)**

*“People, Planet and Progress in the SDG Era”*

Istanbul, Turkey, 16-20 October 2017

**Call for Abstracts**

1. **Introduction**

The NEC 2017 Organizing Team is pleased to invite government officials engaged with evaluation and/or the SDG agenda and its follow-up and review process, evaluation professionals and other evaluation stakeholders to submit proposals for presentations that will contribute to the conference.

1. **Conference Theme**

The theme of the **National Evaluation Capacities Conference 2017** is ***“People, Planet and Progress in the SDG Era”.***

The conference is designed to stimulate discussion, knowledge sharing, and new partnerships, reinforcing the ongoing work to develop national evaluation capacities, examining the new challenges and opportunities of the SDGs for evaluation, and exploring new directions for evaluation and national evaluation capacities.

The first day of the conference will focus on progress in strengthening national evaluation capacities and national evaluation systems since the 2015 NEC Conference in Bangkok, Thailand. The second day of the conference will explore the SDGs and the challenges and opportunities they present for evaluation and national evaluation capacities. This will include an exploration of what the principle of “no one left behind” means for evaluation, as well as what the interlinkages and interdependencies imply for evaluation practices and capacities. A special focus will be given to the intersection between the “people” and the “planet”, or evaluation challenges at the intersection of the human and environmental spheres, and how lessons from past experience can help inform future evaluations. The third day of the conference will further explore how these opportunities and challenges point to new directions and new ideas for evaluation and evaluation capacities.

1. **Call for abstracts**

The NEC 2017 Organizing Team invites proposals for a presentation or panel contribution at the conference.

* 1. **Deadline to submit proposals**

The deadline to submit proposals is **29 August 2017.**

* 1. **Proposal submission procedure**

The proposal should be submitted by mail to [ieo.nec@undp.org](mailto:ieo.nec@undp.org) using the [template](#_Abstract_template) below, indicating in the subject line “abstract submission”.

The preferred language for submissions is English, however abstracts may be submitted in Arabic, French, Spanish or Russian.

* 1. **Proposed topics**

The following list includes potential topics for sessions at the Conference. Submissions related to these themes, are strongly encouraged. Practical examples of interest to others – whether it be of an innovative evaluation, use of new methods, an example of an evaluation that led to policy change, successful stakeholder engagement, new institutional set-ups, or of challenges faced and lessons learned – are particularly welcome.

1. **National Evaluation Capacities: Progress made since 2015**

* Progress in strengthening enabling environments, national evaluation policy frameworks and institutional arrangements
* Practices: evaluation systems and evaluation capacities diagnostic tools
* Principles: independence, credibility and use
* Practices: communication and dissemination of evaluations
* Partnerships: civil society role in national evaluation systems
* Partnerships: South-South Cooperation

1. **SDGs: the implications for evaluation and national evaluation capacities**

* SDGs, public policy and the role of evaluation
* People and the Planet: evaluation challenges at the intersection of the environmental and the human spheres and lessons for evaluation and the SDGs
* “No one left behind” (gender equality and human rights responsive evaluations, disaggregated data)
* Interdependencies and interlinkages: exploring interactions between SDGs goals and targets and the implications for evaluation and national evaluation capacities
* SDG indicator framework, data and evaluation
* Analysis of the Voluntary National Review Reports with respect to evaluation
* Partnerships: DAC Donors and their role in evaluation capacity development for the SDGs

1. **New Directions in Evaluation**
   * Dealing with complexity in an increasingly interconnected world
   * Methodological challenges (and solutions) for evaluating complex interventions
   * Rethinking the OECD DAC evaluation criteria
   * Evaluation in a world of risk and uncertainty
   * Resilience: what is it and how do you evaluate it?
   * New partnerships: the private sector, the SDGs and evaluation
   * Current challenges in private sector evaluation
   * Lessons learned from thematic private sector evaluations
   * New data, new uses of data and new partnerships for data
2. **Selection Process**

The selection committee will be looking at all contributions that provide inputs to promote the development of national evaluation capacities in support of the systematic follow up and review of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, or that raise critical questions and issues that will define future practices in evaluation. Abstracts will be reviewed using a set of criteria comprising:

* 1. Relevance: The abstract should demonstrate that the proposal is aligned to the conference theme and to evaluation competencies.
  2. Clarity and quality:The abstract should clearly outline the topic that will be featured in the presentation as well as its main concepts and ideas. Authors should prepare their abstracts with care, ensuring that the reader will understand the background of the issue(s) and the objectives of the presentation.
  3. Specificity and Concreteness: The abstract must present a topic that include concrete and specific examples of e.g. a good practice, lesson learned and/or a challenge that was overcome.
  4. Innovation:The abstract must show that the proposal will have innovative information, or presents a new topic or application in the field of interest.
  5. Gender equality and Disability Rights: Applications from women and persons with disabilities (PWD) will be given strong preference.

Based on these criteria, the selection committee will select proposals and determine under which theme or session each contribution may fit, and the format for the contribution during the actual conference (e.g. presentation, panel, poster; preferences for format are taken into consideration). The final decisions will be conveyed to submitters by or before **8 September,** 2017.

Authors of selected proposals will be invited to submit a short paper (3-4 pages) to be included in the proceedings of the Conference.

If you have questions, please email at ieo.nec@undp.org.

# **Abstract template**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Presenter’s full name (title, name, surname) |  |
| Country |  |
| Institutional affiliation |  |
| Contact information including email and telephone |  |
| Title of the abstract |  |
| Conference session | National Evaluation Capacities: Progress made since 2015  SDGs: the implications for evaluation and national evaluation capacities  New Directions in Evaluation |
| Name/s, title/s and institutional affiliation/s of all other authors/contributors |  |
| Preferred format: | One paper/presentation by myself and co-authors (maximum 15 minutes)  An entire panel session (the members listed above are the proposed members of the panel)  Participation in a panel discussion where the experience can be shared  Participation in interactive session where the example will be shared, without a formal presentation  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| I am applying for bursary support\* | Yes  No |

Abstract text (400 words):

\*Please find more information on bursary support eligibility at this link <http://web.undp.org/evaluation/nec2017/bursary.shtml>