

Unclassified**English - Or. English****7 February 2023****DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE****DAC Network on Development Evaluation****Draft Annotated Agenda for the 29th Meeting of the DAC Network on
Development Evaluation**

22-23 February 2023 9h30
Paris, France

This draft annotated agenda is submitted for APPROVAL at the 29th Meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation 22-23 February 2023.

The 29th EvalNet meeting will be held at the OECD Conference Centre in Paris (with an option for virtual participation). Sessions are open to all registered staff from participating EvalNet units/departments, and to guests by invitation.

EvalNet members will be joined by INCAF counterparts for the afternoon session on 22 February to discuss work of the Joint Temporary Task Team on Afghanistan. A special session on climate evidence on the 23rd will also be open to the broader DAC community.

During the informal session on the afternoon of 23 February the EvalNet Climate Crisis Working Group will meet.

Room Documents and Background Documents are provided linked in this document or have been provided by email (due to an ongoing migration of the EvalNet Community Site). The formal sessions will have French/English interpretation.

Megan G. Kennedy-Chouane, meganrace.kennedy-chouane@oecd.org + (33-1) 85 55 47 49

JT03511963

Agenda Outline

Wednesday 22 February 2023	Thursday 23 February 2023
<p>9:30 – 10:00 Item 1. Opening session Welcoming new delegates and approval of the agenda Background Doc. <i>EvalNet Mandate</i></p> <p>10:00 – 11:00 Item 2. Applying the new evaluation criteria This session will explore member experiences applying the new criteria definitions and share the new guidance on Human Rights and Gender Equality. Background: <i>Good practice guidance on Human Rights, Gender Equality, and the Criteria. And Applying Evaluation Criteria Thoughtfully</i> <i>11:00 – 11:30 Refreshment break</i></p> <p>11:30-13:00 Item 3. Evaluation Systems Study The Secretariat will present the 2022 Evaluation Systems Study, and support member discussion of key trends. Background Doc. <i>Evaluation Systems Study draft</i> Room document 1. <i>Resourcing Evaluation</i></p>	<p>9:30 – 11:00 Item 7. Informing ambitious action on the climate crisis: Evidence from EvalNet – side event In a special session open to the broader DAC community, EvalNet members will present recent evaluation findings, lessons and recommendations on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Room Document 2. <i>Rapid review of climate finance – Lessons from Evaluation</i> <i>11:00 – 11:30 Refreshment break</i></p> <p>11:30 – 12:30 Item 8. The DAC Evaluation Resource Centre (DEReC): Next steps Members will discuss how DEReC is used now and how it can best add value alongside other evaluation report repositories and evidence portals.</p> <p>Item 9. Member updates and work proposals Members will provide updates and share work of general interest, and present proposals for collaboration.</p> <p>12:30 – 13:00 Item 10. Closing of the meeting</p>
<p><i>13:00 – 14:00 Lunch</i> <i>Several options for hot and cold food are available within the conference centre</i></p>	<p><i>13:00 – 14:00 Lunch</i></p>
<p>14:00–14:30 Item 4. EvalNet Helpdesk Members will help each other solve common challenges. Pre-meeting preparation: Submit a question</p> <p>14:30 – 15:30 Item 5. Conducting evaluations with integrity This session will continue network discussions on ensuring that evaluations are conducted responsibly, that they avoid harm and meet ethical standards. <i>Refreshment break 15:30 – 16:00</i></p> <p>16:00 – 17:30 Item 6. Afghanistan Evaluation and Learning Study The INCAF-EvalNet Joint Task Team will share emerging insights to support reflections on using and learning from evaluation in crisis settings, drawing on research from Afghanistan and elsewhere. Background Doc. <i>Afghanistan Evaluation and Learning Study</i></p>	<p>14:30 – 16:30 Informal session. Meeting of the EvalNet Climate Crisis Working Group: Members of the working group will discuss priorities and plan work for 2023-24. (Open to all)</p>
<p>19:00 No Host Network Dinner</p>	

Draft Annotated Agenda: 29th meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation

The meeting will be held in CC12 with a virtual participation option via Zoom. All times listed are in CET, Paris time. Interpretation in English and French will be provided throughout the formal parts of the meeting.

22 February 2023 (9:30-17:30 CET) [Zoom Registration](#)

9:30 – 10:00

Item 1. Opening Session

1. The Chair will open the meeting and invite members to APPROVE the Summary Record of the 28th meeting [DCD/DAC/EV/M(2022)1] and the Draft Agenda for the 29th meeting [DCD/DAC/EV/A(2023)1].
2. New participants will be invited to introduce themselves briefly.
3. The Secretariat will update members on the EvalNet's approved mandate, the programme of work and budget (2023-24), and confirmation of the Bureau.
4. Updates will be provided on ongoing work including:
 - *COVID-19 Global Evaluation Coalition*: The COVID-19 Coalition is a collaborative project of EvalNet and its sister networks UNEG and ECG. It is comprised of the evaluation units of governments (OECD and non-OECD countries), United Nations organisations and multilateral institutions. Last year, the Coalition launched its *Strategic Joint Evaluation of the Collective International Development and Humanitarian Assistance Response to COVID-19*. The evaluation examines the collective response to the pandemic, inclusive of both national and international efforts, with a focus on the role of development co-operation and humanitarian assistance. It will generate useful lessons and good practices to inform future co-operation and crisis preparedness for governments and development agencies.
 - *EvalNet 40th Anniversary and work programme*: In January, the Secretariat circulated a calendar of events for 2023 as well as an initial outline of the agenda for the November EvalNet meeting. Members will share their thoughts.

Background: [EvalNet's Revised Mandate](#) [DCD/DAC(2022)12/FINAL]; [COVID-19 Strategic Joint Evaluation of the COVID-19 Response](#)

Purpose: *Get ready to work together; Share information*

10:00 – 11:00

Item 2. Applying the new evaluation criteria

5. In 2019, following a global consultation process and extensive discussion, the network adopted a new set of criteria – adding the criteria of coherence and providing adapted definitions of the original five: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability. This adapted set of criteria included two principles to guide their use:
 - Principle One: The criteria should be applied thoughtfully to support high quality, useful evaluation. They should be contextualised – understood in the context of the individual evaluation, the intervention being evaluated, and the stakeholders involved.

- Principle Two: The use of the criteria depends on the purpose of the evaluation. The criteria should not be applied mechanistically. Instead, they should be covered according to the needs of the relevant stakeholders and the context of the evaluation. More or less time and resources may be devoted to the evaluative analysis for each criterion depending on the evaluation purpose.

6. In 2021 a new guidance was published expanding on the principles for use, providing concrete examples and supporting deeper understanding of the concepts underlying each criterion. Members have been working within their own institutions to roll out the criteria and improve the ways they are applied. Since their adoption, the criteria have also been taken up across the global evaluation community and translated into several languages through a range of partnerships. This session will be an opportunity for members to reflect on progress made in improving how the criteria are used to support better evaluations.

7. Furthermore, the session will update members on progress to address a key challenge identified during the global consultation regarding the interplay between the criteria concepts, evaluation processes, and human rights and gender equality principles and objectives. Canada, France (AFD), Germany (BMZ, DEval, GIZ), Spain and UNDP have been working with the Secretariat to develop guidance on using the criteria in the context of prioritising human rights and gender equality. The draft guidance will be presented to support learning on this topic.

Background: *Good practice in applying a human rights and gender equality lens to the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria. Applying Evaluation Criteria Thoughtfully: [Publication available here](#).*

Purpose: *Celebrate progress; explore implications for further work on these topics*

11:00 – 11:30 Refreshment break

11:30 – 13:00

Item 3. Evaluation Systems Study

8. The Secretariat will present the Evaluation Systems Study, based on interviews and an extensive document review conducted in 2022. Members will be invited to reflect on the findings and share updates on their own evaluation systems. Members should also approve their individual profiles ahead of final editing and formatting of the document for publication.

9. A persistent challenge for the network’s analysis of evaluation systems is understanding evaluation resourcing – how much is invested in evaluation by member institutions – particularly for bilateral participants. The Secretariat will describe the challenges and available data, then present options for a methodology to facilitate more credible and useful analysis of evaluation resources.

Background Doc. *Evaluation Systems Study draft*

Room document 1. *Resourcing Evaluation*

Purpose: *Exchange ideas and work together to identify a suitable approach for analysing evaluation resources.*

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 14:30

Item 4. EvalNet Helpdesk: Solving problems together

10. We will use the “wise crowds” facilitation tool to help participants solve a particular challenge they face or question they have. Participants have suggested topics (problems) through a [pre-meeting survey](#) and can also suggest topics on the day.

11. Each round will last 15 minutes:

- a. A volunteer “client” will present their challenge – and participants can ask any clarifying questions. (1 minute)
- b. Small groups (virtual and in-person) will workshop the problem. (7 minutes)
- c. Everyone will return to plenary and each group will present their solution (2 minutes each up to three groups *without repeating* any ideas already shared). Those groups that do not share in the session will give their notes to the Secretariat for recording
- d. The “client” will respond (1 minute)

12. The Secretariat will record the problems and solutions as a resource for members. The session will provide practical assistance to participants – both the person sharing and those listening. It will also help strengthen connections across the network, enabling members to reach out for help in the future.

Purpose: *Develop useful recommendations for solving problems; Build relationships between participants*

Pre-meeting preparation: [EvalNet Help Desk Survey](#)

14:30 – 15:30

Item 5. Conducting evaluations with integrity

13. This session will continue the network’s discussions on ensuring that evaluations are conducted responsibly, that they avoid doing harm and meet ethical standards. At the EvalNet meeting in November 2021, participants reflected on events in Afghanistan and how they apply ethical standards to protect people who have participated in evaluations. Members shared specific examples of how they work to integrate ethical principles in their day-to-day practice through a variety of standards, tools or processes. Following this discussion, the Secretariat developed an EvalNet position paper on Protection of People Involved in Evaluation [[DCD/DAC/EV\(2022\)](#)]. The paper draws on EvalNet norms and standards to lay out three principles to guide evaluation, and makes recommendations for conducting evaluation responsibly. It provides guidance to participating agencies for submitting their evaluation reports to DERE, the online database managed by the OECD.

14. The session will explore concepts such as “responsible evaluation”, credibility and integrity, including compliance with professional standards. The discussion has links to other items on EvalNet’s agenda including application of the new criteria, the evaluation systems study, and the Afghanistan Evaluation and Learning Study. After a brief introduction from the Chair, a guest speaker Nicoletta Stame (independent) will present her work looking at the role of the evaluator and evaluation with the frame of “doing no harm”, “preventing bad”, and “doing good”. She will explore these dimensions as a way of thinking through how ethical thinking could and should enter into evaluation practice. Then EvalNet members from Canada and IEG/World Bank will share their thinking and experience from their respective institutions to kick off the discussion.

Background: EvalNet position paper on *Protection of People Involved in Evaluation (Prise de position EvalNet: Protection des personnes impliquées dans l’évaluation)* [[DCD/DAC/EV\(2022\)](#); [Infographic](#) (EN) [Infographie](#) (FR)]

Purpose: *Provide a comfortable space for members to hear new ideas and exchange on these topics.*

15:30 – 16:00 Refreshment

16:00 – 17:30

Item 6. Afghanistan Evaluation and Learning Study

15. An INCAF-EvalNet Joint temporary Task Team (JTT) on Afghanistan was created to support learning and reflection following the fall of the Government of Afghanistan in 2021. The task team is co-chaired by Ireland for INCAF and the Netherlands for EVALNET. A joint session of the two networks in

November 2021 provided space for a frank exchange of views and kicked off three works streams, one of which is led by EvalNet: the *Afghanistan Evaluation and Learning Study*.

16. Samandar Mahmodi (Sama Consulting) will present emerging findings from the Afghanistan Evaluation & Learning study, which draws on a survey and key informant interviews with people with experience in Afghanistan and other crisis contexts.

17. The study examines how development actors are using – or not using – and learning – or not learning – from evaluation in crisis settings. It uncovers the reasons evaluation findings are applied – or not – and the underlying drivers of persistent ineffectiveness, low sustainability, etc., drawing on research from Afghanistan and elsewhere. It is conducted by Sama Consulting with the support of the Afghanistan Evaluation Society. The aim is to provide practical recommendations for evaluation managers, evaluators, and programme staff to improve learning and accountability. The meeting will be an opportunity for reflection on the emerging findings and to feed into finalisation of the report.

Purpose: *Learn about the findings of this research and provide feedback for finalisation*

19:00 No-host Informal Network dinner [In person only]

23 February 2023 (9:00-13:00 CET) [Zoom Registration](#)

9:00 – 9:30

Before the meeting there will be time for networking and meeting with the Secretariat.

9:30 – 11:00

Item 7. Informing ambitious action on the climate crisis: Evidence from EvalNet

18. In a special session open to the broader DAC community, EvalNet members will present recent evaluation findings, lessons and recommendations on climate change. The discussion will provide a broad picture of the current evaluation landscape as it relates to climate mitigation and adaptation interventions, climate finance and the broader alignment of climate goals and other sustainable development objectives, including poverty reduction. The purpose of this session is to raise awareness about available evidence and support greater use of that evidence by development co-operation providers.

Room Document 2. *Rapid review of climate finance – Lessons from Evaluation*

11:00 – 11:30 Refreshment break

11:30 – 12: 30

Item 8. The DAC Evaluation Resource Centre (DEReC): Next steps

19. EvalNet has always been a platform for sharing members’ evaluation reports and disseminating the emerging evidence to the DAC and beyond. This began rather simply with members bringing or mailing physical copies of reports to Paris. Printing and shipping reports remained the primary means of exchange through the mid 1980’s, and reports were not widely accessible with very few members sharing evaluation reports internally – let alone publicly. Canada was an early champion and explored better ways of collecting and sharing evaluation reports. In 1988 the “DAC Evaluation Reports Inventory System” was launched. The inventory lived on floppy disks – and then CDs – and was updated once a year. In 1998 it migrated to the Internet and most of the content became available to the public. In 2005, it was replaced with DEReC: the DAC Evaluation Resource Centre. At that time only a handful of individual members had their own websites, and members were starting to use e-mail to disseminate findings.

20. Over the years there has been a steady increase in the number of reports members produce, and the publication of these reports, as well as of derivative products like summaries and policy briefings. Several members have developed their own evaluation repositories, often as part of a broader evidence hubs or knowledge banks. There are also several initiatives among other partners to consolidate and organise evaluative evidence.

21. During this brainstorming session, members will discuss how they currently use DEREc and how it can best add value alongside other evaluation report repositories and evidence portals.

Background: [Development Evaluation Resource Centre \(DEREC\)](#)

Purpose: *Generate ideas and identify the most promising ones to explore*

Item 9. Member updates and proposals

22. Members will provide updates and share work of general interest. There will also be an opportunity to present proposals for collaboration or share plans for upcoming work.

- Josef Orisko (Czech Republic) will share lessons from conducting an in-house evaluation of a ten-year education programme in Ethiopia.
- Representatives will provide updates from the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), and the Evaluation Co-operation Group (ECG), including plans to update the ECG [Big Book on Good Practice Standards](#).
- Oscar Garcia (UNDP) and Vice Chair Isabelle Mercier (Canada) will inform members about the 5P's SDG synthesis work.

Purpose: *Share relevant information*

12:30 – 13:00

Item 10: Closing Session

- Any other business (AOB)
- The Chair will close the meeting

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break

A limited number of lunch boxes will be provided to those that register in advance, for eating in the OECD garden or lobby area. Warm and cold lunch options are also available in the Cafeteria and the Red Chairs Café (at your own expense).

13:00 – 13:30

Informal Session. Introduction to EvalNet

23. The Secretariat will provide an overview of the mandate, current work, structure, ways of working and role of EvalNet. This is a practical session intended to provide an overview of the Network. The session is relevant for both old and new participants, including staff (who are welcome to join online).

24. The DAC Network on Development Evaluation is a subsidiary body of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) with a mandate to assist the Development Assistance Committee to improve its contribution to sustainable development results by promoting strong evaluation practices and systems that support learning and hold DAC members to account for the results of their development co-operation and humanitarian assistance.

25. To achieve these objectives, the EvalNet:

- Serves as a forum for the exchange of experience, good practice, and innovative evaluation approaches and methods.
- Supports the development, dissemination and implementation of standards and tools for development evaluation to enhance the quality and use of DAC members' and development partners' evaluations.
- Analyses, synthesises, and shares evaluation evidence and insights relevant to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and emerging priorities.
- Promotes collaboration, and the building and use of partner (national) capacities for evaluation in line with ownership principles and commitments to mutual accountability and the strengthening of country systems.
- Supports transparency and mutual learning throughout all dimensions of its work.

***Purpose:** Provide information to support members' effective engagement with the network*

14:30 – 16:30

Informal Session. Meeting of the EvalNet Climate Crisis Working Group

26. The EvalNet Working Group on the Climate Crisis formed in November 2021 with the aim of supporting more and better evaluation of climate mitigation and adaptation activities in the context of development co-operation and cultivating the body of evidence on climate results and performance to support learning. The Group presented evaluation evidence and a rapid review of climate finance evaluations at COP27 in Egypt; the event drew over 200 participants online and in person.

27. A draft work plan and terms of reference for the group was circulated in 2022 for feedback. During this meeting, the Working Group will agree on priorities, decide on roles and plan activities for 2023-24. Members will also share suggestions for further work and ideas for collaboration.

***Background:** Draft terms of reference for the Working Group*

***Purpose:** Develop an action plan*