



Global  
Parliamentarians  
Forum for  
Evaluation

The Colombo Declaration

# EvalColombo2018

## Responsible Parliaments: Embracing Evaluation for Agenda 2030

17 to 19 September 2018 • Colombo, Sri Lanka

Report





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Parliamentarians  
Forum for  
Evaluation



Sri Lanka  
Parliamentarians  
Forum for Evaluation



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## EvalColombo2018 Conference Co-chairs



Hon. Kabir Hashim,  
Minister of Highways &  
Road Development and  
Petroleum Resources  
Development, Sri Lanka  
and the Chair of the  
Global Parliamentarians  
Forum for Evaluation



Hon. Ananda Kumarasiri,  
Deputy Speaker of  
the Parliament of  
Sri Lanka and the  
Chair of the Sri Lanka  
Parliamentarians Forum  
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Ms. Ada Ocampo,  
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## Acknowledgements

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In particular, special thanks go to the following leaders for their excellent leadership and support to make the event a success:

- His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
- Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
- Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka
- Hon. Kabir Hashim, Minister of Highways & Road Development and Petroleum Resources development, Sri Lanka and the Chair of the Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation
- Hon. Ananda Kumarasiri, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka and the Chair of the Sri Lanka Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation
- Hon. Sagala Rathnayake, Minister of Project Management, Youth Affairs and Southern Development

GPFE also acknowledges the significant volunteer contribution and commitment of the members of committees that ensured flawless arrangements.

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- The members of the Local Organizing Committee with representatives from the Sri Lanka Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation, the parliament of Sri Lanka, the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Project Management, Youth Affairs and Southern Development; Department of Project Management and Monitoring; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Highways and Road Development; Ministry of Sustainable Development, Department of Immigration, Civil Aviation Authority, Sri Lanka Police, Ministerial Security Division, Sri Lanka Army, Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Air Force, various development partners; public banks and sponsors and the private sector. GPFE also acknowledges the excellent support from Kamane Hapugalle and Hiroshi Gunathilake from SDGAP in various aspects of the event and all volunteers who very ably attended to the needs of the participants and supported the conference logistics. The dedication, commitment and generous support of all involved contributed to make the conference a success.

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## Abbreviations appearing within the report

(where appropriate, abbreviations contain hyperlinks to associated websites)

<b>APNODE</b>	African Parliamentarians Network on Development Evaluation
<b>CDF</b>	Constituency Development Fund (Kenya)
<b>CIS</b>	Commonwealth of Independent States
<b>CLEAR</b>	Centres for Learning in Evaluation and Results
<b>CONEVAL</b>	National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (Mexico)
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>DEVAL</b>	German Institute for Development Evaluation
<b>DPMM</b>	Department of Project Management and Monitoring (Sri Lanka)
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FOCEVAL</b>	Project for capacity building in evaluation (Costa Rica and Central America)
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>GPFE</b>	Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation
<b>GWES</b>	Government wide evaluation system
<b>IOCE</b>	International Organisation for Cooperation in Evaluation
<b>ESK</b>	Evaluation Association of Kenya
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MDAs</b>	Ministries, Departments and Agencies (Uganda)
<b>MENA</b>	Middle East and North Africa
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
<b>NEP</b>	National Evaluation Policy
<b>NES</b>	National Evaluation System
<b>NESE</b>	Network of European Evaluation Societies
<b>PI</b>	Public investment
<b>PIM</b>	Public Investment Management
<b>ReLAC</b>	Latin American Network for Systematisation of Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>SAYFES</b>	Finish Evaluation Society
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SLEvA</b>	Sri Lanka Evaluation Association
<b>SLPFE</b>	Sri Lanka Parliamentary Forum for Evaluation
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of reference
<b>UNEG</b>	United Nations Evaluation Group
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children’s Fund
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>VOPE</b>	Voluntary Organisation for Professional Evaluation

# Executive Summary

EvalColombo2018 took place in Colombo Sri Lanka between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 bringing together 221 delegates from 70 countries. Of those, over 100 delegates were parliamentarians with others representing governments, international development partners, UN Agencies, voluntary organisations for professional evaluation (VOPES), Higher Education Institutes. The event was opened by his Excellency the President, and the Honourable Prime Minister of Sri Lanka accompanied by the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament.

## Keynotes

Delegates to EvalColombo2018 comprised those who were new to evaluation as well as those who were seasoned professionals. To help build consensus amongst delegates around the importance of National Evaluation Policies for good governance, a selection of global evaluation experts was asked to share their insights around some contemporary development challenges.



On Day 1 key note speakers addressed delegates on the importance of *National Evaluation Policies for Good Governance and Accountability*. They noted that while information is transmitted today at unprecedented speed, there is little clarity on what is genuine and what is “fake” leading to a crisis of trust in media, political parties and democracy. In this context parliamentarians have a central role in promoting evaluation by creating an enabling environment and raising the bar in policy debates through using evidence to ensure the coherence of policies, deliver value for money, and achieve sustainable social and economic results.

They noted that the formation of **GPFE** marks a shift from evaluations that serve accountability towards donors towards one that empowers parliamentarians, who potentially represent that the largest single group of end users for evaluation evidence. If they demand impartial, timely and insightful evidence they can become an indispensable catalyst in making headway to achieving the **SDGs**.

On Day 2 Keynote speakers shared their insights on the value of **Voluntary National Reviews** (VNRs), an important mechanism that allow governments to use evidence and to appraise progress towards SDGs. Speakers shared “lessons learned” from the host of VNRs that have been completed to date and explored how the UN, governments, parliaments, VOPEs and evaluators can maximise the potential of this important evaluative tool to both generate learning and promote government accountability around **Agenda 2030**.

Speakers noted that if **VNRs** as *evaluation tools, are to be rigorous, credible and based on evidence, they must* progressively move from a descriptive to an analytical approach producing deeper and more informed policy lessons, shifting from a monitoring to an evaluation perspective. In a world facing overarching challenges of climate change and inequality there is an opportunity to embed evaluation into national plans for transformative development; involve multiple stakeholders in identifying, prioritising and assessing critical problems; and to use evaluation to set national priorities and focus on what matters.

A summary of the Keynote presentations and the insights that emerged is included in section 1.

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## EvalColombo2018 Declaration

The EvalColombo2018 Declaration was devised as a means of building consensus amongst delegates around the values and principles that underpin the importance of measuring progress against the SDGs, the support of the global evaluation agenda and the role of parliaments. It also acts as an instrument to underpin regional agendas for action in the sector. The declaration was drafted in advance of the conference following rigorous engagement with key stakeholders including parliamentarians, government representatives, VOPEs and development partners. Feedback was solicited from participants during the conference itself and



suggestions were incorporated into the text of the declaration to generate a final version. EvalColombo2018 delegates were invited to sign the document during Day 3 of the conference at a special ceremony held at the Parliament of Sri Lanka.

The resulting declaration encompasses components that recognise the value of using evidence for development decision making, the important role of parliamentarians in establishing an enabling environment for evaluation, the need for parliaments to evaluate their own performance and the building of collaboration and trust between evaluation professionals, parliamentarians and program managers as users of evaluative knowledge.

The EvalColombo2018 declaration is reproduced in section 2.

## Panel Discussions

Panel discussions formed an important part of the conference where participants could examine particular issues in greater depth, and trigger an exchange of viewpoints among experts, either with prepared statements or in response to questions from the audience. On-the-spot interaction uncovered a range of viewpoints highlighting areas of agreement and disagreement. Six panel discussions were held in all and comprised two groups of three sessions that were conducted in parallel.

Panel Discussion 1 on *Evaluation and National Evaluation Policies for Evidence Based Policy Making* concluded that policies are neither necessary nor sufficient - but they do help, and that whatever system is put in place, it must be well resourced with the right motivations. It also concluded that it is important to have political savvy so that politicians have use for evaluation results and that evaluators have an important role to curate the information.

Panel discussion 2 on *what have we learnt from national evaluation systems and national evaluation capacity?* concluded that those in positions of power continue to influence most decisions and that they tend to be made on the basis of political motives rather than on evidence. Feedback loops from parliamentarians to constituents and the inclusive participation of stakeholders remains weak. Panellists noted that legislatures are not always adequately empowered to make demands of the executive.

“Good governance requires democratic systems that are focused on effectively fulfilling governments’ obligations to citizens.”

Quote from EvalColombo2018 discussions

## “Political processes can be enhanced when evaluators and politicians become partners.”

Quote from EvalColombo2018 discussions

Panel discussion 3 explored the potential of *Evaluation as a lever to increase the socio-economic impact and efficiency of public investments*. Panellists concluded that given the limited resources for public investment, all expenditure raised from tax payers or loans must be well spent, and that the evaluation such programmes is a joint responsibility of the executive, legislators and citizens. They further concluded that national evaluation associations can constitute a first step in involving citizens and that parliamentary budget appropriation and public procurement systems can also help. There was also a recognised need for better ways of evaluating projects, given that pre-post qualitative assessments are insufficient.

Panel discussion 4 explored the *role of Parliamentarians in holding government to account in Agenda 2030*. Panellists concluded that there is a need for greater awareness and capacity building on the SDGs amongst parliamentarians and that the environment for SDG evaluation can be strengthened through the continuous development of policies and legislation. Evolving networks that engage multiple stakeholders can be an important channel through which to build collaboration and promote a shared understanding that parliamentarians, government, societies and politics have a common responsibility to uplift the lives of citizens.

Panel Discussion 5 on *Evaluation for the Executive and the Legislature* concluded that workshops with parliaments can be valuable in raising awareness and pointing out the benefits of evaluation while codifying, translating and sharing collective knowledge can foster cooperation and learning. Solidarity can be effectively built through founding regional parliamentary platforms, convening regional conferences and engaging local VOPEs around the use of evaluation. Panellists also recognised the need to nurture leadership and champions for evaluation and to advocate amongst parliamentarians to demand and use VNRs.

Panel Discussion 6 discussed *EvalPartners' role in supporting National Evaluation Systems*. Participants concluded that the five networks: [EVALSDGs](#), [EvalYouth](#), [EvalGender+](#), [EvalIndigenous](#), the [Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation](#) have an important role in supporting the development of national evaluation systems while appreciating the role of [IOCE](#), UN agencies and a number of development organizations in providing key support for the [EvalPartners](#) networks.

Detailed summaries of the individual panel discussions are included in section 3.

## Regional Meetings and Country Commitments

The conference brought together high-level delegates from government, parliaments and international development agencies across the globe. During working sessions on day 1, delegates had an opportunity to share their experiences in supporting and promoting National Evaluation Policies and the systems that accompany them. The objective was to identify sources of learning that could be shared across regions to strengthen the foundations of the global network of parliamentarians promoting evaluation.

Discussions revealed that countries are at various stages in their path toward mature national evaluation policies and systems and that despite some shining examples, there is a recognition that most parliaments need further capacity building in order to institutionalize evaluation. In most cases, evaluation processes are not aligned to the budgeting and planning processes and there is room to build and nurture conducive partnerships within public sectors.

As the conference progressed, delegates reflected on the “call to action” in support of the conference’s overall objective – *Responsible Parliaments: Embracing Evaluation for Agenda 2030*. On Day 2 delegates within 7 regional groups, made voluntary commitments to action plans to advance the development evaluation agenda over the coming 5 years. Amongst actions and initiatives that delegates identified were;

- a renewed commitment to regional cooperation between members of parliament interested in evaluation,
- stronger cooperation between members of parliaments and national VOPEs,
- initiatives to build evaluation capacity of members of parliaments,
- moves to increase awareness amongst MPs about evaluation, the evaluation community and the parliamentarians for evaluation movement.



Detailed summaries of regional meetings and country commitments are included as sections 4 and 5.

“Evaluation may be the best tool to combine the ethical, political, social and technical considerations that help government plan and deliver services to their citizens.”

Quote from EvalColombo2018 discussions

“Evaluators must be politically savvy if politicians are to see value in evaluation results.”

Quote from EvalColombo2018 discussions

### Proceedings at the Parliament of Sri Lanka

Day 3 of EvalColombo2018 was hosted at the Parliament of Sri Lanka where delegates were welcomed by the Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, M.P., Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, the and Hon. Ananda Kumarasiri, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka. Following a tour of the house and refreshments, delegates participated in a panel discussion with speakers representing the voices of parliamentarians from around the world.

Panellists highlighted that they would be leaving EvalColombo2018 with inspiring stories, a new toolkit, knowledge and faith and were committed to building networks to share learning on evaluation. Parliamentarian networks, [GPFE](#) and [APNODE](#) committed to forging a stronger voice in support of evaluation. More broadly delegates appreciated the strong political will that Sri Lanka demonstrated in supporting the conference and called upon speakers to drive the adoption of evaluation within and to ensure continuity by embedding it within their respective constitutions. Proceedings at the Parliament of Sri Lanka were concluded with a signing of the Colombo Declaration by delegates.

A summary of proceedings at the Parliament of Sri Lanka, including closing statements from a number of delegates, are included in Section 6.

### Feedback on EvalColombo2018 from Participants

Feedback from participants at the conference was overwhelmingly positive. Overall the conference had an approval rating of 4.5 out of 5 with many delegates highlighting the opportunities for sharing and learning from a diverse range of experiences. Delegates particularly appreciated the professional way in which the conference had been organised and the warm welcome they received in Sri Lanka.

A detailed analysis of participant feedback is included in section 8.

# EvalColombo2018 - Purpose

There is a growing recognition amongst evaluators governments and development partners, that greater use of evaluation evidence within national decision-making is key to accelerating equitable and inclusive development.

For countries that are transitioning to more democratic forms of governance, processes that generate and use evaluation data can cement nascent practices that in turn build accountability and deliver equitable development for all. With greater use of evaluations, parliaments, parliamentarians and citizens can hold their governments to account, reinforce good governance and support the state to deliver on the needs and rights of its people.

Over the last few years, and as a result of the above, there has been a rapid growth in interest amongst parliamentarians across the globe in the use of evaluation evidence for oversight. Across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, parliamentarians have come together to form regional fora to advocate for greater access to and use of evaluations as part of their role of serving citizens.



The [Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation \(GPFE\)](#) was launched on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at the Parliament of Nepal. This milestone lent significant weight to the launching at the same event of the [Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020](#) and to the celebrating of the International Year of Evaluation 2015, supported by the international network *EvalPartners*.

## Parliamentarians and the SDGs

As the global family of nations move into the next era of global development driven by a vision of ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring prosperity for all, there is a need for stronger M&E frameworks that generate learning, inform decision-making and drive accountability. Parliamentarians with their unique role in overseeing the work of governments, have an opportunity to drive the demand for evidence that informs that decision making around the SDGs and ensures that *progress overall means progress for all - ensuring that no one is left behind*.

## Rationale for a global parliamentarian's forum on evaluation

Within this context, parliamentarians from across the globe together with representatives of development partners, recognised an opportunity to support dialogue around greater use of evaluation evidence within

legislatures. Central to the realisation of EvalColombo2018 as an invitation from the Chair of the Sri Lanka Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation, Hon. Ananda Kumarasiri, who together with the speaker Hon. Karu Jayasuriya and members of parliament were ready to host the event. The three-day event took place in Colombo Sri Lanka between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

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### The Objectives of the conference were to:

- Reaffirm amongst delegates the importance of using evidence as part of good governance,
  - Raise awareness on the role of parliaments and parliamentarians in driving the SDGs agenda,
  - Promote dialogue between parliamentarians, government, evaluation practitioners, and civil society to encourage their joint use of evaluations for decision making,
  - Agree on way forward compiled in the Colombo Declaration including country commitments for National Evaluation Policies/ Systems and Voluntary National Reviews.
- 

## Opening ceremony and inauguration

The EvalColombo2018 conference was the first major global event to be hosted by the Global Parliamentarian Forum on Evaluation. The conference brought together over 200 delegates from legislatures, governments and development agencies across the globe to discuss the role of evaluation and parliaments in the pursuit of [Agenda 2030](#). The inauguration marked the official opening of the event and set the stage for the important discussions to follow.

Amongst those to speak at the inauguration were:

- **Hon. Karu Jayasuriya** – Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka
- **Hon. Kabir Hashim** – Chair, Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation
- **Hon. J.M. Ananda Kumarasiri** – Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, Chair, Sri Lanka Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation
- **Ms. Ada Ocampo** – Evaluation Office, UNICEF and GPFE Secretariat
- **Ms. Adeline Sibanda** – Representative from EvalPartners and IOCE
- **Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe** – Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
- **His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena** – President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

## Summary of inaugural addresses

During the inauguration conference delegates were honoured to have the company of senior members of the Sri Lankan government including his excellency the President of Sri Lanka, the Honourable Prime Minister, the Speaker and Deputy speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament.

All speakers underlined the importance of evaluation and its potential to inform decision making for development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In particular speakers highlighted;

- The importance of developing an evaluation culture and their individual commitment to establishing it,
- the importance of evaluation in informing public investment in infrastructure ranging from airports and factories to sports facilities,
- that the work of government institutions and departments can benefit from evaluations to help enhance their productivity,
- that public expenditure is drawn from public resources and must be used responsibly,
- political leaders, unlike doctors, cannot bury their mistakes tax payers must pay for them!
- if evaluation is used effectively then unnecessary and expensive borrowing can be avoided and finite government resources invested into the most productive sectors.

His excellency the president highlighted the important role of women both as parliamentarians and in evaluation. He noted the potential that evaluation has to improve efficiency within government, but that parliaments and parliamentarians themselves first need to become efficient: Evaluation can support a more efficient parliament - efficient parliamentarians can trigger a more efficient public service and hence drive progress towards the SDGs. He noted that Sri Lanka has made significant progress in these areas over the last four years and underlined the opportunity to learn from his government's experience.



# 1 KEYNOTES

Delegates to EvalColombo2018 comprised those who were new to evaluation as well as those who were seasoned professionals. To help build consensus amongst delegates around the importance of National Evaluation Policies for good governance, we asked a selection of global evaluation experts to share their insights around some contemporary development challenges.

## Keynote 1

### National Evaluation Policies and Systems for Good Governance and Accountability

The informed political observer might be forgiven for concluding that the promoting of policies founded on respect for objective fact has given way in recent years to policies founded on rhetoric that appeals to emotion and personal belief. In a “post truth” world, clouded by regular denunciations of “fake news”, we ask global evaluation experts to highlight what they see as the challenges and opportunities for using evaluation evidence to reinforce good governance and accountability.

#### Moderator

**Dr. Dorothy Lucks**, Co-chair, EVALSDGs

#### Speakers

**Hon. Kabir Hashim**, Minister of Highways and Road Development, Sri Lanka and Chair – Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation

**Ms. Caroline Heider**, Director General and Senior Vice President, Evaluation, World Bank Group

**Dr. Marvin Taylor-Dormond**, Director General, Independent Evaluation Department, Asian Development Bank

Speakers delivered a selection of keynotes exploring the following questions;

- What is the nature of demand for good governance and accountability and what global factors are shaping it?
- How is the case for the use of evidence for decision-making standing up in today’s global environment?
- How can national evaluation policies (NEPs) contribute to good governance and accountability?
- Why are NEPs important in the context of the 2030 agenda?
- What are some of the challenges in establishing National Evaluation Policies and what are the opportunities to overcome them?
- What might be the role for Parliamentarians in making the case for;
  - National Evaluation Policies and Systems?
  - Greater use of evaluation evidence in national decision making and in SDG reporting?



# “Parliaments are a bridge between the state and its citizens.”

Quote from EvalColombo2018 discussions

## Kabir Hashim

While Sri Lanka is a natural home for the first **GPFE** Global conference it's important that we seek not to give answers but to ask the right questions. Policy making is not just technical decision making, it is a complex process which in an era of "fake news", requires more than M&E systems and the information they provide for sound decision making. Social issues must be addressed through processes that use evidence *and political expediency* - as a result evaluation must be both technical sound and politically relevant. When this happens evaluation evidence and objective decision making become the cornerstone of good governance.

While they may have been left out to date, Parliamentarians have a central role in promoting evaluation; there are a number of reasons why they should be involved in setting the evaluation agenda:

- parliaments and parliamentarians potentially represent the largest group of end users for evaluation evidence
- evaluations can provide critical information that can be used to bolster debates,

- citizens are increasingly demanding efficient and accountable government,

To realise this, we must provide resources to ensure that parliaments have sufficient technical experts to interpret evaluation reports, and legislation that establishes an enabling environment for evaluation and evaluators.

Parliamentarians' movements can press for such policies and create demand for evaluation and while the task may appear challenging there are notable examples of success; the use of evaluation to assess government policy is enshrined within the constitution of Nepal; it is instigated into Law in Tunisia, Cote d'Ivoire and Kyrgyzstan; in Kenya an evaluation policy has been established; in Zimbabwe it is underway; in Bhutan a draft policy has been finalized; in Sri Lanka an evaluation policy was approved in 2018.

These policy changes have emerged as parliamentarians increasingly recognise evaluation as a foundation for good governance. What do parliamentarians get in return? Evaluation and its use within legislatures enable parliamentarians to deliver on their responsibilities to constituents and to craft and enact people centred policies.

## Caroline Heider

The formation of **GPFE** and the movement it represents, marks a shift from evaluations that serve accountability towards donors towards one that empowers parliamentarians.

While information is transmitted today at unprecedented speed, there is little clarity on what is genuine and what is "fake" - this has resulted in a crisis of trust in media, political

parties and democracy. In times like these the checks and balances of democracy with an independent evaluation function becomes important tools with which to exercise accountable governance. These are even more important in age of SDGs where 17 goals are made up of some that are mutually reinforcing, others that require trade off and all of which require investment that exceeds available funding.

Caroline Heider continued

Parliamentarians have an important role to play in establishing an independent evaluation function.

- An enabling environment is essential so that evaluation that is often uncomfortable in the way it shines light on shadow and speaks truth to power, is accepted and adopted.
- Parliamentarians must become discerning users of evaluation and demand impartial, timely and insightful evidence in a format that is appropriate to decision makers.

- Using evidence in policy debates can raise the bar by ensuring coherence of policies, value for money, inclusion of the private sector for sustainable social and economic results and that environmental impacts are protective of natural resources.

These are tall orders but with a strong vision for a better future, governments can act accountably and make evidence informed policy choices for the benefit of society and the planet.

## Dr. Marvin Taylor-Dormond

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In 2015, the world embraced a new development paradigm, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a concerted call to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all. It is a binding pledge of nations on the most pressing sustainability issues today - people, planet and prosperity. Being timebound also adds urgency to matters of sustaining development.

The scale of problems remains daunting as poverty remains pervasive across the globe. Inequality has widened, in many instances undermining continuing initiatives on poverty alleviation and future growth. Past indifference to the environment has left an ecosystem under threat, complicating development with climate-related disasters.

What is the role of parliamentarians in this extraordinary SDG endeavour? Progress will demand partnership and leadership at the country level with parliamentarians, government and civil society working together to

come up with a solution. Parliamentarians are an indispensable catalyst in making headway to achieving the SDGs, providing leadership in crafting national policies and programs, driving development and translating these into enabling legislation, oversight and fiduciary authority. They can build a transparent and trusting bridge between the state and its citizens, aligning multiple visions and objectives at the national level and turning the SDG aspirations into concrete and doable outcomes.

The question then is, to what extent and in what way can program evaluation help parliamentarians? Evaluation enhances good governance, facilitates accountability, transparency and above all learning, while also empowering citizens. In the words of Carol Weiss, it “challenges old ideas, provides new perspectives and helps to re-order the policy agenda”. Evaluation has been recognized as a crucial component of the march towards the SDGs at both the national and global levels.

To make sound and effective policy decisions, parliamentarians and other policy makers need to know what works, what doesn't and why. Political processes can be enhanced by encouraging evaluators and parliamentarians to forge a strong partnership that 1) encourages evaluators to include the dynamics of the political process, deliver timely and relevant assessments 2) motivates parliamentarians to make good use of the evidence produced by sound evaluation.

*Evaluators:* Be humble while being invited to being part of the decision-making process and be relevant and timely in your provision of evaluation to parliamentarians and decision makers.

*Parliamentarians:* Be thorough while crafting your decisions and go beyond your own needs for information for law purposes and put evaluation at the heart of government policy and decision making.

*Parliamentarians and evaluators:* Be bold - our efforts today must be as ambitious as the objectives outlined by the 17 SDGs.

### Insights arising from the plenary discussion

- Poor decisions for instigating new projects funded by loans, adds an additional burden to failure; evaluation must be used to identify and prioritize projects that can deliver results,
- Practical training programs can form the first part of a road map for taking evaluation to the level of local government,
- Good evaluations are necessary to measure social impacts consistently and comparably and for the system to stand,
- States that devolve decision making to local government level must also have evaluation capacity developed at that level,
- There is a strong role for evaluation in peace-keeping especially within fragile states: It's crucial however that evaluators be able to demonstrate impartiality if the evidence they generate is to contribute to a reconciliation process.

**“Evaluation Policies are important to institutionalise evaluation although they may not be universally applicable.”**

Quote from EvalColombo2018 discussions

## Keynote 2

### What have we learned from Voluntary National Reviews?

**Voluntary National Reviews** (VNRs) are an important mechanism that allow governments to appraise progress towards SDGs. The additional sharing of “lessons learned” between governments has potential to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda more broadly. A recent review of 43 VNRs has highlighted that while the use of existing monitoring systems to provide quantitative data on progress towards SDG goals is strong, evaluation using qualitative methodologies to measure progress is largely missing. This session will explore how the UN, governments, parliaments, VOPEs and evaluators can maximise the potential of this important evaluative tool to both generate learning and promote government accountability around [Agenda 2030](#).

#### Moderator

**Dr. Florence Etta**, EVALSDGs and AGDEN

#### Speakers

**Mr. Oscar Garcia**, Director – Independent Evaluation Office, IFAD

**Mr. Stefano D’Errico** - IIED and EVALSDGs

**Dr. Soma De Silva** - former EvalPartners Co-chair and former IOCE President

#### Mr. Oscar Garcia

SDGs are complex and so to ensure coherence and coordination across sectors their implementation relies on a number of institutional arrangements that reflect a “whole-of-government” approach. Dedicated committees have been already established in parliaments, recognizing their critical role in SDG implementation through their oversight and legislative function.

Partnerships are essential for SDGs, to build on synergies among members of civil society, academia and the private sector. For this reason, the preparation of VNRs is increasingly adopting a participatory approach.

Lessons learned so far show that there is room to further integrate the SDG Agenda into sectoral policies and at sub-national level within regional and local development strategies. There is a strong need for policy coherence.

The 2030 Agenda requires adequate resources; some countries have broadened their tax base and improved the investment environment as part of a resource mobilization strategy.

The agenda also relies on cooperation, partnerships, trade, technology and innovation. This can be achieved through bringing on board the best international expertise and by supporting South-South and triangular cooperation.

VNRs have started to report implementation efforts related to specific goals; in particular, peace, quality education, justice, strong institutions, and gender equality are regarded as critical for the achievement of the other goals. Specific core principles e.g. the principle of leaving no one behind appears to be more frequently addressed by VNRs as are specific interventions targeting the most vulnerable groups. However,

while indigenous groups and ethnic minorities are often considered particularly vulnerable, they have not received particular attention in VNRs.

Transforming the rural sector is essential to achieve the SDGs however violent conflict, inequality, and climate-change related shocks have meant that hunger is now on the rise. The principle of sustainable consumption and production has received only a few mentions in VNR reports, mainly from developed countries. This requires a change in hearts and mind-sets and implies a moral obligation to future generations.

If VNRs as *evaluation tools, are to be rigorous, credible and based on evidence, they must progressively move from a descriptive to an*

analytical approach producing deeper and more informed policy lessons, shifting from a monitoring to an evaluation perspective.

*Strengthening* the role of VNRs requires the integration of well-consolidated evaluation norms into VNR guidelines. They should dedicate more space to an analysis of technical, political and financial trade-offs among SDGs.

While VNRs must be flexible to adapt to specific situations, they must also be comparable in order to share lessons and best practices. Comparability and accountability go hand-in-hand, and parliaments can play an essential role in ensuring that VNRs are impartial, credible and useful as they inform decision-making towards achieving their development goals.

## Dr. Soma De Silva

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The purpose of VNRs is to help countries stay on course and maintain speed in progress towards SDGs. Altogether 113 countries have submitted VNRs and while the road may seem clear its path is still through unknown territory. Evaluation is the tool through which VNRs can respond to the “why and how” and has the potential to create a vast reservoir of knowledge to nurture the SDG process.

VNR reporting so far has shown that they have focused largely on processes and monitoring. The top three challenges relate to data collection for monitoring;

- A lack of capacity in data collection
- A lack of capacity in data analysis and management
- Insufficient financial and technical support

Evaluation is not identified as a challenge

In terms of alignment with National Development Plans VNRs conducted to date indicate that in India, Australia and Lithuania the national development agenda and policy frameworks are

aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals, while Bangladesh has integrated the 2030 Agenda in its 7th five-year plan. Afghanistan has begun to incorporate SDGs into its national and local budget planning processes and in Sri Lanka there is overall 71% alignment between Public Investment Plan targets and SDG Pillars.

At a goal specific level, the Australian National Women’s Alliances has worked with the Gender Agency to map linkages between domestic priorities, the SDGs and other international human rights frameworks while Ireland’s UN SDG Data Hub has linked SDG statistics with geospatial data and created an innovative website of map layers ([www.irelandsdg.geohive.ie](http://www.irelandsdg.geohive.ie)).

For SDG programmes evaluation can be used; at design stage to determine whether they are likely to realise their goals; during implementation to appraise process; and on completion to measure impact and results.

VNRs can usefully include a summary of results achieved together with any shortfalls. It is also important that they highlight any evaluative

Dr. Soma De Silva continued

knowledge that has been gained, and how monitoring and evaluation evidence has been brought together. VNRs also provide an opportunity to

highlight how evaluative knowledge was or will be used for academic training in evaluation and to form cadres of evaluators in Government.

Mr. Stefano D'Errico

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### Evaluation for transformative change

In today's world we are faced with two overarching challenges; climate change and inequality. The warmer the world becomes, the greater the likelihood of triggering feedback process that will further accelerate warming. To avoid reaching such tipping point, temperature rise must stay at 1.5. Global income inequality has been rising – driven by the rise of the 1% of the population that has captured 27% of total growth. Development is no longer about steady processes or incremental change, we must commit to transform societies and economies and act promptly to address pressing issues. How can evaluation help us tackle these challenges?

### Embedding evaluation into national plans for transformative development

Strategic changes through the institutionalisation of policies, programmes and projects that lead to large scale, sustained impacts in systems that accelerate or shift the development trajectory of a country.

### Evaluation to involve multiple stakeholders in identifying, prioritising and assessing critical problems

A more participatory process can help countries identify which are the most pressing social, environmental and economic problems, and how

they provide direction on where to focus their energies. Participatory approaches in evaluation also help to take into account multiple views and value frameworks in the assessment of benefits and challenges created by different national and sub-national policies and plans.

### Evaluation to set national priorities: a practice to focus on what matters

Evaluation could help decision makers at different stages of the policy cycle, including agenda setting and prioritisation. Evaluative processes can help to understand countries' needs by engaging both decision makers (commonly in power) and agents (out of power) in identifying critical problems hindering sustainable development.

### Evaluation to assess the value worth and merit of policies and plans

Countries could benefit from a more pragmatic approach to follow-up and review of the SDGs by using evaluation as a strategic exercise to assess policies and plans in terms of their value for transformative development.

“Accountable parliaments are built by accountable parliamentarians.”

Quote from EvalColombo2018 discussions

## Insights arising from the plenary discussion

- There is inevitable trade off within SDGs and so prioritizing focus is crucial, national priorities must lead the choice of goals to review within VNRs,
- Parliaments are important to move ownership of the SDG agenda from government to the whole of the nation,
- For VNRs to be impartial and not just “paint a rosy picture”, a broad range of stakeholders must be engaged, helping parliamentarians to ensure the VNR process is impartial,
- When considering what is feasible in terms of VNRs at the country level the existing evaluation agenda must also be considered, review the existing evaluation plans and ask - “is there anything missing in terms of SDGs?”
- Parliamentarians can play a key role in driving the VNR process forward, they can also help ensure that the national development plan is fed down to sub national and local levels through engagement with constituents,
- Independent reports that shadow and parallel the official VNR process can bring alternative viewpoints and counter political influences that may bias government reports,
- however shadow reports bring back bitter memories of MDGs as they generated bickering and little added value,
- There is a linkage between quality of a VNR and the existence of a national evaluation system
- Indigenous and minorities must not be left out, the clock is ticking.
- How do we bring debates on evaluation outside the conference room, there is a lot of work to raise awareness amongst parliamentarians?
- The SDGs may look overwhelming and may not be priorities for all, it’s important therefore to keep the five P’s (people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partners) in focus as a way of determining if national plans are moving in the right direction.
- Evaluators and parliamentarians have potential to bridge the gap between design and use of evaluations for SDGs, but first parliamentarians must be informed and brought on board
- Members agree on the VNR priorities; in the 80’s it was human rights; in the 90’s women’s’ rights; now with SDGs sustainability and saving the planet is crucial.
- Parliamentarians can act as advocates for an integrated approach to implementing and evaluating SDGs.



## 2 COLOMBO DECLARATION



### The Colombo Declaration

The Colombo Declaration was devised as a means of building a consensus around values and principles that underpin the global evaluation agenda with parliaments and the SDGs. It also acts as an instrument to underpin regional agendas for action in the sector. The declaration was drafted in advance of the conference following rigorous engagement with key stakeholders including parliamentarians, government representatives, VOPEs and development partners. Feedback was solicited from participants during the conference itself and suggestions were incorporated into the text of the declaration to generate a final version. EvalColombo2018 delegates were invited to sign the document during day 3 of the conference at a special ceremony held at the Parliament of Sri Lanka.





# The Colombo Declaration

1. We the participants of EvalColombo2018 convened by the Global Parliamentarians Forum in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka, and the Sri Lanka Parliamentarians Forum here in Colombo 17-19 September 2018 declare to the people that;
2. Representing a global partnership of parliaments, governments, international development institutions, United Nations agencies, non-governmental agencies and evaluation professionals from over seventy nations, we have exchanged our views and experiences on the special role for parliamentarians in underpinning the role of evaluation evidence in support of development that brings; an end to poverty and hunger, protects the planet from degradation, and allows human beings to enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives, in peaceful, just and inclusive societies.
3. We strongly believe that decision making for such development must be informed by evidence that is credible, objective and timely and that well conducted evaluations are a valuable source of such evidence.
4. We understand that parliamentarians as representatives of citizens, custodians of parliamentary oversight and lawmakers, can play a leading role in creating and sustaining an enabling environment for evaluation.
5. To create such an enabling environment, parliamentarians acknowledge the need to provide guidance, encouragement and to facilitate;
  - i. the establishment of National Evaluation Policies and Systems that consider national context, governance structures as well as international norms and standards,
  - ii. the allocation of budget for the establishing of systems and for carrying out evaluations themselves,
  - iii. the development of technical capacity within parliament and administrative structures to utilize evaluative knowledge as evidence for continuous improvement of development interventions,
  - iv. the professionalisation of evaluation through institutionalising training and developing cadres of professional evaluators.
6. We acknowledge that parliaments must evaluate their own institutional performance to build coherence and capture synergies for achieving SDGs while national policies are developed.
7. We recognize that the building of collaboration and trust between all development stakeholders but particularly between evaluation professionals, as producers of evaluative knowledge and parliamentarians and program managers as users of that knowledge, is essential to guide development programs and policies to success.

### 3 PANEL DISCUSSIONS



Panel discussions formed an important part of the conference where participants could examine particular issues in greater depth, and trigger an exchange of viewpoints among experts, either with prepared statements or in response to questions from the audience. On-the-spot interaction uncovered a range of viewpoints - panellists and audience did not always agree on all issues. Six panel discussions were held in all and comprised two groups of three sessions run in parallel.

#### Panel 1

##### Evaluation and National Evaluation Policies for Evidence Based Policy Making

Using evidence from evaluations to support national policy decision making, has been promoted by international development institutions and welcomed favourably by governments around the world. But while the rationale for evidence use seems clear, the experience of implementing National Evaluation Policies (NEPs) has varied. What have been some of the experiences so far? How can we learn from the challenges encountered and what role can parliamentarians play to support NEPs that further [Agenda 2030](#)?

Panel chair	Panellists
<b>Dr. Emmanuel Jimenez</b> , Executive Director, 3ie	<b>Dr. Ian Goldman</b> , CLEAR AA Advisor: Evaluation and Evidence Systems, Former DPME, South Africa, <b>Mr. Ziad Moussa</b> , Co-chair EvalPartners <b>Ms. Andrea Cook</b> , Director Evaluation – World Food Programme

“The institutionalizing of evaluation represents a new frontier for representative institutions”

Quote from EvalColombo2018 discussions

## Highlights from the discussion

The existence of NEPs varies hugely across countries, as does the speed of progress towards them. While some countries have moved rapidly from the inclusion of specific provisions in the constitution, through to policy and training<sup>1</sup>, others have spent extensive periods sitting on drafts. Progress towards policy can be protracted and tends to be shaped by political shifts while in systems plagued by corruption, evaluation policies tend to be empty shells. The evaluation agenda must follow and adapt to the trajectories that different countries follow towards the establishment of policy.

The existence of policy seems to be a necessary precursor for government-wide evaluation plans, however the absence of a NEP does not mean that evaluation cannot be formalised or that parliamentarians cannot become engaged. For example, evaluation can be embedded in agreements at sectoral level between Development Partners and national governments<sup>2</sup>. At the end of the day the NEP is just a piece of paper and it is the NES that determines whether things work.

While the current ecosystem around evaluation tends to revolve around technical issues (TORs, methods, etc.) it should rather home in on building relationships with decision-makers, managers and citizens to encourage evaluation use. Regular meetings between parliamentarians and VOPEs can build trust and avoid “us-against-them” mentalities while making all government evaluations public allows parliamentary oversight committee to make good use of the information. Identifying and supporting a few champions can also trigger wider interest and uptake.

In the absence of NEPs evaluators must work with clear governance mechanisms to build agreement on what is evaluated and what is not. It is important to discuss with politicians the nature of their information needs and support parliamentary committees to be much more demanding of evaluations.

- Policies are neither necessary nor sufficient, but they do help,
- Whatever system is put in place, it must be well resourced with the right motivations put in place,
- Ensure evaluation quality and ethics,
- Communications must be adapted to the reader, in plain language,
- It is important to have political savvy so that politicians have use for evaluation results,
- Evaluators have an important role to curate the information.

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<sup>1</sup> Morocco

<sup>2</sup> WFP embeds evaluation within sectoral agreements with governments in over 80 countries.

## Panel 2

### What have we learnt from national evaluation systems and national evaluation capacity?

National evaluation capacity is the corner stone of a functioning National Evaluation System, but what exactly do we mean by evaluation capacity and what are some of the successful strategies for building it?

#### Panel chair

**Dr. Masahiro Igarashi, Director** – Office of Evaluation, Food and Agriculture Organization

#### Panellists

**Mr. Gonzalo Hernandez Licona**, Executive Secretary, Coneval, Mexico

**Hon. Ananda Kumarasiri**, Deputy Speaker of the Sri Lanka Parliament and Chair – Sri Lanka Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation

**Mr. Riccardo Polastro**, Regional Advisor Evaluation UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office

**Ms. Silvia Salinas Mulder**, Coordinator, ReLAC

#### Highlights from the discussion

##### Lessons on Leadership;

- Those in positions of power continue to influence most decisions around evaluation.
- Major decisions tend to be made on the basis of political motives rather than on the basis of evidence.
- Feedback loops and inclusive participation of all relevant stakeholders e.g. indigenous communities remains low.
- Members of Parliament after being voted into representative assemblies do not always go back to constituents to report on how they are representing them.
- The legislature is not always adequately empowered to make demands of the executive.

##### Lessons from experiences of building evaluation capacity and systems;

- Member based networks (such as APNODE) report that national evaluation capacity varies significantly across countries, the same is true in Asia and Latin America.
- Embedding Evaluation within the constitution can protect the process from political manipulation e.g. Mexico has embedded evaluation w.r.t. national poverty in the constitution and with its strong institutions provides inspiration to Latin America.
- Focus should be on strengthening the capacity and power of institutions rather than that of individuals<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> A project for a new international airport in Sri Lanka led to a white elephant as the location of the project was influenced by an influential leader rather than its potential economic, social and environmental impact.

- Indigenous communities have still to be empowered to be able to participate in national evaluation systems.
- It takes many years to change decision makers' attitudes and persuade them to adopt evaluation systems and policies.
- There is need for greater consideration of ethical, economic, social, political and technical issues to optimise national decision making. Evaluations can help decision makers to make such decisions objectively.

**Questions remain around how to;**

- link Results-Based Management and Performance Monitoring
- encourage more countries to develop and adopt evaluation policies
- encourage parliamentarians to be thorough in their oversight of the executive and to make decisions on the basis of objective evaluations.

## Panel 3

### Evaluation as a lever to increase the socio-economic impact and efficiency of public investments

Public investment constitutes a significant portion of government spending that delivers important economic infrastructure and physical assets. Unlike other types of government spending, projects often span several years and involve technically complex assignments that are subject to political pressures and are prone to corruption. While parliamentarians play an important role in project appraisal and budget approval, the practice of evaluating public investment projects is often neglected in the budget cycle. In this session a group of technical experts and parliamentarians will explore the potential for parliaments to play a greater role in using evaluation of public investment to leverage socio-economic impact.

#### Panel chair

**Mr. Jim Brumby:** Director – Governance Global Practice, World Bank Group

#### Panellists

**Hon. Harsha De Silva,** State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs

**Hon. Olfa Cherif,** Member of Parliament, Tunisia

**Ms. Olasumbo Ayinde-Yakub,** Evaluation Specialist, Ministry of Budget and National Planning, Nigeria

**Dr. Lee Chongwook,** Evaluation Specialist, South Korea

## Highlights from the discussion

Public investment is at the centre of development to reduce poverty and realise the SDGs, it represents 7.5 percent of emerging economies' spending. In most countries, development gaps remain but funding is in short supply and we need to prioritize. A high efficiency gap within PIM promises potential dividends if we can improve, white elephants and stranded assets are the consequence of poor PI evaluation and planning. Parliamentarians can play a key role to improve the efficiency of PIM.

Challenges to the use of evaluation to improve PIM at an institutional level include the weak capacity of public service poor alignment of government institutions. When evaluation of PI *does occur* it rarely looks at outcome level results<sup>4</sup>. While there is now potential to share information generated by technology such as Google Earth and GIS, PIM is often not sensitive to involving citizens in the process of evaluating PI. The absence of legislation and as yet weak demand for evaluation from citizens and legislatures further impedes strengthening the system. Finally, the extent to which there is effective oversight of public investment can be argued to be a function of the level of democracy within a given country.

- There is often a large burden of interest payments from money borrowed for recurrent expenditure, leaving little for public investment, given this we need to ensure that all expenditure raised from tax payers or loans is well spent,
- Evaluation of public investment is a joint responsibility of the executive, legislators and citizens,
- A national evaluation association can be the first step in giving citizens an opportunity to be involved in the evaluation of government expenditure,
- The parliamentary function of budget appropriation and public procurement systems can help,
- There is difficulty in measuring outcomes of government expenditure on public investment projects, we must explore how we use independent evaluations to prioritise and then appraise their performance,
- We need better ways of evaluating projects, pre-post qualitative assessments are not sufficient,

### **Q. Are parliaments part of the solution or part of the problem in public investment?**

#### **How do we get parliaments and parliamentarians on board?**

- Parliaments are part of the solution and the problem. Parliamentarians are in a position to scrutinize public budget allocation and to provide a legal framework to evaluate programmes, however they often lack technical capacity to understand and interpret evaluations.
- Parliamentarians always want to leave a stamp through establishing laws, one initiative might be to evaluate all new legislation after a fixed period. There is a good opportunity for parliamentarians to engage with the World Bank to engage with the evaluation of discrete public projects.

<sup>4</sup> Particular reference from Olasumbo Ayinde-Yakub to Nigeria

## Panel 4

### The role of Parliamentarians in holding government to account in Agenda 2030

While the value of evaluations as a source of evidence for national decision making is broadly accepted, this session explored the specific role for parliamentarians in supporting the development of National Evaluation Policy (NEP) and representing citizens' interests in demanding greater access to evaluation evidence. In particular the session attempted to outline how parliamentarians can use their oversight role to ensure that government makes greater use of evaluations to report on progress towards and achievement of SDGs.

#### Panel chair

**Mr. Brook Boyer**, Head of Planning, Performance and Results Section, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

#### Panellists

**Mr. Abdoulaye Gounou**, Conseiller Technique à la Promotion du Secteur Privé chez Government du Bénin

**Ms. Ada Ocampo**, Senior Evaluation Specialist, UNICEF Evaluation Office

**Dr. Dorothy Lucks**, Co-chair, EVALSDGs

**Hon. Natalia Nikitenko**, Member of Parliament, Kyrgyz Republic

#### Highlights from the discussion

The role of Parliamentarians is seen as being threefold; 1) Representing citizens and acting as the voice of the people 2) Holding government to account by checking the excesses of the executive 3) Enacting Legislation. There is potential to enhance parliaments' oversight role through making sure evaluation (including VNRs) happen and that results are used to hold government to account. Legislation plays a major role in creating an enabling environment for evaluation systems, however policies must lead to a national evaluation agenda and not remain empty shells. True separation of powers between parliament and the executive for these three roles is crucial to curbing political interference in evaluation.

After reviewing how parliaments are actually performing the following recommendations can be made;

#### **Awareness raising, capacity building**

- SDGs and evaluation are new fields for parliamentarians: therefore they need support to build their awareness, strengthen their technical capacity and tools that facilitate their involvement
- Identify, document and share "recipes for success" ensuring that they are appropriate to context.

- Avoid an “unbalanced diet” of evaluations that focus on certain SDG goals to the exclusion of others, rather use evaluations to link sectors across a national development programme
- Liaise with UN, CSOs and other partners to promote peer to peer support and horizontal learning within and between Parliaments

#### **Environment and context**

- Cement longevity to change by using evaluation policies and legislation to move beyond individuals and political parties,
- Accept that policies and systems are not the end and work to institutionalise evaluation, as part of an ongoing and continuous process

#### **Building collaboration and trust**

- Take advantage of evolving networks to engage multiple stakeholders and build collaboration

#### **Vision and Leadership**

- Identify committed champions who are passionate about determining progress or lack of it!

#### **Principles, values and behavioural change**

- Work with governments to persuade them to accept evaluation as constructive criticism and support parliamentary committees to ask the right questions
- The priorities of the executive may not reflect those enshrined within the SDG agenda, parliament and the executive must be supported to align themselves with the *common* good and allocate resources accordingly
- Understand that government, politics and societies are diverse but there is a common responsibility to uplift the lives of citizens. Parliamentarians have the mandate of the people from the moment they become MPs.

“Social issues must be addressed through decision making using evidence and political expediency.”

Quote from EvalColombo2018 discussions



## Panel 5

### Evaluation for the Executive and the Legislature

Evaluation has an important role to play in generating evidence for decision-making within both the executive (for improving performance) and the legislature (holding the executive to account), however the incentives to share and use evaluation evidence differ significantly between the two. This session explored how pressures from the side of the executive and legislature differ and influence evaluation and will seek to identify some of the factors that can support a win-win arrangement for both.

#### Panel chair

**Dr. Walter Kolkma**, Director Independent Evaluation Thematic and Country Division, Asian Development Bank

#### Panellists

**Ms. Evelyn Mpagi**, Former Member of Parliament, Uganda, APNODE Board Member,

**Mr. V. Sivgnanasothy**, Secretary to the Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka

**Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake**, Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka

#### Highlights from the discussion

A legislator's perspective on evaluation was shared by Ms. Evelyn Mpagi, Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake. They shared the following insights;

- MPs need quality technical support to commission and optimise their use of evaluation, this can be achieved by creating specialised M&E Units (The parliament of Uganda has created an M&E Unit within its Strategy Department)
- MPs need user-friendly reports as opposed to volumes of technical results, we need to find a middle ground between producers and users of evaluation results.
- Evaluation is an important instrument for parliamentary oversight, members of parliament need to demand evaluation.
- The institutionalisation of policy ensures that evaluation cannot be ignored even when personalities change.
- Government agencies may not have been exposed to rigorous parliamentary oversight, the introduction of an evaluation culture and practice may therefore require strong political will.

A perspective from the point of view of the executive was presented by Mr. V. Sivgnanasothy, who shared lessons arising from the development of the national evaluation system:

- Evaluations that take more than six months to complete do not meet the needs of most policy makers,
- Rapid evaluations that are completed in under 4 weeks have proved successful (Sri Lanka),
- MPs are interested in learning about outcomes rather than about compliance,
- Ensuring the use of evaluation results is more challenging than producing evaluation reports,
- Evaluations should not be fault-finding exercises, mistakes in development are inevitable and we should learn from them, the only thing that should be punishable is failure to learn.

The plenary discussion produced the following recommendations for strengthening cooperation between executive and the legislature over the use of evaluation;

**Raise awareness by;**

- Holding workshops with parliaments to raise awareness and point out the benefits of evaluation

**Fostering cooperation and learning by;**

- Codifying knowledge and taking advantage of opportunities to learn from countries that are more advanced,
- Sharing collective knowledge through translating of key materials both inside and outside the region
- Ensuring that materials are available in a range of languages<sup>5</sup>

**Build solidarity through**

- Establishing solid groups of parliamentarians who use and promote evaluation
- Founding regional parliamentary platforms and supporting their membership
- Convening regional conferences on the use of evaluation
- Taking advantage of local VOPEs or supporting their formation

**Nurturing leadership through identifying champions**

**Campaign for the evaluation cause by;**

- advocating amongst parliamentarians to demand and use evaluations
- lobbying governments to engage with VNRs

<sup>5</sup> There is currently particular demand but poor supply of materials in Spanish and Russian.

# “Evaluation needs to be technically sound and politically relevant.”

Quote from EvalColombo2018 discussions

## Panel 6

### EvalPartners’ role in supporting National Evaluation Systems

The session showcased the support that is available to those working to develop National Evaluation Systems from EvalPartners. Founded in 2012, the network uses partnership and technology to foster knowledge sharing and networking amongst M&E practitioners worldwide.

Panel chair	Panellists
<p><b>Ms. Adeline Sibanda</b>, President – IOCE</p> <p>Overview of EvalPartners by <b>Mr. Ziad Moussa</b>, EvalPartners Co-chair</p>	<p><b>Mr. Alexis Salvador Loye</b> - EvalGender+</p> <p><b>Mr. Kassem el Saddik</b> - EvalSDGs</p> <p><b>Mr. Khalil Bitar</b> - EvalYouth</p> <p><b>Mr. Serge Eric Yakeu</b> - EvalIndigenous</p> <p><b>Ms. Loubna Amhair</b> - GPFE</p>

#### Highlights from the discussion

EvalPartners is committed to raise the visibility and influence of evaluation across the globe. It focuses on nurturing partnerships, strengthening institutional capacity and building evaluation capacity of Voluntary Organizations of Professional Evaluators (VOPEs) to advocate for SDGs and their evaluation.

**IOCE** and UNICEF with support from other partners launched the EvalPartners initiative in 2012. Currently EvalPartners comprises five global networks: EVALSDGs, EvalYouth, EvalGender+, EvalIndigenous and the Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation.

**EvalGender+** strives to ensure that all SDGs are achieved using an equity focused and gender responsive lens. EvalGender+ currently has Five Taskforces:

1. Capacity building
2. Knowledge Management
3. Communication and advocacy
4. Fundraising and networking
5. Participatory Evaluation

**EvalYouth** aims to promote young and emerging evaluators around the globe. Their activities include:

1. Involvement of young emerging evaluators in VOPE governance
2. Developing and managing a mentoring program
3. Organizing evaluation conferences and learning

EvalYouth has successfully completed its first mentoring program with a number of young evaluators from across the globe spending three months under the guidance international M&E experts. EvalYouth has also successfully completed two virtual evaluation conferences with a 3<sup>rd</sup> planned for November 2018.

Founded in 2015, the objectives of the [Global Parliamentarian Forum for Evaluation](#) (GPFE) are

1. To establish evaluation as a foundation of good governance, and a pre-requisite for sustainable and equitable development,
2. To position evaluation as a strategic pillar of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through which “no one is left behind”;
3. To facilitate learning regarding the development of national evaluation policies and systems

EvalColombo2018 represents the first international event organize by the forum.

**EVALS** is mandated to establish platforms to facilitate opportunities to evaluate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at national, regional and international level. It is also facilitating opportunities to strengthen partnership between VOPEs and UN agencies. EvalSDGs has undertaken the following initiatives:

- Policy briefing
- Pop-up-notes: to increase awareness on SDGs and evaluation of SDGs.
- Monthly webinars
- Spot lights using a task force and dialogue to showcase the work of 9 countries
- A capacity building program across the globe.

**EvalIndengious** is mandated to become the voice of the voiceless and indigenous people across the globe. It currently has two taskforces: 1ti global taskforce and 2ti professional task force.

#### **QA session:**

##### **How does EvalPartners support the 5 networks?**

[IOCE](#), UN agencies and a number of development organizations are the key supporters of the EvalPartners networks. There is a dedicated platform within EvalPartners that carries out fundraising. The 5 networks have also undertaken fundraising initiatives and initiated discussions with a range of donors to fund their activities.

##### **Who implements EvalPartners network activities?**

Network leaders and volunteer members implement all the network activities of their own volition. The work is enhanced due to the fact that all leaders and members demonstrate commitment towards the network activities.

## 4 REGIONAL MEETINGS

### Country Case Studies

The conference brought together high-level delegates from government, parliaments and international development agencies across the globe. During this working session delegates had an opportunity to share their experiences in supporting and promoting National Evaluation Policies and the systems that accompany them. The objective was to identify sources of learning that could be shared across regions and strengthen the foundations of the global network of parliamentarians promoting evaluation.

#### Moderators

**Mr. Kassem El-Saddik**, EVALSDGs Vice Chair

**Ms. Dina Melhem**, Regional Director - MENA and Asia, Westminster Foundation for Democracy

#### Highlights from the discussions

Following the group meetings amongst delegates from the region it became clear that:

- Countries are at various stages in their path toward a mature NEP and NES.
- Despite some shining examples, there is a recognition that most parliaments need further capacity building in order to institutionalize evaluation.
- In most cases, the evaluation processes are not aligned to the budgeting and planning processes.
- There is a room to build and nurture conducive partnerships within public sectors.

### Anglophone Africa group discussion

The objective of the session was to share experiences and learning amongst participants in the use of evaluation for national decision making. The discussions focused on any significant initiatives to promote the use of evaluation for decision making together with related successes, challenges and lessons learnt. Given the size of the Anglophone Africa group (10 countries comprising Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda South Africa, South Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe) the group split into three sub-groups focusing respectively on Zimbabwe, Kenya and Uganda.

#### Zimbabwe

The discussion focused on a number of initiatives including:

- The national M&E policy and M&E units within ministries, and related training
- National M&E framework
- National APNODE Chapter
- PBO and Research Office
- Training on SDGs for MPs

The National M&E Policy was approved by Cabinet in 2014. A Department of M&E in the Office of the President is in charge, led by a

Deputy Chief Secretary. Some ministries have an M&E unit while others have an officer. Zimbabwe also has a national M&E Framework which includes a section on how to implement the policy; it includes a gender component. UNICEF is training evaluation units within ministries, starting with a capacity assessment in social ministries on evaluation.

Following a motion to approve membership of APNODE the Zimbabwean Parliament has an APNODE chapter comprising 50 MPs. The National Chapter can access support from parliamentary researchers and committee clerks. Zimbabwe also has a Parliamentary Budget Office with 5 staff, and a parliamentary research office. A number of MPs have been trained in SDGs.

**Key Lessons Learned:**

- Failure to include parliamentary staff in training initiatives presents a sustainability risk as MPs come and go
- It would be good to start a pilot evaluation in Zimbabwe to build momentum. It was also noted that focused support from Twende Mbele or CLEAR-AA could help to get things moving.

## Kenya

The evaluation of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) was identified as a significant initiative involving evaluations in 20 constituencies (out of 290) to identify the best performing, medium performing and non-performing projects. Factors that contributed to the success of the initiative include donor support and the fact that evaluations were conducted by independent evaluators through a competitive bidding process. The challenges encountered included limited financial resources, limited time and limited stakeholder participation.

**Key lessons learned:**

- Lack of collaboration between ministries and the CDF led to the non-use of the facilities
- Women-led committees were more efficient

- Lack of coordination between the executive and parliament led to minimal use of recommendations

## Uganda

There is a clear M&E system in Uganda together with a national evaluation policy and departmental M&E units. The following three key initiatives were identified and captured.

The *Gender and Equity Certificate* for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) recognises efforts by MDAs to ensure gender and equity budgeting by complying with the minimum requirements as provided for under the Public Finance Management Act (Budget Financing Act). Among successes are that all MDAs are compliant with the Act for resource allocation, but the challenge noted is that there is a lack of appreciation and commitment leading to failure to comply. The key lesson learnt is the need for capacity building to ensure understanding and compliance.

The *Parliamentary Checklist for Human Rights Compliance* was regarded as a successful initiative by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Rights to enhance the protection and promotion of human rights in Uganda. The checklist is aimed at guiding the Committee on the issues to look out for in Bills, budgets, policy statements and other government programmes in relation to human rights. The key challenge identified is the high turnover rate of parliamentarians (80%) and the failure of the Executive to honour their commitments. The need for capacity building for both parliamentarians and the executive in this regard was noted.

Implementation of the *National Development Plan II* was indicated as the third significant initiative in Uganda. Alignment of government plans with the SDGs was considered a key success. However, low levels of implementation, insufficient resources, political interference, and high levels of corruption were noted as key challenges. Key lessons learned include the

importance of effective allocation and management of resources, strict adherence to the relevant laws, and institutionalising M&E.

The table below was presented as the summary of the discussion.

## Zambia

While the input from the Zambia experience was not shared in the group discussions, one of the participants from Zambia was keen to share the input and compiled the following information. The creation of a new Ministry of National Development Planning with divisions of M&E in 2015 was identified as a significant initiative. Successes included an evaluation capacity assessment completed in 2016 which found gaps between national plans and implementation practices; changes in the national development planning processes; a national evaluation policy

drafted in 2017; and the development of an evaluation strategy with the 7<sup>th</sup> national development plan taking into account the SDGs. The challenges included limited financial and technical resources; and lack of ownership by the majority of citizens. Lessons learned include the need for political will and an evaluation champion; low levels of participation of the majority of citizens and civil society; empowerment of indigenous people required to evaluate governance.

## East Asia Pacific group discussion

### Cambodia

Cambodia supports the idea of strengthening the system of evaluation but requires capacity building for parliamentarians so that policy can be developed.

TABLE. Uganda

Significant Issue	Success	Challenges	Lessons
<b>Gender and Equity Certificate (budget financing act)</b>	All MDAs (Ministries, Departments and Agencies) are compliant with this act for resource allocation	Lack of appreciation and commitment leading to failure to comply	Need for capacity building
<b>Human Rights Compliance</b>	Parliamentary checklist for compliance	High turnover rate of MPs (80%) Failure of executive to honour the commitments	Need for capacity building for both parliament and executive
<b>NDP II Implementation</b>	All government plans are in line with SDGs	Low levels of implementation due to insufficient resources, political interference, and high levels of corruption	Effective allocation and management of resources Strict adherence to the relevant laws Institutionalising M&E

“Parliamentarians must be thorough when crafting decisions.”

Quote from EvalColombo2018 discussions

## DPRK

Experience of evaluation within DPRK has included an instance where legislation covering the construction of a water supply system required that an evaluation of the system's implementation be carried out. There is a government agency on evaluation within DPRK which works with the National Statistics Bureau. Typically, an assessment or feasibility study precedes an end of programme evaluation. Recently the central bureau of statistics carried out a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) with UNICEF which was considered to be an example of best practice.

## Indonesia

In Indonesia there is evaluation of all government programmes. Challenges for evaluation of SDGs include "indicatorism", data collection, weak technical capacity and limited use of evaluation findings. The infrastructure for M&E is well developed and there is some evidence that points to increased economic growth as a result of evaluation evidence.

## Philippines

The Philippines has a NEP, but it is yet to be implemented. It is confined with the executive department and focussed on budget. Different departments and agencies have their own M&E systems. Challenges remain to introduce different types of evaluation and to make reports publicly available. There are some champions for evaluation within certain government agencies.

## Thailand

Currently there are three different government agencies involved in the carrying out evaluations in Thailand. The National Department of Economics coordinates the planning of evaluations while Budget Services and the Public Service Commission are also engaged. There is currently no evaluation policy and government departments carry out their own evaluations voluntarily as opposed to being obliged to do so.

## Timor-Leste

There has been an evaluation of the National Strategic Plan and the new government (June 2018) has set up a national anti-corruption commission.

## Vietnam

In Vietnam the SDGs have been integrated within the country's Public Investment Programme. There is also an initiative to evaluate civil servants. Challenges remain in setting criteria for programme evaluation with potentially thousands of projects to evaluate.

## The Global North group discussion

Countries represented were grouped into two clusters;

- *Serbia, Macedonia and Croatia* – focus of work is on institutions and systems building, driven by the EU and Donors.
- *Australia, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Scotland, UK*, - there is a well-established evaluation tradition and culture. Countries are providers of development aid and seek to evaluate it. Countries are endeavouring to balance evaluation use between government and parliament.

## Insights from the group discussions

- To spread evaluation messages to the people, expert and political language must be translated into simple language
- The objective of evaluation is ultimately to find the truth, we only have parts of the picture and need to build a complete picture of SDG accomplishments
- Evaluations are an important part of the policy cycle, therefore it is needed to raise motivation for learning and ensure that political promises are well informed



- Parliaments have mechanisms for oversight, there are also independent oversight bodies
- Evaluation is not new, however, politicians represent a different target group
- Where governance systems are rebuilt, the demand and challenges are new, therefore new methods for monitoring and evaluation are needed.

## Latin America group discussion

### Colombia

Colombia has two recent initiatives, the first is legislation which states that investment projects and policies supported by public funds must be evaluated to determine if they have had a positive impact. Results are used to inform a decision as to whether the project or policy should continue or not. The second initiative is the creation of a permanent commission which provides evaluative evidence for decision making related to publicly funded programmes. Prior to this initiative, congress did not have access to any information with which to monitor the Budget and public expenditure.

Both initiatives are new, and consequently there is little information on their impact. Both have potential to improve the quality of legislation and resource allocation through the use of technical evidence, despite the fact that the recommendations they deliver are not binding. The focus of evaluations to date has been on public expenditure with SDG's yet to be integrated.

### Mexico

Since 2005, there has been a cultural shift in Mexico in terms of institutional evaluation. It has led to the creation of **CONEVAL** (National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy), the evaluation of the executive system, and the ongoing measuring of poverty. All these initiatives are part of the National monitoring and

evaluation system of. In August 2018, an evaluation system was approved for the legislature. This new system will be implemented with all new parliamentarians.

### Bolivia

In Bolivia, evaluation is seen more as a public expenditure rather than an investment, however parliamentarians are beginning to see it as a necessary tool. To date, there is no specific unit responsible for evaluation that can provide information as to how programmes and projects impact on society. The challenge remains to legislate for the creation of an institutional office in charge of evaluation.

### Chile

Chile currently engages in three aspects of evaluation 1) the monitoring of government programmes 2) evaluation of public expenditure carried out by the Ministry of Finance 3) monitoring and evaluation carried out by the Ministry of Social Development that includes interesting elements such as household surveys and diagnostic studies in emergencies. Most evaluation in Chile remains focussed public expenditure.

Parliament is yet to develop initiatives that encourage citizen participation in evaluations; this may be a consequence of Chile's presidential model of governance which makes citizen interaction difficult. The focus of parliament has been around the efficiency of public spending with the objective of impacting ever greater numbers of citizens with finite resources. Evaluation systems have been consequently been developed around this perspective.

Perceived challenges for evaluation in Chile are to 1) incorporate citizen participation into the evaluation process 2) make the evaluation of all governmental programmes compulsory 3) incorporate evaluation into Chile's SDG approach. Currently, public policies emerge from central as opposed to regional government and tend

to lose important contextual information that might inform social development policy and the approach to SDG's.

### Costa Rica

In Costa Rica, [FOCEVAL](#) (a regional evaluation capacity development project funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) has supported the development of a national evaluation agenda that includes the interests of civil society and incorporates the SDGs. One of the most important initiatives has been the creation of a government manual to guide ministries on the use of evaluation. As part of the protocol, each ministry undertaking an evaluation must give a formal response to the findings and design a plan of action itself can be monitored and evaluated.

### Peru

Peru has an innovations lab that conducts evaluations across a range of sectors and monitors whether or not recommendations and findings are incorporated into public policies. This interesting initiative has potential to engage with Peru's SDG programming.

### Colombia

Colombia also has a system (SINERGIA), that monitors progress against SDGs. The system has generated a range of manuals for use by local government that gives guidance on how to evaluate progress towards SDGs. Despite these efforts and the high technical quality of the documents, implementation has remained challenging for local governments.

### Mexico

Mexico has made changes to legislation in relation to the National Development Plan, to ensure that it is better aligned the SDGs. As a result, the government has formed a series of committees where progress towards SDGs and sustainable development are focus areas. One such committee is responsible for the monitoring of

SDGs within ministries with the support of civil society. Despite this work, challenges remain due to the bureaucracy and complexity of committees; they have yet to prioritise the SDGs that are most important for the country. Many are driven by a desire to respond to UN expectations in national reports.

### Paraguay

Paraguay has established an SDG commission to integrate SDGs within the National Development Plan.

## Conclusions and challenges for Latin America

Evaluation in the region is closely tied to assessing the efficiency of spending against the public budget; there is not yet an explicit alignment of evaluation and the measurement of national development. Furthermore, while in Chile and Mexico the existence of strong statistics offices allows regular and periodic reporting on indicators, rigorous evaluative analysis is needed to demonstrate governments' commitment to the implementation of SDGs.

For successful realisation of [Agenda 2030](#) it will be necessary to develop a proactive stance and to move beyond simply monitoring what government is doing or not doing. There is an opportunity for parliamentarians to engage with civil society and VOPEs to strategically position evaluation in their respective countries and report on progress towards SDGs.

The participative nature of Latin America society together with an environment that is open to advocacy provides an opportunity for parliamentarians, VOPEs and development agencies to assume their respective responsibilities to implement and evaluate SDGs.

Political leadership is needed to ensure that evaluation is integrated within the VNR process. This will require the engagement of a range of actors and an acceptance that evaluation is a learning process and not only about accountability.

The fact that government is the agent which produces evaluative evidence on its own performance, creates an important challenge with regards to its independence and transparency. There is also a need to extend the use of evaluation by parliamentarians who currently use it primarily for approving public budget.

In conclusion, there is a close relationship between National Evaluation Systems and the approval of public budgets in Colombia and Chile, however there is a need to broaden the use of evaluation in these countries. From Mexico, lessons can be learned from its long experience in evaluation and its comprehensive national evaluation system created by way of mandate from Congress. Finally, Bolivia has the challenge of implementing its current evaluation system in an effective way.

Across Latin America challenges remain around: the inclusion of citizens in national evaluation process; assuring the independence of NES; aligning national priorities with SDGs; and the meaningful engagement of the full range of SDG actors. To meet these challenges, technical discussions must be accompanied by political decisions.

## Middle East and North Africa group discussion

### Algeria

The Ministry of Finance has carried out four major policy evaluations with more in the pipeline.

### Morocco

Evaluations in Morocco benefit from support within the constitution. They have focussed on parliamentary initiatives and been carried out by technical committees as opposed to evaluators.

There have been evaluations of several policies leading to some improvement and policy change. This includes a review of the finance law, a guidance framework and the involvement of CSOs.

### Palestine

There is an evolving evaluation culture within Palestine with several non-governmental and independent bodies emerging, the Palestinian Evaluation Association is one of them. There is as yet no M&E unit within the legislative council but there is an interest in evaluation. Palestine's fragile and conflict affected context constitute a difficult environment where the focus of development is on emergency response. Evaluations therefore focus emergency response programmes and their respective budgets.

### Jordan

The evaluation sector in Jordan, rather like Palestine is heavily influenced by the NGO sector. There is an M&E unit within the Prime Minister's office and there is interest and involvement amongst Parliamentarians.

### Tunisia

The role of evaluation unfortunately does not appear within the 2014 constitution, consequently there is a weak evaluation culture where activities focus more on auditing than evaluation. Tunisia has a national planning process but currently it is without evaluation follow up. There are several parliamentary committees with an understanding of evaluation but there is weak evaluation practice within the country. Committees therefore focus on oversight as opposed to evaluation, despite this there remains good potential within Tunisia with an M&E unit within each government body, there is as yet however no M&E system.

# “Parliamentarians potentially represent the largest single group of evaluation end-users in any country.”

Quote from EvalColombo2018 discussions

## South Asia group discussion

### Success Stories

- The SDGs have provided an impetus for strengthening M&E systems at all levels
- Policies, frameworks and training modules are being developed

### Challenges

- Capacity gaps still remain
- Evaluation is neither well defined nor understood, hence it is feared with the result that there is little appetite or intent to use it
- Avenues for triangulating data remain limited

### Lessons

- When commissioning evaluations, scope and focus on learning must be specified
- M&E policies should clarify the role of evaluations as sources of evidence of decision making
- Capacity building needs to be better structured and phased

## Specific reflections from South Asia country groups

### Nepal

Nepal has a national Parliamentarians’ forum on evaluation and has embedded monitoring and evaluation within article 54 of the constitution. There is an integrated national evaluation action plan that runs from 2016 to 2020. An equity focussed and gender responsive monitoring and evaluation draft bill is in progress. Coordination

of national evaluation stakeholders take place through a conclave of evaluators, the national planning commission, development partners and Parliament.

### India

India has a robust, in-built evaluation mechanism which has been facilitated by a sequence of five-year plans running from 1958 to the present day. Five-year plans guide programme evaluation offices who cascade responsibilities to state evaluation offices. Ministries take ownership of sectoral evaluations while there is a Management Information System for all flagship projects.

### Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has an evaluation policy however there remain challenges with capacity building. There is an opportunity to align Ministry budgets with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sri Lanka’s National Evaluation Policy was endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Sri Lanka is the first country in South Asia to have a national Evaluation Policy. The Department of Project Management and Monitoring (DPMM) the department responsible for evaluation, is developing the National Evaluation Framework to support the implementation of the National Evaluation Policy. There are several parliamentarians who are actively promoting evaluation culture and have formed an active network - The Sri Lanka Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation. The Sri Lanka Evaluation Association is one of the oldest and most active VOPEs in South Asia. However there remain challenges with capacity building on evaluation.

## 5 COUNTRY COMMITMENTS

As the conference progressed, delegates reflected on the “call to action” in support of the events overall objective, Responsible Parliaments: Embracing Evaluation for [Agenda 2030](#). In this session, delegates within regional groups, were supported to make voluntary commitments to action plans that can advance the development evaluation agenda over the coming 5 years.

Lead Facilitator	Regional Groups
<b>Ms. Natalia Kosheleva,</b> Organizing Committee member	Anglophone Africa, East Asia Pacific, Eurasia, Francophone Africa, Global North, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, South Asia.

The second half of Day 2 was devoted to discussion and presentation of participants’ commitments to EvalColombo2018 follow-up activities. Participants broke into regional groups to discuss their ideas and look for possible synergies within their regions. The emerging plans were presented in plenary.

One of the outcomes of regional discussions on the way forward after EvalColombo2018 was a renewed commitment to regional cooperation between members of parliaments interested in evaluation. For example, representatives of Africa agreed to promote and grow membership in the [APNODE](#). Delegates from the CIS region agreed to re-activate the CIS Regional Parliamentary Forum, expand its membership and organize a meeting of the Forum in 2019. Delegates from the East Asia and Pacific region agreed to establish a regional platform for cooperation between MPs interested in evaluation. Representatives of MENA region committed to cooperation and exchange of information between parliaments both within the region and globally. Some delegates also committed to promote cooperation between MPs interested in evaluation on the national level. For example, representatives of Uganda decided to establish a Parliament Caucus linked to the National Evaluation Association and [APNODE](#).

Working towards stronger cooperation between members of parliaments and national VOPEs was another commitment made by EvalColombo2018 participants. For example, delegates from Kenya agreed to create more linkages between MPs and the Kenya VOPE, [ESK](#) A member of the city council from Kazakhstan committed to engaging with the national VOPE to learn about its work and evaluation in general. Members of the Kyrgyzstan Parliament and the national VOPE agreed to work jointly to develop a M&E system for the national programme “Healthy Person – Prosperous Country” to pilot principles to be embedded in the national evaluation policy.



Delegates also agreed to make efforts to build evaluation capacity of members of parliaments. For example, representatives of the MENA region committed to the continuous investment in capacity building of MPs and to adjusting capacity building efforts to national needs and context. Representatives of the East Asia and Pacific region agreed to conduct capacity assessment of national parliaments in the region to understand their specific capacity needs as well as political constraints in each of the countries.

Some delegates also committed to building awareness of MPs and the evaluation community about evaluation and parliamentarians for

evaluation movement. For example, delegates from Uganda committed to engage parliamentary leadership in promoting demand for evaluation. Delegates from Nigeria committed to sensitise other members of the national parliament about evaluation. Members of the Tajikistan parliament committed to share information about EvalColombo2018 and importance of evaluation with fellow MPs. Representatives of the Eurasian Evaluation Alliance (a regional VOPE for the CIS regions) committed to disseminate information about EvalColombo2018 to its membership. Detailed commitments from each region and country are listed in the following section.

## Anglophone Africa

Country	Commitment	Resources	Timeframe
<b>Kenya</b>	More stakeholder linkages including VOPE working with Parliament in terms of evidence uptake.	Needs human resources – state and non-state actors	Short to medium
	Plan to convene a national convention on M&E.	Ownership by leadership of parliament – will address funding; resource persons	Short term
	Commitment to involve more MPs in National Evaluation Week in November	Financial resources – development partners	Short term
	Research staff in Parliament will support MPs in aligning parliamentary functions with SDGs	Research staff and training resources	Short to medium term
	Enact a law on M&E – National Evaluation Policy		
<b>Uganda</b>	Create a Parliamentary caucus linked to the national evaluation association and APNODE	Facilitation support; Financial resources – partnerships required e.g. civil society, UN Women, Institute of Parliamentary Studies etc. Human capital;	Short to medium term
	Create awareness with MPs on holding government accountable using evidence		
	Engage parliamentary leadership to ensure mechanisms are created to demand involvement in evaluation		
<b>Tanzania</b>	(Zanzibar) bring up agenda on NEP in Parliament		
	UN Women to support women’s caucuses to use evaluation	Financial resources	Short to medium term

Country	Commitment	Resources	Timeframe
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	Get speaker of parliament to promote the use of evaluation in Parliamentary work and to incorporate M&E in the work of parliament.	Support the speaker to raise funds for M&E; develop a budget and concept note to donors; broaden regional linkages (APNODE, Zimbabwe evaluation society, and other development partners)	
<b>Nigeria</b>	Sensitize members and build capacity for M&E	Nigerian evaluation society and other development partners	Short to medium term
<b>Zambia</b>	Ensure constituencies follow-up commitments made by parliamentarians	Government and donor support	Medium term
<b>Ghana</b>	Ensure Parliament demonstrates commitment to use evaluation by using the Ministry of M&E	Political party buy-in Young parliamentarians' forum	Short term
<b>South Africa</b>	Follow up with Speaker of Parliament to use evaluation		Short term
<b>At regional level (APNODE)</b>	Commitment by delegates to promote and increase APNODE membership		
<b>At regional level (AGDEN and EvalPartners)</b>	Commitment to engender evaluation and ensure human rights focus		

## East Asia Pacific

The commitments from East Asia and Pacific region delegates were as follows;

1. Countries agreed to undertake a parliamentary capacity assessment in order to understand the capacity needs and political constraints in each country. This would include;
  - hearings and fact-finding exercises,
  - initiatives to explore how to influence or promote the evaluation agenda in relatively closed/authoritarian countries.
2. Acknowledging and acting upon the importance of raising M&E awareness amongst the broader parliamentary constituency.
3. Identifying evaluation champions within key institutions bearing in mind that each country has different institutional context.
4. Instigating dialogue to establish and sustain supportive partnerships with donor agencies.
5. Institutionalisation of the platform formed during EvalColombo2018 at the regional level and maintaining communication among participants. This requires;
  - the defining of individual roles and responsibilities,
  - defining when and how collaborative process can lead to draft guidelines and policies on evaluation.
6. Facilitating ongoing knowledge exchange and continuous learning among East Asia and Pacific Regional Country members.

## Eurasia

### Tajikistan

- Convene information meetings for MPs on EvalColombo2018
- Capacity building of the Tajikistan VOPE: work on communication and new members involvement, internal workshop
- Hold M&E workshops for students of the University and officials of the Institute of Professional Development for government officials

### Uzbekistan

- Convene information meetings for MPs on EvalColombo2018
- Develop a policy document on M&E at Parliamentary level

### Kazakhstan

- Share information about Evaluation at the Global level at the Kazakhstan VOPE conference in November 2018
- Develop an M&E approach and legislation for the state of social order system at Government level

### Kyrgyzstan

- Share Information on EvalColombo2018 to MPs, Government, VOPE members etc.
- Develop a plan on NES improvement with the Parliament Group on SDGs
- Plan and implement a flagship programme as a first stage of the NES and Policy plan
- VNR preparation (2020) as a multi-stakeholder partnership and inclusive process

### Armenia

- Sharing information on EvalColombo2018 through <http://www.evaleurasia.org>

- Enabling environment: suggest the development of legislation and policy for M&E at a Parliamentary level

## Eurasia joint commitments

1. Capacity building of MPs and Government (at policy makers and decision maker level) in understanding and using evaluation as an effective tool.
2. Conduct a Regional Parliamentary Forum in 2019.
3. Create an enabling environment for evaluation: work on a legislative base and policy documents in countries.
4. Individual capacity building: develop on-line courses for different target groups in the Russian language.
5. Collect and promote evaluation methods and materials in local and Russian languages.

## Francophone Africa

The nine members of the francophone Africa group representing Niger, Cote D'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Tunisia, Haiti and Benin all agreed that they must first identify areas for improvement in each country and then learn from countries within the group that are more advanced in the use of evaluation (e.g. Benin). That way there will be an opportunity to apply learning appropriately given the stage each country is at.

Immediate actions include carrying out surveys on national evaluation capacity and identifying champions and key actors as a means of understanding the strengths and weakness that each country has. Group members also undertook to investigate the existence of local VOPEs and, if not present, to look to appropriate civil society groups for those who may be in a position to organize themselves in to a nascent evaluative community from which new sources of data for decision making might emerge.



Short term goals by group members included a common agreement by all to develop advocacy actions around evaluation. Capacity development and capacity building is required across all francophone countries. Haiti, Burkina Faso and Niger have undertaken to train parliamentarians on the concepts surrounding SDGs and of evaluation itself while Benin will endeavour to develop legislation around evaluation.

## Global North

### Finland

The Finish parliamentary delegate plans to meet with representatives across political parties with a view to introducing evaluation and the development of a NEP in the new Government program that commences in March 2019.

Finish Evaluation Society, SAYFES are networking with stakeholders in Finland in order to create a modular NEP. Members are holding a series of monthly sessions with the Evaluation network 2.0 comprising public, private, citizens (NGOs and others) and partners.

### Europe

The [Network of European Evaluation Societies](#) (NESE) has plans to intensify engagement with parliamentarians during 2019. This includes activities to promote evaluation, awareness raising, short training sessions, meetings with parliamentarians, etc.

### Croatia

Delegate Marijana Sumpur, of Croatia has committed to raise the importance of evaluation at the City of Zagreb assembly meetings. In February they plan hold the next Croatian Evaluators' Network and WBEN meeting where they will have the opportunity to present results from the evaluation of the EuroDRG project and discuss activities with parliamentarians.

## Latin America

The Latin American group discussed short term, medium term and long term actions including countries or members to follow up implementation as follows:

### Short term:

1. Compilation, translation and dissemination of important documents about evaluation and SDGs to be shared with other countries, especially parliamentarians, VOPEs and other important actors in the region.

*Responsible:* Chile with support from all participants to disseminate documents

2. It is necessary to strengthen and expand the network, especially between VOPEs and parliamentarians.

*Responsible:* all Latin-American participants in Colombo 2018 and also other people related with VOPEs and key actors.

3. Costa Rica will establish a forum with parliamentarians to promote a binding decision-making process around SDG evaluation.

*Responsible:* Costa Rica. Later the experience will be shared with other countries.

4. Use of 2019 VNRs to engage parliamentarians with SDGs.

- Involving parliamentarians in VNRs (they should ask to do it, comment about the report, use it like evidence for decision making, etc.).

- Exchange of information and good practices, and in the medium term write a guide.

5. Share the experience of Conference in Guanajuato about legislative evaluation (November)

*Responsible:* Mexico

## Medium term (1 year)

1. Evaluation and parliamentarians conference in Colombia to strengthen the work in the region.

*Responsible:* Colombia with support from **DEVAL** and UNICEF.

2. Systematise national experiences and review the state of the art of public policy, laws, regulations and National Evaluation Systems in the region.

*Responsible:* **ReLAC** involving academia and national universities

*Support:* EvalYouth.

Ecuador will share an instrument to examine the relation between SDGs and laws.

3. Share good experiences of evaluation institutionalisation and lessons learned between national parliamentarians and between countries.

It may be necessary to ask for support from development agencies and other important actors.

*Costa Rica* and *Chile* have relevant experiences to share.

4. Follow-up and accompaniment of parliamentarians to put evaluation and SDGs into parliamentary agendas.

*Responsible:* VOPEs and development agencies.

## Long term (5 years)

1. Parliamentarians should be involved and advocate for evaluations and the SDGs, also they should work jointly with civil society to ensure sustainability of their work.
2. Convene a regional forum around SDGs and the use of evaluation for decision making. It is necessary to re-launch before the regional forum of parliamentarians and evaluation.
3. Establish an institutionalized parliamentarian evaluation network in Latin America.

Following members are responsible for coordination of Parliamentarians networks and follow up of EvalColombo2018;

- **ReLAC** Andrea Peroni and Rodrigo Luna
- Parliamentarians - Valeria Silva, Gina Torrez

## Middle East and North Africa

The group was made up of delegates from Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar and Tunisia. Participants identified priority actions at regional and national levels and priority actions relating to VNRs and the role of Parliaments.

### Regional Level

At regional level it was agreed that all countries should promote the role of parliament as a cornerstone for evaluation and that they learn from each other's experiences to generate models for best practice. It was felt that Morocco in particular had much to offer.

Participants also highlighted the need to encourage Parliaments to build a culture of transparency by making evaluation reports widely available and by using legal frameworks relating to right of access to information.

Participants additionally highlighted the importance for parliaments to integrate evaluation within SDG programmes in their own countries and to act as a model by evaluating their own performance.

### National Level

At national level, participants identified the need to explore ways that parliamentarians can use evaluation evidence within existing oversight mechanisms, and to advocate for an evaluation culture where government can learn from and integrate lessons. Participants also made a commitment to ensure that the terms and scope of government programme evaluations are made clear to parliamentarians, the public and other stakeholders.

Participants committed to raising awareness, holding meetings and capacity building workshops with members of parliament and policy makers within the executive branch in order to develop champions and move towards a national culture of evaluation.

In terms of capacity building, it was recognized that regional and national context must be taken into consideration if evaluation culture is to become embedded. Institutionalising evaluation within parliaments could be enhanced by using existing parliamentary mechanisms such as the committee structure and by engaging parliamentary study and research units to seek out and use evaluations.

### VNRs

Participants set a timeline of six months to use all of the tools identified to promote evaluation as an integral part of country SDG programmes.

## South Asia

South Asia group discussed the commitments by country as follows:

### Afghanistan

- Establish a coordination mechanism with the government, VOPE and the parliament to promote the evaluation culture
- Submit a report to the parliament on return regarding EvalColombo2018 commitments
- Initiate a fund raising to carry out formal evaluation of SDGs

### India

- Establish a parliamentarians' forum within both houses to evaluate SDGs

### Sri Lanka

- Increase awareness of parliamentarians on the implementation of National Evaluation Policy

### Bangladesh

- Establish a parliamentary committee on SDG evaluation

### Nepal

- Advocate for enactment of the National Evaluation Policy
- Establish a parliamentarians' forum together with VOPE, National Planning Commission and development partners and engage local government on implementation of NEPs

### Bhutan

- Share learning with members of parliament
- Conduct a review on how to implement evaluation in the national oversight system

### Pakistan

- Link evaluation capacity with the already existing SDGs unit
- Advocate for formulation of evaluation policies at provincial and federal governments

**“Both parliamentarians and evaluators must be bold and ambitious, the SDGs are hard, and the mission cannot be postponed!”**

Quote from EvalColombo2018 discussions

## 6 PROCEEDINGS AT THE PARLIAMENT OF SRI LANKA



Day 3 of EvalColombo2018 was hosted at the Parliament of Sri Lanka where delegates were welcomed by Speaker, the honourable Karu Jayasuriya and Deputy Speaker, Hon. Ananda Kumarasiri. Following a tour of the house and refreshments, delegates participated in a panel discussion with speakers representing the voices of parliamentarians from around the world.

### Panel Discussion

Voices of parliamentarians from around the world

Panel chair	Panellists
<b>Mr. V. Sivagnanasothy</b> , Secretary to the Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs	<b>Hon. Shandana Gulzar Khan</b> , Member of National Assembly, Pakistan <b>Hon. Mehdi Abdelkarim</b> , Chair of the Thematic Committee of Public Policy Evaluation, Upper House, Morocco <b>Hon. Diego Ibanez</b> , Member of Parliament, Chile <b>Hon. Evelyn Naomi Mpegi Kaabule</b> , Former Member of Parliament, Uganda/ Vice President – APNODE <b>Hon. Pekka Haavisto</b> , Member of Parliament – Finland

“Evaluators must be humble when invited to become part of the decision-making process.”

Quote from EvalColombo2018 discussions

## Highlights from presentations

Hon. Shandana Gulzar Khan from Pakistan told delegates that she was leaving with inspiring stories, a new toolkit, knowledge and faith. She and her colleagues are committed to advocacy in parliament in support of evaluation on their return.

Hon. Mehdi Abdelkarim informed delegates that in Morocco the constitution contains two articles in reference to Evaluation. There is an opportunity to turn the resultant parliamentary ad-hoc committee on evaluation into a standing committee and to consolidate international partnerships with supporting institutions. There are plans for a National Evaluation Policy event for MENA in November 2018.

Hon. Diego Ibanez stated that in Chile, evaluation represents an opportunity to strengthen social justice by involving citizens in decision making and the upholding of rights. The conference provided an opportunity to meet likeminded parliamentarians from across the globe and to explore how SDGs might be used as a powerful framework to encourage programme integration. Chilean delegates are committed to building a network to share learning on evaluation in advance of establishing an evaluation system and will encourage their government to adopt VNRs and debate them in parliament.

Hon. Evelyn Naomi Mpegi Kaabule of Uganda stated that parliament is the driver of people's development. It is imperative that they use evidence to ensure positive impact on people's lives. [APNODE](#) will liaise with [GPFE](#) to forge a stronger voice. She stated that the success of EvalColombo2018 is evidenced by the Colombo declaration country, regional commitments and new regional networks that were established.

Hon. Pekka Haavisto informed delegates that evaluation in Finland constitutes a democratic tool that promotes government transparency and encourages citizen engagement, it is a tool to measure progress towards sustainable development. Establishing a Parliamentary Committee on SDGs and including a chapter within the budget on SDGs together with shadow reports by civil society, all help to support the SDG agenda. Everyone has something to bring home.

## Closing remarks and commitments from delegates

Prior to the closing of the event at the Sri Lankan Parliament, delegates offered the following closing remarks and commitments.

### Bangladesh

Delegates committed to convey the message that there should be periodic reviews to ensure that the targets of the 2030 agenda are achieved.

### Cambodia

Delegates supported the declaration and hoped that it will encourage governments to appraise development and promote the 5Ps. They remain committed to promoting Evaluation in Cambodia.

### Central Asia

Delegates confirmed that they planned to host a forum between five central Asia countries and invited support to translate training materials into Russian

## Egypt

Delegates appreciated the strong political will that Sri Lanka demonstrated in supporting the conference and encouraged them to share insights on how they intended to mainstream.

## Ghana

Delegates noted that if the speakers of various parliaments can be brought together at regional conferences around the use of evaluation within Parliaments, then the evaluation message can be shared effectively. To be truly responsible, Parliaments must also evaluate their own performance.

## India

Delegates greatly appreciated the Eval-Colombo2018 event and noted that poor programming without Evaluation can burden citizens with costs that must ultimately be recovered through taxation.

## Kenya

Delegates emphasized they had learned a lot during the two days of discussions and suggested that regional caucuses may be effective in increasing numbers of parliamentarians supporting the cause. Parliamentary speakers should be the drivers for the adoption of evaluation within legislatures and evaluation should be embedded within the constitution to ensure continuity.

## Morocco

Delegates noted the precious learning that they had gained and committed to forming an evaluation focus group within the Morocco parliament.

## Palestine

Delegates noted the great opportunity afforded by the conference to share experiences with other governments. They further noted that the transparency and accountability that evaluation affords would help the people of Palestine realize their goals.

## Qatar

Delegates noted that Parliaments should be the focal point to coordinate Evaluation within the state.

## South Africa

Delegates noted the need to encourage partnership between MPs and evaluation experts to ensure longevity to the evaluation project.

## South Sudan

Delegates acknowledged the value of the conference and committed to becoming a nucleus in carrying forward commitments. They recommended to meet again for further deliberations.

## Timor Leste

Delegates noted that it was the first time for them to engage with such a forum. They expressed gratitude to their colleagues from around the world who had shared their learning and experiences.

## Uganda

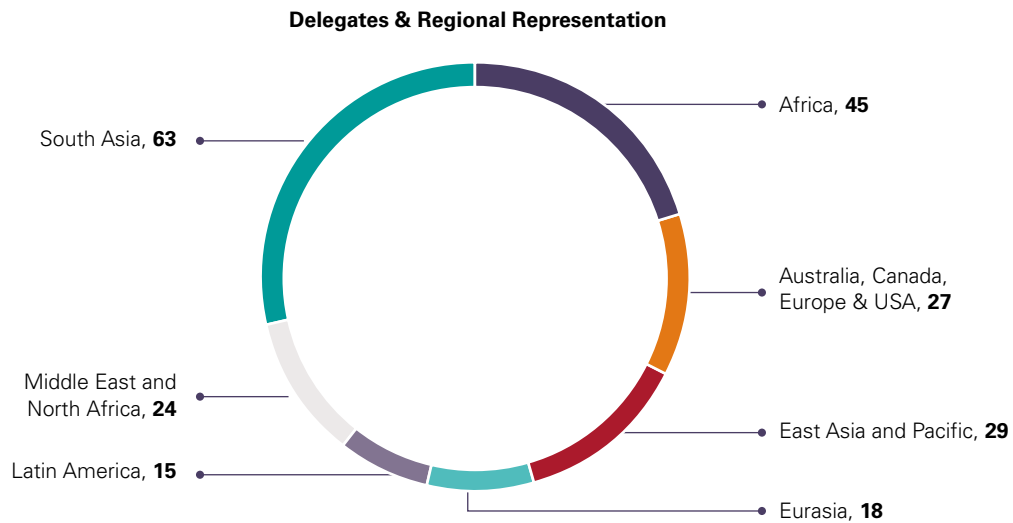
Delegates noted that the conference represented a great learning experience. While evaluations have been carried out by the office of the Prime Minister in Uganda, there is a need to get parliament more involved. They requested that Sri Lanka share its experience of developing an evaluation policy so that others might learn from it.

## Zimbabwe

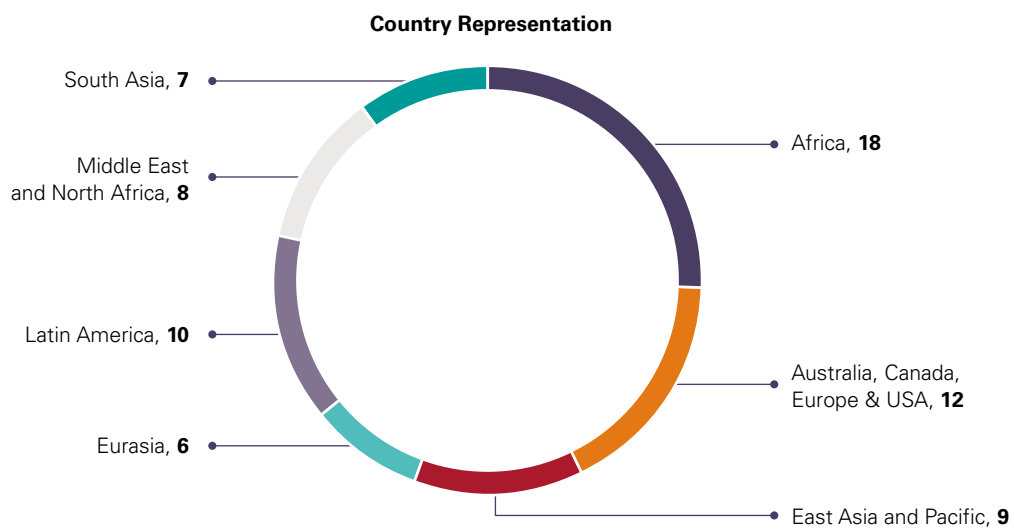
The leader of opposition noted that the conference had encouraged all parliamentarians to move away from a position of "All Talk -No Action". She committed to return to Zimbabwe and to help develop evaluation policies that would move the country towards its development goals.

## 7 EvalColombo2018 PARTICIPATION

EvalColombo2018 attracted **221** delegates from **70** countries. Of these, over **100** were parliamentarians. A breakdown of delegates by region is shown below. South Asia (63) made up the largest group (perhaps explained by its proximity to the conference location) followed by delegates from the Africa region (45).



In terms of country representation, the Africa region was represented by delegates from a total of 18 countries while East Eurasia was represented by delegates from six countries.



A list of all individual countries represented at EvalColombo2018 is presented below. On the map represented countries are shaded blue.

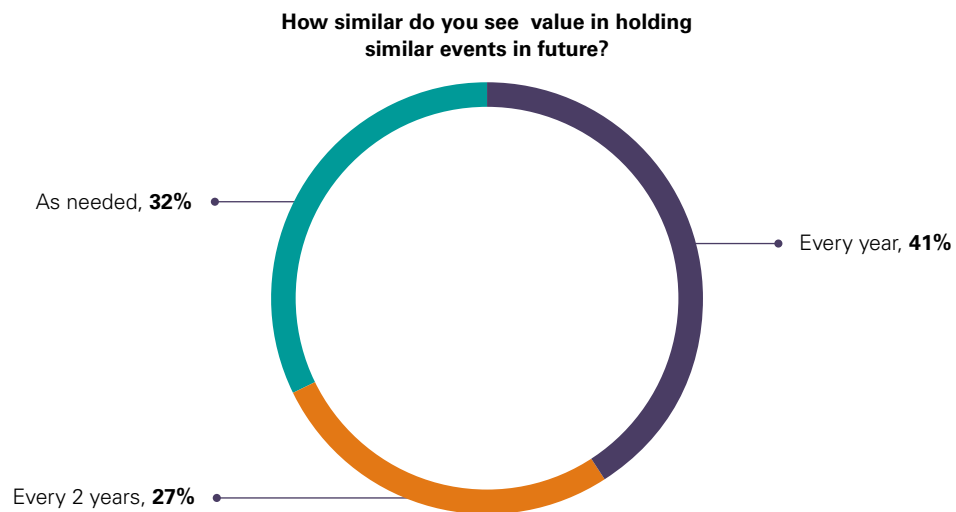
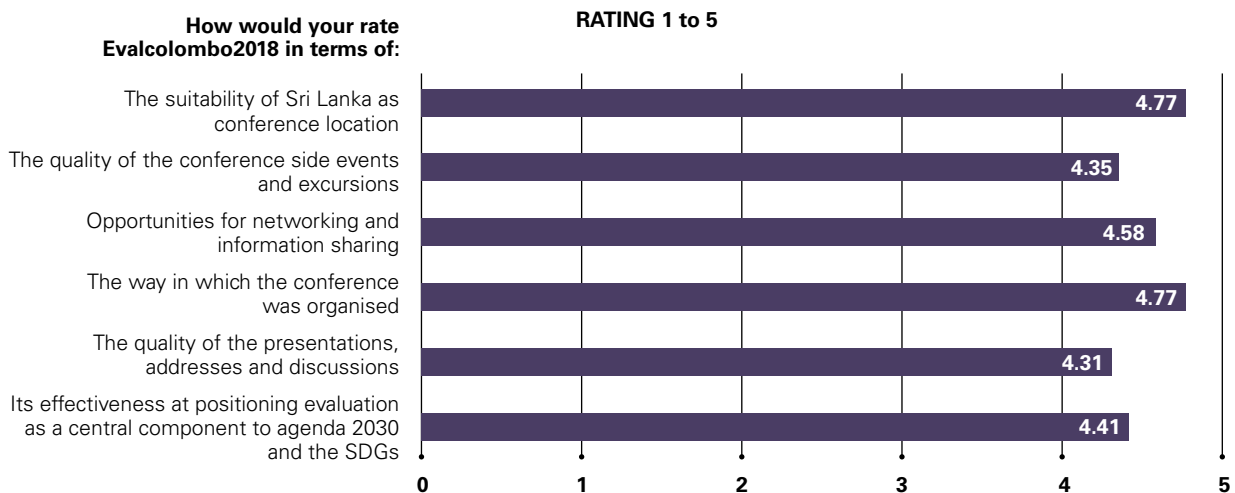
Africa	Australia, Canada, Europe & USA	East Asia and Pacific	Eurasia	Latin America	Middle East and North Africa	South Asia
Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Australia, Canada, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland, USA, United Kingdom	Cambodia, Indonesia, North Korea, South Korea, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam	Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru	Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Tunisia	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka





## 8 FEEDBACK ON EvalColombo2018 FROM PARTICIPANTS

Participants to EvalColombo2018 were surveyed following the conference. A total of 84 responses were received to the survey the results of which are presented below.



## Additional comments from participants

Forty-six participants submitted comments regarding the conference that they felt would be helpful to the organisers. Ten participants commented on their overall satisfaction with the conference and the opportunities it afforded them. Eleven participants commented favourably on the organisation of the conference with particular emphasis on the warm welcome they received, efficient logistics and the helpful and capable teams of volunteers. Eight participants made suggestions as to how the conference might be further improved including,

- Providing more time for country and regional discussions,
- Providing presentation materials in advance of individual sessions to help focus discussion,

- Facilitating direct interaction with policy decision makers to help them appreciate the role of evaluation in supporting evidence-based policies for the SDGs.

Seven participants made recommendations for future events that included the holding of regional events engaging heads of state as well as Parliamentary staff as important back-stage actors. While \* countries were represented at the conference one participant felt that there should be a more balanced representation between parliamentarians from the Global South and the Global North.

One participant felt that future conferences should cater for languages other than English while another suggested avoiding UN jargon but rather using technical language that parliamentarians are familiar with.



## A selection of participants' comments is reproduced below.

1. "It was a truly grandiose event. The Global Forum was remarkably organized, we constantly felt the support of the organizers. The Forum discussed really significant topics. The participants were those who possessed outstanding knowledge and are ready to share them. I am happy that I was able to participate in this event!"
2. "I appreciate so much the conference compared to the previous conferences. Many thanks for the organizers and the volunteers who sacrificed their times and efforts for this important event. Many thanks for your hospitalities during our time in Colombo. Follow up activities from each county would be useful if we could do in the next conference."
3. "It was a great opportunity and experience. It simulated delegates in engaging parliamentarians/ parliaments to use evaluation. All the countries should promote this."
4. "I really enjoyed the conference and the opportunities it provided to network and find out more about evaluation at country level."
5. "Thank you for the excellent organising and professional, friendly assistance especially from the organising team and the volunteers."
6. "Thank you! great organisation which entailed great participation and success of the event and laid a foundation for future developments."

# ANNEX 1

## EvalColombo2018 AGENDA

### Day 1

Session time	Content
08.30 - 10.00	<p>Inauguration</p> <p>Oil lamp, National Anthem</p> <p>Welcome address, Opening remarks, Objectives of EvalColombo2018</p> <p>Speeches by development partners, EvalPartners, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Parliament, the Prime Minister, Chief Guest – the President of Sri Lanka</p> <p>Vote of Thanks</p>
10.00 - 10.30	<b>Tea and coffee Break</b>
<b>Session 1</b> 10.30 - 12.00	<p>Key Note Speeches</p> <p><i>National Evaluation Policies and Systems for Good Governance and Accountability</i></p>
12.00 - 13.15	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Session 2</b> 13.15 - 15.00 (Parallel sessions)	<p>Panel 1 - Evaluation and National Evaluation Policies for Evidence Based Policy Making</p> <p>Panel 2 - What have we learnt from national evaluation systems and national evaluation capacity?</p> <p>Panel 3 - Evaluation as a lever to increase the socio-economic impact and efficiency of public investments</p>
15.00 - 15.15	<b>Tea and coffee break</b>
<b>Session 3</b> 15.15 - 17.00	Experience sharing through presentation of country case studies
<b>Optional Session</b> 17.00 - 17.45	<p>Optional Session</p> <p>Policy evaluation at parliamentary level. The Impact Evaluation Office (UVIti of the Italian Senate)</p>
<b>Evening</b>	Welcome dinner and Awards ceremony

“Stories alone from pre and post evaluations are insufficient for policy makers, they need clear evidence for decision making.”

Quote from EvalColombo2018 discussions

## Day 2

Session time	Content
<b>Session 1</b> 9.00 - 9.30	Recap day 1
<b>Session 2</b> 9.30 - 11.00	Key note speeches - What have we learnt from Voluntary National Reviews
11.00 - 11.30	<b>Tea and coffee break</b>
<b>Session 3</b> 11.30 - 13.00 (Parallel sessions)	Panel 4 - The role of Parliamentarians in holding government to account in Agenda 2030
13.00 - 14.00	Panel 5 - Evaluation for the Executive and the Legislature
	Panel 6 - EvalPartners' role in supporting National Evaluation Systems
	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Session 4</b> 14.00 - 15.30	Country commitments for making parliaments responsible for evaluation and VNRs
15.30 - 15.45	Regional discussions in groups
	<b>Tea and coffee break</b>
<b>Session 5</b> 15.45 - 17.00	Plenary presentations on country commitments
19.00 - 22.00	Hosted dinner

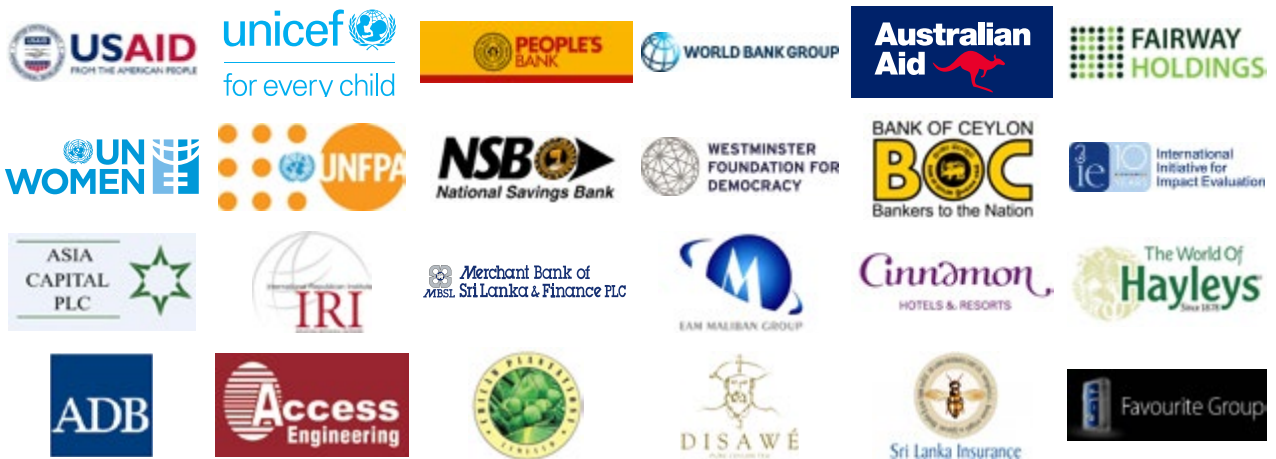
## Day 3

09.00 - 10.30	Tour of the Sri Lankan Parliament
10.30 - 13.00	Panel Discussion and address, Official Closure
13.00 - 17.00	Hosted lunch and trip to Galle

“Poor decisions on projects that are funded through loans add additional burden to failure.”

Quote from EvalColombo2018 discussions

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