



Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation
Concept Note to advance National Evaluation Policies and systems in line with
Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020

Background:

[The Parliamentarians Forum for Development Evaluation](#) was first established in South Asia in 2013. This was a historical milestone. For the first time, parliamentarians raised their voices to advocate for national evaluation policies and to commit to put evaluation at the core of the agenda at the country level. There after parliamentarians were featured in many international evaluation fora aiming to promote national evaluation policies. The Forum in collaboration and with support from EvalPartners conducted a study on “Mapping status of national evaluation policies” and the report was published recently. Also under the innovation challenge project supported by EvalPartners and jointly implemented by Parliamentarians Forum and Pakistan Evaluation Network two initiatives were implemented;

- Establishment of a web site for the Parliamentarians Forum
- Documentation of examples of NEP in selected countries and preparation of a document on key elements of NEP and systems followed by web dialogue on NEP.

Necessary resources are available online www.pfde.net

The Parliamentarians Forum conducted a regional consultation in South Asia to share the results of the mapping exercise as well as to support parliamentarians, government representatives and civil society to develop country actions leading to NEPs and systems in South Asian countries. The consultation was supported by EvalPartners and IOCE.

The Parliamentarians ‘movement’ has rapidly grown. Between 2014 and 2015, regional Parliamentarians fora were created in Africa, East Asia (www.pfdea.org), Latin America and MENA. More importantly, the first ever national parliamentarians’ forum for evaluation was initiated in Nepal by a group of constitutional assembly members. In this context, EvalPartners together with other stakeholders organized a one-day meeting entitled "Towards a Global Parliamentarians Forum for Development Evaluation" which was held on 2nd October at the EES conference in Dublin. The meeting was attended by parliamentarians from different regions, regional VOPE leaders and representatives of international organizations. Ms. Caroline Heider, Senior Vice President of the World Bank made the key note speech highlighting importance of parliamentarians engaging in evaluation. As a result of this meeting the Global Forum will be launched at the parliament of Nepal on 25th Nov.

Developing and strengthening evaluation policies in countries is important for good governance and effective development. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015 and their focus on country-led evaluations in line with their identified priorities for SDG targets that are most relevant to the national and local context

have also emphasized the need for countries to strengthen their data collection, analysis and review processes. It is then important that Parliamentarians promote national evaluation policies as they are expected to enhance the enabling environment for nationally owned, transparent, systematic and standard development evaluation process in line with National Evaluation Policy at country level and the SDGs at global to ensure aid effectiveness, achievement of results and sustainability of development.

Looking ahead to implementation of the Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020, national evaluation policies and systems will play an important role at country level. According to the mapping report, only 20 countries have established national evaluation policies. It shows how we have to go from where we stand now. The Forum is planning to further advance the important work on NEP and systems and proposes the following strategy.

Goal:

The goal of the Forum is to advance the enabling environment for nationally owned, transparent, systematic and standard development evaluation processes in line with National Evaluation Policies at the country level that are aimed at contributing to good governance and to sustainability of development.

Objectives:

- To advance dialogue on national evaluation policies and systems and promote country actions towards them
- To emphasize on establishment of country evaluation systems/ national evaluation capacity development

Proposed activities:

1. Knowledge generation on national evaluation policies and systems

The Mapping Report, published by the Parliamentarians Forum in December, 2013, and updated in 2015 raised important issues concerning National Evaluation Policies (NEP). Since the report constituted a preliminary mapping, it did not examine in depth issues that came out in the report. In order to move forward on the subject of National Evaluation Policies, the issues should be examined and discussed. This proposed study would delve into these issues for all 20 NEPs mentioned in the report. Furthermore, this activity will include a scheduled series of updates to the original mapping report every year. Thus, the report would include other NEPs that emerge during the period between the publication of the report and the proposed updates.

1.1 Update the mapping report every year including one in-depth study to unpack addressing following issues;

- The definition of an evaluation policy is complex. For purposes of this concept paper a National Evaluation Policy (NEP) is defined as: a legislated policy that serves as a basis for evaluation across government agencies.
- There is a great variety of NEPs depending upon the format. Some are legislated, some directed, some implicit. Which one consists of a NEP?
- Some countries routinely conduct evaluation without a NEP.

- A variety of administrating bodies is responsible for implementing NEPs. These are located in a variety of places, for instance the President's Office, the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, or other separate Evaluation Units within the government. What works best and for whom?
- Is a NEP necessary for every country and context? Is evaluation readiness or evaluation culture more important than an actual NEP?

1.2 Document and dissemination of NEP country examples

Based on the mapping report information there are 20 countries which have established NEP and systems, selected examples of 5 countries have been documented under the support from EvalPartners Innovation Challenge initiative. In future it is expected to document 5-6 more examples highlighting key success elements which can be learning points for other countries which are planning to establish NEP and systems.

- 1.3 Facilitate a series of Webinars (mapping report, country examples, key elements of NEP etc)
- 1.4 Facilitate web dialogues on national evaluation policies and systems through Parliamentarians Forum web site.
2. Conduct three regional consultations on national evaluation policies and systems
 - Regions: Asia Pacific (excluding South Asia as it is already done)
 - Africa (excluding North Africa)
 - Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Participants: Parliamentarians, Government policy makers, representatives of national evaluation networks, representatives of regional evaluation network representatives, donors, international networks (EvalPartners, IOCE etc). The project covers participation of about 30 people, and others can participate with self-funding (Total about 50 participants).

Purpose: To share findings of the mapping report, facilitate sharing examples of NEP and systems in place, create awareness on key elements of a NEP, facilitate country work plan development for NEP.

Time frame: Asia Pacific – 2016, Africa – 2016, MENA – 2017, LAC - 2017

Details: to be decided with regional partners

3. Coordination and follow up support to country partners in NEP and systems

A full time coordinator to provide follow up support to country partners particularly for the country work plans developed in regional consultations. This is an important role which supports many countries to work on the evaluation policies and systems and also facilitate sharing among country partners. Through establishment of this role, advisory services, cross

fertilization as well as coordination and support will be ensured. When and where necessary the coordinator conducts missions to countries to provide further support.

4. Dissemination of information through international fora

Experts who developed/ engaged in knowledge products will share those knowledge products in selected international evaluation fora. This will stimulate key stakeholders to successfully work on NEP and systems at country level.

5. Global Advocacy

Lobbying importance of national evaluation policies at the UN General Assembly by a group of parliamentarians

Budget:

Budget Item	Budget US \$
1. Knowledge generation on national evaluation policies and systems	
1.1 Updating the mapping report every year	
Consultant fee USD 3,000 x 3	9,000
Consultant fee for in-depth study	8,000
1.2 Document and dissemination of NEP country examples	
Consultant fee USD 6,000	6,000
1.3 Facilitate a series of Webinar (mapping report, country examples, key elements of NEP etc)	
Expert fee USD 2000 x 5	10,000
1.4 Facilitate web dialogues on national evaluation policies and systems through Parliamentarians Forum web site. No cost involvement	-
2 Conduct four regional consultations on national evaluation policies and systems	
USD 45,000 x 4 =	180,000
Those participants not covered by this budget will cover their participation by themselves/ their organizations.	
3 Coordination and follow up support to country partners in NEP and systems	
Full time coordinator salary USD 4,000 x 24	96,000
Coordinator travel for missions USD 2500 x 10	25,000
4 Dissemination of information through international for a	
No cost involvement	
5. Lobbying at the UN General Assembly	
Participation of parliamentarians - Cost to be supported by respective governments	
Total budget	334,000
Other expenses and Contingencies 5%	10,000
GRAND TOTAL	US\$ 344,000