Minutes of the ECG Spring 2017 Meeting
IFAD Headquarters, Rome

8-9 June 2017

Summary of decisions and next steps

1. Gender Equality in Evaluations

- The document circulated by the Working Group (WG) was approved for publication as an official ECG reference document.
- IEG will identify a date to host a gender workshop of practitioners before the ECG Fall Meeting 2017.
- ECG will discuss how to move this document beyond the project level in a future meeting.

2. External Evaluation and Peer Reviews

- Members to send EBRD written follow-up suggestions to revise the practice note by 15 July. Based on these comments, EBRD will revise the practice note which will be presented at the Fall meeting.
- AfDB and IFAD invited volunteers from the ECG membership to participate in external peer review processes of their evaluation functions:
  - AfDB (2017-2018)
  - IFAD (2018-2019) - two ECG Heads invited to participate on the panel.

3. ECG Big Book

- EBRD invited additional feedback and comments by 15 July. An update will be presented at the ECG Fall meeting (including a comparison table).

4. Evaluation Recommendations and Follow-up

- Members to provide final comments on the report and the mapping grids to EIB by the end of June.
- The note will be split into three practice notes.
- A session on at least one of the steps in the evaluation recommendation process is to be included in the agenda of the next meeting.
- The ECG WG will connect with the UNEG sub-group working on similar steps in the evaluation recommendation process.

5. Enhancing Self-Evaluation Systems

- Members to send additional written feedback to EBRD who will review the practice note by mid-July.
- The revised practice note will be presented for discussion at the ECG Fall meeting 2017.
6. Communities of Practice

- Members will continue to support efforts to facilitate exchanges among staff across ECG member organizations.
- AsDB will continue to lead development of the Communities of Practice (COPs) with the Secretariat integrating topics developed by the WGs (gender, self-evaluation, recommendations, etc.) and propose more alternative ways to stimulate exchanges among member’s staff.
- Discussion groups will not be restricted in numbers and can be created based on the interest of staff.
- Members to review staff who currently have access to the ECG website and inform the ECG Secretariat of any updates.
- Members will motivate their staff to take advantage of the ECG platform and engage more regularly with colleagues from other member organizations.

7. ECG Business

- The ECG Membership Committee will inform the Green Climate Fund of its decision regarding its membership application.
- EIB will continue to Chair the Membership Committee. EBRD and AsDB will also serve on the Committee.
- The Asian Development Bank will Chair ECG in 2018. The Black Sea Trade and Development Bank will Chair ECG in 2019.
- IEG will continue to host the ECG Secretariat for another two years (until 2019) at which time the arrangement will be revisited.
Summary of the ECG Spring 2017 meeting

Welcome

Oscar Garcia, ECG Chair 2017, welcomed meeting participants to IFAD Headquarters in Rome. He welcomed in particular Charles Collyns, new Director IMF IEO and Susanne Frueh, new Chair of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG). The agenda for the meeting was approved.

Tour de table

Members contributed on the basis of points circulated prior to the meeting (see Annex 1).

High Level Session on the role of independent evaluation in the transformation of the Multilateral Development Banks

During his opening statement, Oscar A. Garcia remarked how the global financial environment has changed and that the complexity and interrelated challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) calls for not only the mobilization of financial funds but also knowledge and expertise. Evaluation has a key role to play in this regard, as a way to add meaning and depth to conclusions about global achievements by for example bringing the voice of marginalized people to the forefront.

Gilbert F. Houngbo, President of IFAD, also commented on the need for collaboration and multilateral partnerships to achieve 2030 Agenda and how the evaluation conducted by the MDBs helps to open up a dialogue and raise issues at the highest level and enabled them to act promptly on their findings.

Taking advantage of the wealth of experience represented at the session, a panel discussion was held to examine the main challenges faced by MDBs in terms of financing, expertise and coordination of development efforts. During the panel discussion it was argued that the MDB business model is still valid, but that there also is a need to rethink aspects of it, including governance structure. At the core, many of these reform challenges centred around complementarity of work and the need for a holistic work rather than focus on standalone projects. The role of evaluation in this regard centres around producing research and evidence while making sure that the information provided is useful to client countries.

In his closing address, Masood Ahmed, President of the Center for Global Development, also spoke of how managerial focus often centres on the results of the individual organization rather than what it has helped a partner to accomplish. He also said the differences between the MDBs should be seen as opportunities for complementary roles and strategies to tackle the multiple causes of poverty. This is where the comparative advantage of the MDBs come into fruition and why it needs to be exploited at its fullest.

ECG Work Areas

1. Gender Equality in Evaluations

Samer Hachem (AfDB) outlined the process behind the reference note prepared by the Working Group (WG). In particular, he highlighted some of the difficulties they faced including: confusions over the TOR for the consultant which mixed the needs of IDEV and ECG; the different range of needs of members; the nature of the

1 The Draft Agenda is available in Annex 3. The event recording is available at https://www.ifad.org/evaluation/event/tags/rural_development/y2017/42165915.
guidance note (the WG did not want to reproduce what already existed); and the need to develop concrete tools for implementation that should work for various institutions (non-customised).

The note was divided into sections with case studies. The basic document is short but broad, distinguishing between basic and advanced techniques. Two additional background documents were also developed that will be made available online.

Members thanked the WG for their hard work and the final products which were agreed to be very useful. Members also acknowledged that they are at different stages of integrating gender issues.

IEG offered to organise an evaluation practitioner workshop to discuss how to implement guidelines and show case examples of where it has applied gender in other areas to move the agenda forward. The idea was warmly received among ECG members. It was agreed that the reference document should be implemented in its current state before expanding to programme/ strategy level evaluations and that this extension would be discussed in a future meeting. It was also suggested that shorter practice notes be drafted from the reference document.

Next steps:

• The document circulated by the WG was approved for publication as an official ECG reference document.
• IEG will identify a date before the ECG Fall Meeting 2017 to host a gender workshop.

2. External Reviews of the Evaluation Function

EBRD led work to consolidate and synthesise members experiences of external evaluations to systematize the latest thinking on peer reviews. The short practice note based on their findings was prepared and presented in a descriptive way given the different practices among ECG members.

Members expressed their thanks for the preparation of the practice note and agreed on the overall format. It was suggested ECG develop a series of practice notes in a similar format.

In terms of content:

• Members recalled that ECG currently has extensive guidance with respect to the conduct of peer reviews and affirmed that peer review is a valuable means for IEDs to obtain professional external review.
• Several members felt that to avoid any perceived conflict of interest the evaluation office should not be involved in drafting the terms of reference (TOR) or managing the peer review process, rather that Board members should develop the TOR and select the evaluators. Others highlighted that evaluation offices are uniquely positioned to have an input on the TOR, in particular when the capacity and required sustained attention of the Board are an issue. All agreed that the external evaluation was ultimately the property of the Board, with the Board responsible for whatever process and approach is used.
• Recommended elements to be included in the practice note included:
  o Quality assurance - Who is ensuring the quality process for the evaluation/ credibility?
  o Management arrangements (how process should be managed).
  o An appendix containing a template with TORs for external reviews that Boards and Secretaries could draw on.

Next steps:

• Members to send EBRD written follow up suggestions to revise the practice note by 15 July. Based on these comments, EBRD will revise the practice note which will be presented at the next meeting.
• IFAD and AfDB provided an update of their respective processes
• AfDB and IFAD invited volunteers from the ECG membership to participate in external peer review processes of their evaluation functions.

3. ECG Big Book and Comparison Table

At the two ECG meetings in 2016 hosted by EBRD, ECG members recognised a need to develop greater clarity about definitions in the comparison table (because different organisations are using terms in different ways) and the need to update data in the table. EBRD solicited inputs from member but, because of other commitments, not much progress was made in this work area.

Next steps:

• EBRD invited additional feedback and comments.
• An update will be presented at the ECG Fall 2017 meeting.

4. Evaluation Recommendations and Follow Up

Dawit Demetri (EIB) presented an overview of the work conducted by the WG (presentation on the ECG website), asked for guidance on next steps and presented two overall questions:

• How can the evaluation recommendation process be geared towards motivating lesson learning as well as monitoring implementation within institutions?
• How can the evaluation recommendation process support lesson learning without prejudice to the independence of evaluation functions?

Members thanked the WG for their work. During the discussions members exchanged their own institutional experiences which allowed for some reflection on how members interact with management and Boards. Areas identified for further consideration included: the nature of recommendations; whether recommendations are always needed; and the role of the Board in the process.

Next steps:

• Members to provide their final comments on the report and the mapping grids by the end of June.
• The note will be split into three policy notes.
• A session on at least one of the steps in the evaluation recommendation process is to be included in the agenda of the next meeting.
• The ECG WG will connect with the UNEG sub-group working on similar steps in the evaluation recommendation process.

5. Enhancing Self-Evaluation Systems

Discussions focused on the practice note on self-evaluation systems prepared by EBRD. Members again thanked EBRD for developing the practice note although some questioned the relevance of ECG preparing a practice note since management is responsible for self-evaluation. Members did agree however that self-evaluation needs to be part of a larger overall architecture and this should be reflected in any potential ECG note. Members further pointed out that care needs to be taken that such a note be consistent with ECG good practice standards for Public and for Private Sector Project Evaluations, this applies particularly to the question of ratings. Members also pointed out that the draft note puts undue emphasis on sample based self-evaluation and/or validation, when indeed some institutions do not work on a sample basis.
In terms of exchange of experiences, AfDB is starting a review of self-evaluation processes and would be willing to share their experiences while AsDB is looking at what can be done in terms of training to improve quality of the completion report and create incentives for project managers.

Next steps:

- Members to send additional written feedback to EBRD who will review the practice note by mid-July.
- The revised note will be presented for discussion at the ECG Fall meeting 2017.

6. Communities of Practice and Broader Engagement of ECG members

Veronique Salze Lozac’h presented the work AsDB has led on the Communities of Practice (COPs) and broader engagement of ECG members (presentation available on the ECG website).

Members congratulated and thanked AsDB for their work and developments so far. There have been issues in engaging members in the COPs and it was suggested AsDB look at evaluations of other COPs to learn from their experiences. Members agreed that, to encourage use of the COP functionalities in the ECG website, the COPs be focused on current on-going work by the WGs (i.e. gender, recommendations etc.). As an incentive for staff to use the COPs, it was suggested that face to face meetings be organised for successful COPs. It was also suggested that webinars (online presentations) may encourage staff to use the website and COPs, and that the COP webpage include a list of ongoing and upcoming evaluations with team leaders, so that staff engaging in similar evaluations can connect.

The use of the platform as the place to find documents and evaluations should be enhanced and advertised among members’ staff as it would certainly be of interest to most. It was also agreed that the new ECG platform should favour discussion groups and that the number of these groups should be kept open depending on the demand.

The issue of allowing access to the ECG website to consultants and UNEG members was raised. The Secretariat will look at possible ways of allowing these users to have access to the COPs but not the whole ECG member website. AsDB were also asked to examine how the ECG COPs could interact with other networks of practice.

Next steps:

- AsDB will continue to lead development of the COPs with the Secretariat and the WGs.
- Members to review the staff who currently have access to the ECG website and inform the ECG Secretariat of any updates.

7. ECG Business and Forward Planning

ECG Membership Committee

The formal process for ECG membership application was agreed upon in 2014. The Membership Committee received an application for membership from the Green Climate Fund and in view of the established membership principles, the Committee concluded that the Fund is not, by definition, an international financial institution but a trust fund. It was recommended therefore that their application for membership be denied.

It was also noted that the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) had informally indicated an interest in joining the ECG. In order to manage expectations, it was recommended that prospective applicant institutions, like the AIIB and CABEI, formally approach the ECG’s Membership Committee. Following this, the Committee could share the eligibility criteria for ECG membership, which is readily available on the ECG website.
Next steps:

- The ECG Membership Committee will inform the Green Climate Fund of its decision.
- EIB will continue to Chair the Membership Committee. EBRD and AsDB will also serve on the Committee.

Any other business

**ECG Fall meeting (2-3 November 2017)**

Members agreed on the high value of thematic presentations. Possible areas identified for discussion at the ECG November meeting included:

- Knowledge management/ economy
- Gender results
- Safeguards
- Equity
- Additionality
- PPPs
- Domestic resource mobilization

**Updates from ECG Heads Breakfast**

- The Asian Development Bank will Chair ECG in 2018. The Black Sea Trade and Development Bank will Chair ECG in 2019.
- The ECG Secretariat is currently hosted by IEG. Agreement to continue as such for another 2 years (2019) at which time the arrangement will be revisited.

**Closing remarks**

Oscar Garcia thanked participants for contributing to an intense but productive meeting. The TDT confirmed turbulent times for ECG members and the need to rethink approaches to evaluation, in particular so that they are more responsive, timely and critical, with strategic feedback to management and Board members for decision making processes. He also thanked the WGs for the good progress in the ECG work areas, as well as IOE staff and ECG Secretariat for ensuring a successful meeting.
Annex 1: Points for the Tour de Table
ECG Spring Meeting 2017
IFAD Headquarters, 8-9 June

African Development Bank, Independent Development Evaluation (IDev)

Apologies from Rakesh Nangia who was unable to attend. The security situation in Cote d'Ivoire. (Thank you colleagues for your emails expressing concern. The media is prone to exaggeration).

The transition period at the Bank is still ongoing creating tension and anxiety. A declining trust of the Board puts IDEV under pressure to evaluate reforms that were recently instituted.

IDev is finalizing an interesting comparative study on Board Policies, Procedures, and Practices. (Thank you Caroline, Cheryl and Ruben for your generous support). We expect this will be the main agenda for the next Board retreat and optimistic that it will bring about changes in the Board. Also finalizing a formative evaluation of HR management at the Bank that we anticipate will have a great deal of influence in shaping the new strategy. We had good discussions with the President and he is excited about both.

Another flagship report for 2017 will be the evaluation of support to agricultural value chains, a formative evaluation to inform the implementation of the Feed Africa strategy. For 2018, we are starting an evaluation of PBOs that will be presented at the ADF mid term review. The sharp increase in PBOs is of concern.

We are starting a range of corporate evaluations following up on the CEDR findings. These include self-evaluation systems, quality at entry, quality of supervision, integrated safeguard systems. We note several potential areas of collaboration or information sharing.

Asian Development Bank, Independent Evaluation Department

AIIB and NDB have begun operations which has implications for ADB operations. ADB is reflecting on its strategy 2030 and the direction it will take in going forward. These new institutions are coming to operate on infrastructure which is a main focus of ADB.

Evaluation in ADB - IED evaluations that help shaping the new ADB

The Annual Evaluation Review: Learning from the Lessons from the Project Evaluations (2017 AER): Reporting on trends in performance of ADB and the follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations from IED reports, the AER focuses this year is on how to better take advantage of the documented lessons learned from project evaluation.

Knowledge, Finance and the Quality of Growth: An Evaluative Perspective of Strategy 2030: Taking stock of trends in the region and the collective findings from the past 5 years of project, country and thematic evaluations, this report provides a framework and recommendations to be considered by ADB in developing its Strategy 2030.

Key messages from these reports: the need to focus on the quality of growth, as opposed to the magnitude of growth; the importance of adopting thematic and more integrated programmatic approaches; the imperative for ADB to become a more expert-driven and agile development partner capable to respond to the demand for more sophisticated financial and knowledge solutions.

Development in IED

Reorganization of the Department to better respond to the changing needs of ADB and the evaluation function within the institution.

Development of a new vision and focus on critical priority actions: re-balancing the product mix; aiming for excellence in the quality of our work; generating a stronger value-addition from the knowledge side of IED's work.
Other Key On-Going Evaluations


India Country Assistance Program Evaluation, 2007-2015 - 14 June 2017: This evaluation assesses the performance of ADB’s strategy and program for India between 2007 and 2015. ADB support for India over the period was found to be successful. Its findings are intended to feed into the design of the next country partnership strategy.

Boosting ADB’s Mobilization Capacity: The Role of Credit Enhancement Products - 27 June 2017. This corporate evaluation assesses ADB’s use of CEPs based on an assessment of ADB’s past credit enhancement product (CEP) operations, market needs, supply, and practices including that of other CEPs providers—other development finance institutions (DFIs), official export credit agencies (ECAs), and private insurers.

Corporate Evaluation of ADB Policy Based Lending - early 2018. The evaluation will look at how effectively policy based lending supports the financing and policy reform needs of ADB borrowing member countries. Methodology is focused on quality at entry, a mix of desk based review and country missions covering ten countries, a review of PBL literature, and portfolio analysis.

Result-Based Lending (RBL) at the Asian Development Bank - late 2017. This evaluation will provide an early stage assessment of the RBL pilot program introduced by ADB in 2013 for a period of six years. It will present recommendations to ensure that this new modality adds value to Developing Member Countries (DMCs) and ADB, as intended by the RBL policy.

Sharing Knowledge and Building a Culture of Evaluation in the Region: Key Events

At ADB’s 2017 Annual Meeting in Yokohama, IED hosted Completing the Last Mile: The Evolving Role of MDBs in Middle-Income Countries, a high-level seminar that discussed the rationale for MDBs to stay engaged with MICs, and key areas for continued cooperation.

Caught in a Trap? Asia and the Pacific's Middle-Income Countries at a Crossroads, Bangkok, 21 June 2017. Organized in partnership with Thailand's Thammasat University, this learning event will discuss challenges and opportunities associated with MICs and present cutting edge solutions and promising experiences.

Following the great success of the 2016 AEW, IED and the Ministry of Finance, PRC will jointly sponsor the upcoming 2017 Asian Evaluation Week. The theme for this year’s AEW is Evaluation for Policymaking, with special focus on inclusive growth. The AEW will be held from 4–7 September 2017 in Hangzhou, People’s Republic of China. The AEW gather government officials, international organizations, and independent evaluation experts to exchange knowledge in evaluation. ECG members are all invited to participate and hold a session, on the same terms as last year.

Black Sea and Trade Development Bank

Recent developments in BSTDB: KPI system, attention to local currency lending, geographical-sector balance, Climate/SDG agenda.

Annual Evaluation Overview: key findings and trends, e.g. 71% positive evaluation ratings (vs. target of 70%), modest improvement on self-evaluation quality.

Comments on increasing divergence among results on different evaluation criteria: 72-73% good on relevance/effectiveness vs. 58% on Efficiency and Institutional Development.

Follow up on evaluation studies on pricing-additionality: previously noted issues increase their relevance.

There is a need to improve ways of working with the Board through the audit committee as the way minutes are organised and minutes are taken are historically dominated by interactions between the committee and the Board.
Management will expire in the next year which offers new opportunities. There is talk of decentralisation (presence in the field) and creating country based teams (opposed to sector).

**European Bank for Reconstruction and Development**

The Bank is in an unsettled situation with high level of anxiety and bewilderment following Brexit, European political uncertainties, the direction of the US policies, Russia and changes in European dynamics. There is also a continuing widening of EBRD’s scope and aspirations. EvD will be operating in this context for the next few years which will present challenges. There is a probably unrealistic sense of optimism about the new AIIB as some kind of “magic elixir” for institutions looking to maintain volume.

**Wider Institutional/Regional Level**

- Continued widening of EBRD’s de facto mandate – new areas where other institutions have much experience (and evaluation findings)
- Challenges to balance sheet and business model arising from low interest environment and increasing reliance on concessional funding
- Operational work getting underway with AIIB

**Evaluation-Specific Issues**

- Major shift in EvD focus and product mix under work programme for 2017 which has moved away from project focused to thematic, strategy and wider evaluations. One implication is fewer project evaluations and a reduced basis for EvD to be able to confirm institutional level performance for accountability purposes.
- EvD has moved away from ECG Good Practices on sampling and moved to purposeful sampling with full support from the Board who are interested in the strategic insights.
- Launch of external evaluation of EvD.
- Management adoption of standardised compendium of indicators – potential implications for evaluation
- Updates on specific work items underway (thematic studies) include: an evaluation of the concept of additionality; investment climate; credit lines; equity operations; small business support. Management looking to EvD for the insights and is less defensive.

**European Investment Bank**

1. Current EU issues relevant for the EIB which are presenting challenges include:
   - The sluggish and uneven recovery from the EU financial crisis and the Juncker plan
   - The issue of migration and the External Investment Plan and Resilience Initiative
   - Brexit
   - The next EU Multiannual Financial Framework, post 2020

2. EV’s on-going evaluations and areas of focus
   - EFSI – The European Fund for Strategic Investments
   - SPLs (structural programme loans) - Selected Blending Activities
   - EIB Mandates (evaluability frameworks)
   - The follow up of recommendations
   - Getting closer to measuring impact
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

1. IFAD new President Gilbert Houngbo was elected in February 2017 and started in April 2017.
2. 11th Replenishment Cycle was also launched in February.
3. Harmonization Agreement on Methodology
4. Revision of the Performance-based Allocation System, with input from a Corporate-level Evaluation
5. Revision of the Results and Impact Management Structure (RIMS) and IOE’s comments
7. ICT4Eval Conference – important reflection on how profession needs to be evolve in data gathering and processing, and how to engage with end users in view of dissemination.
8. Joint project evaluation with AsDB in Laos. Hope to replicate experience with AfDB in the future.
9. Peer Review of IOE in 2018 has been approved by the Board. ECG members will be asked to conduct in collaboration with the DAC EvalNET.

Inter-American Development Bank, Office of Evaluation and Oversight

Developments in LAC:

- Some positives (Argentina)
- Continuing difficulties (commodity prices, slow growth, corruption scandals, Venezuela)

Developments in IDB Group:

- New beginnings in IIC
- Late-stage feel in IDB (Pres, VPS, MIF, OVE)
- Uncertainty of new US admin (eg MIF)
- Challenges in IDB-IIC structure and coordination

OVE’s evaluation activities:

- Private Sector: Equity, Direct SME support
- Public Sector: Impact Evaluations, Gender and Indigenous Peoples, Public Finance (Tax policy and administration)
- Public and Private (IDB Group): PPPs in Infrastructure, Safeguards, Knowledge Bank, PCR/XSR validations (1st set under new consolidated framework)
- Corporate: Merge-Out progress report (controversial because the Board does not want this to go ahead), IDB9 Final Evaluation. Both are likely lead to confrontations with the Board.

Independent Evaluation Office of the International Monetary Fund (IEO IMF)

1. Follow-up on the evaluation of programs in Greece, Ireland and Portugal, mainly conditionality in currency unions, working with Regional Financing Arrangements, and protocol of interactions between IEO and Staff
2. Recently issued update on Multilateral Surveillance
4. Two ongoing updates: Exchange Rate Advice and Structural Conditionality
5. MIPs, PMRs and the framework to follow up on Board endorsed recommendations
6. Upcoming third external evaluation of the IEO.

Independent Evaluation Group (IEG), World Bank Group

Global Context

- Continued headwinds and slow recovery
- Pressures on the multilateral system
- Continued need to raise funding for SDGs
**WBG**

- Adopted the “Forward Look: Cascade and Creating Markets”

**IEG**

- New senior management team in place.
- Work Program (completed and foreseen work). Strong demands from management to do evaluations so have introduced a new type of evaluation.
- Joint Evaluation Framework for the WBG is currently being finalized which will set out principles for all institutions which will look at how self-evaluation integrates better. There was a strong demand from the Board.
- Improving quality of work with an emphasis on methodology. The methods advisor has brought many more diverse methods. IEG academy is being launched. Continuing to transform and strengthen IEG.
- ICR Reform

**Islamic Development Bank**

1. The Board of Executive Directors decide to establish a Committee on Development Effectiveness (CODE). GOED previously reported to the audit committee so hope to focus on development effectiveness. Expect the Committee to be up and running by early 2018. The TOR have been accepted by the Board.

2. Major Changes in IsDB:
   a. Following the appointment of Dr. Bandar Hajjar as the new President and Chairman of the IsDB Group since 1st October, 2016, he has launched his ‘President 5 Year Program (P5P)’ with the aim for the Bank to become more proactive, fast and adaptive. The P5P will focus on the following tracks: (i) bring the Bank closer to Member Countries and give greater delegation of authority to the field; (ii) enhance development impact through comprehensive development solutions integrating the services and products of the Group; (iii) expand and deepen existing partnerships; (iv) diversify sources of funding; and (v) expand capacity development and leverage expertise of partners.
   b. New organizational structure of the IsDB is in the draft stage to reflect the new P5P. New President’s plan based on outcomes of the corporate evaluations discussed last year. He is considering decentralising the bank (to bring closer to clients) which is creating some anxiety among staff.
   c. Appointment of two New Vice-Presidents, (i) Finance and CFO; and (ii) HR & Corporate Services.

3. Higher Level Evaluations:
   a. As part of its Annual Work Programme for 2017, the GOED undertook Member Country Partnership Strategy (MCPS) Implementation Reviews in Uganda and Tunisia. The Review for Niger and Kazakhstan are being launched later this year. The MCPs have boosted engagement, in particular in Uganda, however dispersement and implementation is seen to be lagging.
   b. GOED is conducting a synthesis of evaluations in Water and Sanitation, in addition to program evaluation of Microfinance and Investment Promotion Technical Assistance Program (ITAP).

4. Other:
   a. GOED conducted capacity building workshop in Evaluation for the Court of Accounts in Benin in 2016, Morocco in April 2017. A similar workshop is planned for the last week of May in Togo for Senior Government staff.
ECG Observers

Global Environment Facility

1. The 6th Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS6) is a key document informing the ongoing GEF-7 replenishment process. There are altogether 29 component evaluations and studies providing evidence regarding GEF performance, results, impact, and organizational and governance aspects.

2. GEF strategic positioning in the environmental finance landscape – An important aspect of OPS6 is to analyze GEF comparative advantage in the increasingly crowded environmental and climate finance landscape.

3. Results and impact – We have conducted evaluations in all GEF focal areas (biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, chemicals) using innovative approaches, such as geospatial technologies, honing in on GEF results and impacts, as well as value-for-money.

4. GEF support to environmental laws and policies, and transformational change – Two studies have focused on evaluating the results of GEF support to legal and policy reform, and the conditions for transformational change.

5. GEF work with the private sector – A priority area for the replenishment is understanding how GEF could strengthen its collaboration with the private sector and, consequently, we have conducted evaluative work on this aspect.

OECD DAC Network on Development Evaluation

The DAC Evaluation Network held its 20th meeting on 22-23 February with strong attendance from OECD member capitals and multilateral partner institutions (including six members of the ECG).

A new bureau was elected with Mr Per Bastoe (Norway) as Chair, and Ms Wendy Asbeek Brusse (the Netherlands) and Mr Keeichi Muraoka (Japan) elected Vice-Chairs. The meeting focused on evaluation topics related to current policy priorities, including sharing of experiences in evaluating peacebuilding and complex programmes in fragile and conflict-affected countries, and on private sector development. The meeting also focused on peer learning and exchange among members, drawing on key issues brought up in the Review of Evaluation Systems in Development Co-operation. The Secretariat is currently finalising a paper on emerging lessons from evaluation in refugee contexts. This will feed into the ongoing work on guidance for better programming in refugee contexts within the DAC Temporary Working Group on Refugees and Migration, which also involves clarification of ODA reporting directives of in-donor refugee costs. The temporary working group will report to the DAC High Level Meeting in October 2017. The Network’s task team on evaluation capacity development, led by Sweden, will met on 17-18 May in Stockholm and develop a plan to take the ECD agenda forward.

The next meeting of the DAC Evaluation Network will take place in Paris on 14-15 November 2017.

United Nations Evaluation Group

AGM in Vienna took place in May. Some 41 out of 50 members attended. UNEG membership is increasing resulting in concern about sustainable growth of the network and membership criteria. An independent mid-term review of the 2014-2019 UNEG strategy is expected to provide insights on whether this active network is doing the right things and is sufficiently ambitious or too ambitious. The exults of the MTR will inform UNEG's forward looking strategy.

AGM discussed several milestones in each Strategic Objective (SO) Groups that have been achieved in 2016/17 and listed here are those relevant for the ECG members.

SO1: Evaluation functions and products of UN entities meet the UNEG Norms and Standards for evaluation
• The UNEG Norms and Standards for evaluation were updated and disseminated widely. This document was also the most downloaded product on the UNEG website indicative of their utility and importance
• The Evaluation Competency Framework was revised and published.
• Two peer reviews were conducted namely ITC and UNODC and the one with UNICEF is ongoing
• Exploratory study of the decentralized evaluation functions across UNEG agencies was commissioned

SO2: UN entities and partners use evaluation in support of accountability and programme learning
• The principles and good practices for stakeholder engagement was developed
• The checklist for improved quality of evaluation recommendations was drafted
• A study on the implementation of the governance structure of UNEG members in promoting the was commissioned

SO3: Evaluation informs UN system-wide initiatives and emerging demands
• Focus on SDGs; activities included a series of regional consultations on the roadmap for the SDGs took place
• A document on good practices on integrating gender into evaluations was developed
• New groups on humanitarian evaluation and culturally responsive evaluation were established and UNEG was also a member of the ISWE

SO4: UNEG benefits from and contributes to an enhanced global evaluation profession
• UNEG is co-chairing EvalPartners and the Third Global Evaluation Forum was organized at the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan
• Partners such as EvalGender, EvalSDGs and EvalYouth are bringing new ideas into the evaluation community
• UNEG continued its advocacy work towards the evaluation community and organized the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) sided events in New York

Looking ahead, of note is the HLPF in July in New York. SDGEval points to absence of use of evaluation in voluntary national reviews even for countries with wrong national evaluation functions. UNEG plans a side event to highlight the relevance for evaluation and for building national capacities.
## Annex 2: ECG Spring Meeting 2017
### IFAD Headquarters, 8-9 June

### List of Participants

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Participant name</th>
<th>Business title</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
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Annex 3: High Level Session on the Role of Evaluation in the Transformation of Multilateral Development Banks

Agenda

14:30-14:50 WELCOME and OPENING ADDRESSES

- Welcome and introduction remarks by **Mr. Oscar A. Garcia**, Chair of the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG); and Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD
- Opening remarks by **Mr. Gilbert Houngbo**, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

14:50-15:10 KEYNOTE ADDRESSES: Possible future paths for Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and the role of independent evaluation in transforming the MDBs

**Mr. Enrique García Rodríguez**, Former Executive President of the Development Bank of Latin America

Presentation

15:10-17:20 PANEL SESSION: What are the main challenges faced by MDBs in terms of financing, expertise and coordination of development efforts? What is the role of independent evaluation? The way forward: meeting today's development challenges

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

15:10-16:15 Panelists:

- **Prof. Bambang Brodjonegoro**, Minister for National Development Planning of the Republic of Indonesia
- **Dr. Joachim von Amsberg**, Vice President, Policy and Strategy of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- **Ms. Cheryl Gray**, Director of the Office of Evaluation and Oversight of the Inter-American Development Bank
- **Mr. Enrique García Rodríguez**, Former Executive President of the Development Bank of Latin America

16:15 – 16:45 Coffee break

16:45-17:30 Q&A session

17:30-18:00 CLOSING ADDRESSES

17:30-17:45 Reflections for the future by **Mr. Masood Ahmed**, President of the Center for Global Development

17:45-18:00 Concluding remarks **Mr. Oscar A. Garcia**, ECG Chair and Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD

18:00 End of High-level Session