



Global Declaration on Evaluation for Transformational Change

We, the evaluators, commissioners, and other evaluation stakeholders, recognize the continuing need and urgency of systemic change in evaluation standards, theories, and practices, from local to global levels to address the global crises endangering our shared future. With attention to the potential role of evaluation in promoting learning, systemic and transformational change, we agree on the following statements.

1. Promote evaluation for transformational change

We commit to evaluations that help us learn, understand and support the transformational and systemic changes needed in our countries and the world, as agreed upon in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Achieving a sustainable balance across governance, social, economic and environmental domains is crucial amidst the existential threats of the climate crisis, mass extinction of species, growing local and global inequity, and ultimately unsustainable use of the resources of the planet.

2. Work in partnership

We will promote partnerships among evaluators and evaluation stakeholders, based on applied ethical and professional codes and standards, and mutual trust. We commit to engage and recognize new evaluators and collaborators from fields of expertise within and beyond social sciences, including young and emerging evaluators, students and interns in evaluation teams whenever possible, to promote mutual learning and to discover and leverage multiple perspectives, experiences, and expertise.

We are committed to a transdisciplinary approach and partnering with natural, physical and other sciences to address the challenges of our time and needed for developing and applying evidence-based approaches, technologies, and solutions essential for identifying, understanding, tackling, and evaluating current and future global challenges.



3. Acknowledge and navigate power relations and promote inclusiveness

We pledge to address and navigate the inherent unequal power dynamics apparent in intervention and evaluation processes. This involves developing and implementing inclusive approaches that include marginalized groups, respecting the need to engage local stakeholders, especially those directly affected, in consultations regarding the purpose of evaluations, evaluation questions, sensemaking, and preliminary conclusions and recommendations. Embracing an interconnected future in evaluation, we commit to co-designing and co-conducting evaluations that integrate indigenous and local knowledge alongside conventional and transformative methodologies.

We respect the sovereignty of Indigenous nations and will work with them on a nation-to-nation basis.

4. Respect for rights and responsibilities

In all our approaches, communications and deliverables, we commit to respecting privacy, equity, gender equality, minorities and indigenous peoples, the dignity of people, reflexivity, justice, and environmental integrity. We commit to respecting and advancing human rights and responsibilities, as well as the rights of societies and of nature.

5. Support the professionalization of evaluation

We advocate a transformational change of evaluation itself, bringing knowledge, capacities, and capabilities to evaluators, evaluation commissioners, development partners and the diversity of other evaluation stakeholders with the potential to contribute to the practice of evaluation throughout the world that is fit-for-purpose for today's transformation imperative.

6. Focus on sustainability

In all our evaluations, we commit to evaluating for social, environmental, and economic sustainability recognizing that these three domains are coupled. We will address important effects in any of these domains regardless of whether these were recognized in the design and implementation of the intervention. We will seek restorative solutions, incorporate unintended negative and positive social, economic and environmental effects, and consider contextual factors and avenues for systemic changes. This includes examining the structural and functional elements of sustainability such as governance and institutions.

7. Focus on fragility, conflict and violence

We pledge to explore and address both the divisive and unifying elements of conflict and violence with a regenerative focus. This commitment involves pursuing evaluation approaches that are not only gender inclusive and conflict-sensitive but also geared toward supporting positive transformation and regeneration.

8. Support for transformational indigenous evaluation

We pledge to honor indigenous knowledge, empower indigenous communities in evaluation processes, foster collaboration with indigenous communities and evaluators, prioritize equity and justice, and uphold principles of self-determination, sovereignty, and transparency.

9. Shared responsibility for results

We fully understand that the true impact of an evaluation lies not solely in the evaluation process and results, but in its utilization in all of its phases. Whenever feasible, we commit to work with the potential evaluation users, including local stakeholders directly affected, to explore both the problems and possible solutions to sustainably address them.

10. Embracing the benefits of new technologies while mitigating the risks

We commit to embracing the transformative power of new technologies in the field of evaluation, through a balanced approach that harnesses their potential benefits while actively mitigating associated risks. We recognize their potential to revolutionize data collection, analysis, and interpretation, yet we acknowledge the responsibility to tread cautiously, actively mitigating risks such as privacy concerns, bias, the digital divide, and ethical implications.

It is also imperative for evaluation processes to remain vigilant in recognizing and addressing disinformation, misinformation and deepfakes, ensuring that assessments are based on accurate and reliable data to effectively inform decision-making and drive transformational change.

Pushing the boundaries

We advocate for and work towards achieving a bold vision of evaluation for transformational change that transcends traditional boundaries and embraces innovation, inclusivity, co-creation, adaptability, and addressing social, environmental and economic domains. We acknowledge the formidable challenges we face as we operate within complex systems governed by a combination of formal laws, contracts, rules, and informal institutional arrangements, as well as within cultural, normative, and value-based contexts that often resist or lack the essential receptivity to adopt evaluation for transformational change.

These challenges extend beyond evaluators to include commissioners, users, and stakeholders alike. We engage in ongoing discourse and continue to deepen our understanding of the essential shifts needed for evaluation to meaningfully address the pressing issues of our era. We recognize that the problems confronting our world - energy, environment, climate change, food security, financial security, human security - demand solutions beyond what traditional evaluation methods can provide. They require a radical reimagining of how we assess, analyze, and respond to complex systems and dynamic contexts. Our commitment is unwavering. We refuse to accept the status quo where evaluation falls short of its potential to catalyze transformational change.

We call upon all stakeholders to join us in this endeavor. Together, let us continue to challenge the norms, push the boundaries, and pioneer new frontiers in evaluation theories and practice. Only through collective effort and unwavering determination can we transform and harness the power of evaluation to confront the urgent challenges of our time and pave the way for a more equitable, just, and sustainable future.