

**Unclassified****English - Or. English****7 November 2023****DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE  
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE****Cancels & replaces the same document of 3 November 2023****DAC Network on Development Evaluation****Draft Annotated Agenda for the 30th Meeting of the DAC Network on  
Development Evaluation**15-16 November 2023  
Paris, France

This draft annotated agenda is submitted for APPROVAL at the 30th Meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation.

The 30th EvalNet meeting will be held in-person at the OECD Conference Centre in Paris, France on 15-16 November 2023. Sessions are open to all registered staff from participating EvalNet units/departments, and guests by invitation. Room Documents and Background Documents are on the EvalNet [community site](#).

The Global Evaluation Initiative will meet Friday 17 November 2023 (agenda and participation information provided separately).

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**JT03531141**

## Draft Agenda Outline

### 30<sup>th</sup> EvalNet Meeting: Looking back, moving forward – EvalNet at 40

| Wednesday 15 November  | Thursday 16 November  |
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| <p><b>Official members and observers only</b><br/>9:00 – 9:30</p> <p><b>Item 1. Opening session</b><br/>Welcoming new delegates, confirmation of the Bureau and approval of the agenda.</p> <p><b>Item 2. Member updates, work proposals and other business</b><br/>Members will provide updates of general interest and present proposals for collaboration (continued in Item 9 as necessary)</p> <p>9:30 – 11:00</p> <p><b>Item 3. What is quality evaluation? Evaluation quality standards in practice</b><br/>Members will discuss the core question of evaluation quality: what does “good evaluation” mean? How is it achieved in practice? How has our understanding of what makes for a “good evaluation” changed (or not) over the last 40 years? What efforts have been made to improve quality – and what works best?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>11:00 – 11:30 Refreshment break</i></p> <p>11:30 – 13:00</p> <p><b>Item 4. Evaluation in, on and for crisis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member discussion of lessons from evaluation for Ukraine</li> <li>• Afghanistan Joint Task Team</li> <li>• Proposal for synthesis series</li> <li>• Climate Change Working Group</li> <li>• COVID-19 Global Evaluation Coalition</li> </ul> | <p><i>8:30 Coffee and croissants provided</i></p> <p>9:30 – 11:00</p> <p><b>Item 6. Anniversary Celebration</b></p> <p>EvalNet was created by the DAC with the aim of better understanding the effectiveness and impacts of international assistance. Since then, evaluating co-operation activities and their results – both individually and in collaboration – has been a core function of the DAC and its members. EvalNet marks its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, a time to take stock and explore critical questions around the role of evaluation – and progress made in supporting development actors to understand and improve the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of their development assistance. This Davos-style panel discussion will bring together diverse perspectives to look back at EvalNet’s history and forward to identify priorities.</p> <p><i>Group photo and short break following anniversary session</i></p> <p>11:15 – 12:00<br/><b>[Item 4. – continued]</b></p> |
| <p><i>13:00 – 14:00 Lunch</i><br/><i>Several options for hot and cold food available</i></p>   | <p><i>12:00 – 13:00 Buffet Lunch</i><br/><i>A buffet lunch will be provided in the Marshall Room</i></p>  |
| <p>14:00 – 17:30<br/><i>(with refreshment break 15:30 – 16:00)</i></p> <p><b>Item 5. Development evaluation: The central role of partner countries</b><br/>With guests from the Global Evaluation Initiative, participants will explore the role of partner countries in evaluations, and related issues of ownership and mutual accountability. The session will explore lessons from the COVID-19 Global Evaluation Coalition, which is a novel approach to bringing together evaluators from across the global North and South. The first part of the session will feature a panel discussion; following the refreshment break small groups will reflect on the issues and then report back.</p>  | <p>13:00 – 14:30</p> <p><b>Item 7. AI and evaluation: Implications and next steps</b><br/>This session will explore member experiences with AI and some of the concrete implications for evaluation work, including ideas for ways forward.</p> <p>14:30 – 15:30</p> <p><b>Item 8. Capturing unintended effects</b><br/>Development co-operation can have a range of both positive and negative effects. The adapted definitions of the OECD evaluation criteria – published in 2019 – mandate evaluators to look at both intended and unintended results, but several studies have shown that such effects are rarely captured. This session will explore a new typology of common unintended effects and explore implications for evaluation.</p> <p>15:30 – 16:00</p> <p><b>Item 9. Closing Session and AOB</b><br/><b>[continued: Member updates, proposals, and other business]</b></p>  |
| <p><b>19:00 No Host Network Dinner:</b><br/><b>Bistrot Saint Dominique</b><br/><b>131 rue Saint Dominique, 75007 Paris</b></p>   |   |

## Draft Annotated Agenda: 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation

*The meeting will be held in CC15. All times listed are in CET, Paris time. Interpretation in English and French will be provided throughout the formal parts of the meeting.*

**15 November 2023 (9:00-17:30 CET) [Zoom Registration](#)**

**9:00 – 9:30**

### Item 1. Opening Session

*Purpose: Get ready to work together*

1. The Chair will open the meeting and invite members to APPROVE the Draft Agenda for the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting [DCD/DAC/EV/A(2023)2].
2. The Secretariat will invite members to confirm the composition of the EvalNet Bureau, and select a new vice-chair. In accordance with the OECD procedure, the designation of a new Bureau (Chair and two Vice-Chairs) shall be the responsibility of the subsidiary body (EvalNet) and not involve a formal vote. Only OECD/DAC members are eligible. A candidate's nationality should have no bearing on the choice and in making its choice, each network should endeavour to elect the persons who appear best qualified to give effective, helpful and impartial direction to its work.

### Item 2. Member updates, work proposals and other business

*Purpose: Share information; provide input*

3. New participants will introduce themselves briefly, and participants will provide updates of general interest and proposals for collaboration. (n.b. as required, updates will be continued in Item 9)
  - a. Evaluation systems study launch (Secretariat)
  - b. Members are requested to give their views on a proposal from the DAC Working Party on Statistics regarding the recording of evaluation related costs in the OECD's Creditor Reporting System (CRS) *Room Document 1: [Classification of evaluations in the CRS](#)*
  - c. An update on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Synthesis Coalition will be provided

**9:40 – 11:00**

### Item 3. What is quality evaluation? Evaluation quality standards in practice

*Purpose: Support peer learning and exchange; Identify areas of potential work*

4. The Secretariat will present a paper to support participants in exploring the core question of evaluation quality. Following the presentation, several participants will respond and present examples. The floor will then be open for discussion and participants will be invited to share their views on "good evaluation" and what works best to improve evaluation quality, drawing on these guiding questions:
  - a. How are evaluation quality standards put in practice?
  - b. What are good practices to strengthen quality? How do you measure or track progress over time?

- c. What role do regional, national, or other quality standards play in your institution and how do they interplay with the OECD DAC Quality Standards? How can they be ideally combined?
5. Based on the discussion, participants may also explore ideas for further EvalNet work to support the uptake, implementation and communication of evaluation quality standards and principles.

**Room document 2.** [What is quality evaluation? Evaluation quality standards in practice](#)

**Background:** [Quality Standards for Development Evaluation](#); (OECD, 2010); [Review of the DAC Principles for Evaluation of Development Assistance](#) (OECD, 1998)

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*11:00 – 11:30 Refreshment break*

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**11:30 – 13:00**

**Item 4. Evaluation in, on and for crisis**

6. Not only in today’s context of pluri-crises, but throughout its recent history, the network and its members has been confronted with the challenge of evaluating *in* crisis – adapting ways of working to travel restrictions and improving conflict sensitivity of data collection. Evaluation units also work *on* crises, developing new methodologies for understanding peacebuilding outcomes or analysing long-term reconstruction processes. And finally, particularly through our collective work, EvalNet has generated useful evidence to support informed development and humanitarian action *for* crisis response. This discussion will cover EvalNet’s crisis-related work on Ukraine, Afghanistan, Climate and COVID-19.

*Lessons for Ukraine*

**Purpose:** *Generate inputs for a useful synthesis of key lessons from evaluation to inform decision makers*

7. At the November 2001 meeting the group mandated the outgoing Chair to prepare a paper on key evaluation lessons relevant for reconstruction in Afghanistan. The note: “Aid Responses to Afghanistan: Lessons from Previous Evaluations” was prepared during the first week of December, at which time meetings of Afghan factions with international actors were beginning to address post-conflict reconstruction issues. The paper was discussed at the DAC Senior Level Meeting in December 2001 and was a key background paper, which usefully informed discussions at a DAC Experts’ Meeting on “Afghanistan Reconstruction and Recovery: Seeing Round the Corner” in May 2002. A similar note, “Iraq and Rehabilitation, Lessons from Previous Evaluations” was prepared by the EvalNet Bureau in May 2003 for the High-Level Meeting (HLM) and subsequent “DAC Reflection on Reconstruction in Iraq,” in July the same year.

8. In 2023, in response to a request from the Chair of the DAC to provide lessons from evaluation to support members responding to Russia’s large-scale aggression in Ukraine and inspired by the network’s previous joint synthesis work including the recent [COVID-19 Lessons from Evaluation series](#), the Secretariat provided input of lessons from evaluation to a note for the 2023 DAC HLM [DCD/DAC(2023)55]. The note is based on a review of evaluations of reconstruction and (post)-conflict related assistance from the Sahel, Iraq, the Western Balkans, Afghanistan, and other contexts.

9. Following an introduction from the Chair, the IMF, Norway, and the EBRD will share lessons from relevant crisis evaluations. Members will be invited to share their own lessons from evaluation, as well as how they have been supporting their respective institutions to respond to Russia’s aggression in Ukraine, and discuss the key messages. Members may also discuss plans to evaluate the Ukraine response.

10. Following the meeting the key messages will be compiled and an overall Lessons from Evaluation piece developed.

**Background Document:** *The effects on development assistance of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and other major geopolitical challenges*

*Update on the Joint Task Team on Afghanistan*

**Purpose:** Provide input and identify potential next steps

11. In 2021 EvalNet and the DAC's International Network on Conflict and Fragility formed a joint Temporary Task Team on Afghanistan (JTT), which operated for just over a year producing several papers and exploring both lessons for development co-operation and for monitoring and evaluation. EvalNet's contribution to the joint work was presented in draft at the February 2023 EvalNet Meeting.

- a. The co-chair of the JTT, the Netherlands, and the Secretariat, will provide an update on the work and how it is being carried forward including through discussions at the HLM.
- b. Members will be invited to provide views on a proposal for a set of rolling country reviews in different contexts of fragility. **Background Document:** [Proposal for Systematic Review Series on Aid Effectiveness](#)

### *Climate Crisis Working Group*

**Purpose:** Identify opportunities for collaboration and provide guidance to Climate Crisis Working Group meeting on 28 November 2023

12. Members will provide updates on their work on mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity and discuss options for future individual and collective work for EvalNet's Climate Crisis Working Group.

### *COVID-19 Global Evaluation Coalition*

An update on the COVID-19 Global Evaluation Coalition to share progress on the Strategic Joint Evaluation of the International Pandemic Response, and country-led evaluations.

**Purpose:** Provide information to members and motivate further action

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*13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break*

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**14:00 – 17:30**

**Kindly note:** This session will be open to non-members and experts by invitation.

### **Item 5. Development evaluation: The central role of partner countries**

**Purpose:** Discuss and develop shared understanding of the issues

13. Compared to most other policy fields, development cooperation at the bi- and multilateral level can count on advanced evaluation systems, geared at fulfilling the core functions of evaluation: namely generating practically relevant knowledge, providing learning and strengthening accountability. Already decades ago development cooperation actors began to institutionalise evaluation in their organisations. They have invested in supporting evaluation capacities, and in developing common principles, standards, criteria and procedures of evaluation in order create evaluation systems able to legitimise the extra-territorial spending of their tax payers' resources.

14. This mainly inward-looking motivation for evaluation was challenged already with the Paris Agenda on Aid Effectiveness in 2005. This agenda called upon providers of development cooperation to strengthen ownership, partner orientation and mutual accountability in all phases of the policy cycle of development cooperation, including evaluation. Yet, despite some initial progress, the move towards more collaborative and jointly-owned evaluation processes has stalled – and even reversed. Demands from countries of the global South have increased in recent years and call for strengthening the role of actors within partner countries in development evaluation. Accountability to affected populations is also a topic of great importance.

15. Against the background of this discussion, this panel aims at discussing the potential for increasing partner orientation in development evaluation within the framework of Evalnet's evaluation standards and criteria, which are universal in nature but at the same time open to cultural responsiveness. The discussion

will be structured along four dimensions of tackling potential asymmetries in development evaluation and providing experiences and potential solutions.

### Part 1.

16. In the first session, the Chair will introduce the topic and structure the debate around four dimensions that need further clarification, and moderate a panel of distinguished experts. The panellists will give their views on these different aspects of partner orientation in development cooperation.

17. Panellists include: Timothy Lubanga (Uganda), Candice Morkel (CLEAR Anglophone Africa); Isabelle Mercier (UNDP) and Peter van der Knaap (the Netherlands).

18. The four dimensions are:

- Differentiating between different potential “partners” when talking about partner orientation in development evaluation, namely beneficiaries, stakeholders from governments and local agencies and local evaluation entities.
- Differentiating between different “intensity” of partner orientation in development evaluation, ranging from information to consultation to participation and even delegation.
- Differentiating during different stages of the evaluation cycle where actors from partner countries could play a stronger role, namely programme-building, concept and design phase, implementation, dissemination and use.
- The potential role of Evaluation Capacity Development in strengthening partner orientation in development cooperation.

### Part 2.

19. Following a refreshment break, participants will split up into small groups, each one guided by a moderator and a rapporteur, who will report results back to the panel and participants. Groups will divide along the dimensions and engage in a moderated discussion to identify potential options for strengthening partner orientation and bring their own experiences into the debate. The rapporteurs will each report the main messages from the group work and give the panellists a chance to react, before the Chair will allow for final comments and questions from the plenary.

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*19:00 No-host Informal Network dinner and Anniversary Celebration [In person only]*

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**16 November 2023 (9:00-16:00 CET) [Zoom Registration](#)**

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**8:30 – 9:30**

**Kindly note:** *This session will be open to non-members and experts by invitation. Before the meeting there will be time for networking and meeting with the Secretariat over coffee, tea and pastries in front of CC15.*

**9:30 – 11:00**

### Item 6. Anniversary Celebration

**Purpose:** *Reflect on progress and explore areas for further work*

20. EvalNet marks its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, a time to take stock and explore critical questions around the role of evaluation – and progress made in supporting development actors to understand and improve the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of their development assistance.

21. EvalNet was created by the DAC with the aim of better understanding the effectiveness and impacts of international assistance. Since then, evaluating co-operation activities and their results – both individually and in collaboration – has been a core function of the DAC and its members.

22. The session will begin with reflections from DAC Chair Carsten Staur on the recent HLM of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), and the origins and the continued importance of the network to the DAC. Development Co-operation Director Pilar Garrido will moderate a Davos-style panel to look back at EvalNet's contributions, take stock of where we stand today and debate priorities for the future and new approaches to the network's work. The panel will include Sabine Bernabè (World Bank, IEG), Jörg Faust (Deval, Germany), as well as a participant from the DAC HLM (TBC).

23. New evaluation methods and approaches have been developed and today there is more evidence than ever about what works, for whom and in what contexts – but who is using it? And what can we really say about the big questions: “Does aid work – and for whom?” and “Where can aid make the biggest difference?” This session will engage network participants in a critical discussion of the state of the art of development evaluation – the past and future of the network.

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**11:15 – 12:00**

**[continued] Item 4. Evaluation in, on and for crisis**

24. Remaining items for agenda Item 4, not covered the day before, will be addressed.

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*12:00 – 13:00 Lunch break*

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**13:00 – 14:30**

**Item 7. AI and evaluation: Implications and next steps**

*Purpose: Generate ideas and identify next steps*

25. This session will explore member experiences with AI and some of the concrete implications for evaluation work, including ideas for ways forward. The Secretariat will present a short room document and the results of the member survey. Then members, including UNDP, World Bank and Germany (KfW) will share their own experiences. Canada will kick off the broader discussion, with time for members to share and discuss potential interest in further work on this topic.

**Room Document 3: [AI and evaluation](#)**

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**14:30 – 15:30**

**Item 8: Capturing unintended effects**

*Purpose: Provide information to members, and explore implications for evaluations*

26. Development co-operation can have a range of both positive and negative effects. OECD evaluation norms, including the adapted definitions of the OECD criteria – published in 2019 – encourage evaluators to look at both intended and unintended results. However, several studies have shown that such effects are rarely captured, and numerous discussions in EvalNet, as well as the studies of evaluation systems, show continued challenges faced by members.

27. This session will begin with a presentation by Dirk-Jan Koch (Chief Science Officer of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs) to share recent work on the frequently encountered unintended consequences of development co-operation and humanitarian assistance. This session will unpack the discourse surrounding unintended effects and will delve into a taxonomy of the ten most common types of unintended effects. The discussion will surface common challenges in capturing unintended consequences in evaluations and will explore how evaluators and evaluation managers can overcome them.

**Background: "[Foreign Aid and its Unintended Consequences](#)" (Koch, 2023)**

**15:30 – 16:00**

**Item 9: Closing session and any other business**

28. The floor will be open for updates from Members, work proposals and any other business. The Chair will wrap up and end the meeting.

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**17 November 2023 (9:00-15:00 CET)**

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**Side event: Meeting of the Global Evaluation Initiative**