

**UNITED NATIONS EVALUATION GROUP PROFESSIONAL PEER REVIEW OF
THE EVALUATION FUNCTION OF UNICEF:**22nd February 2017

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Dear UNICEF evaluation stakeholders,

I am writing to inform you about the upcoming **Professional Peer Review of the evaluation function in UNICEF**.

As part of the overall trend towards greater accountability on development effectiveness, the OECD-DAC Network on Development Evaluation (EVALNET) and the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) established a Joint Task Force to initiate and support professional peer reviews of the evaluation functions of UN organizations. UNICEF was, in 2006, among the first UN agencies to have such a Peer Review and, in accordance with its Revised Evaluation Policy, this is now due to be repeated.

The Professional Peer Review of UNICEF will be conducted in line with the UN Evaluation Group Framework for Professional Peer Reviews of Evaluation Function of UN Organizations which is based on internationally recognized standards, and has been adapted and tailored to the specific context of UNICEF. While this framework lays emphasis on three key principles, namely, independence, credibility, and usefulness of the evaluation function, it will also take a forward-looking approach aiming to identify suggestions to help the evaluation function adapt to emerging trends and issues in support of UNICEF's broader strategy.

The primary audiences for the Peer Review will be the UNICEF Senior Management and Member States (Executive Board), as well as the evaluation function itself (both the central and decentralised parts of the function). The Peer Review report will be presented to the Executive Director and the Executive Board of UNICEF and will be publicly disclosed.

Professional Peer Reviews are conducted by an independent Peer Panel consisting of professional evaluators with the support of expert advisors. The Peer Review Panel and supporting international expert for this exercise will be:

- Mr. Michael Spilsbury, Director, Evaluation Office, UN Environment, Nairobi, Kenya (Chair);
- Ms. Anne-Claire Luzot, Chief Evaluation Officer at World Health Organization, Geneva;
- Mr. Per Øyvind Bastøe, Evaluation Director, NORAD, Oslo;
- Ms. Nancy MacPherson, Evaluation Director, Rockefeller Foundation, New York;
- Mr A.K. Shiva Kumar, International Development Economist, New Delhi, India;
- Ms. Tullia Aiazzi, International Evaluation Consultant, Rome, Italy.

A brief biography of the Peer Review Panel Members is appended below.

The work for this exercise has already commenced, and is more fully described in the Terms of Reference for the Review (available on request). It involves desk-review of key UNICEF documents, interviews with a wide range of evaluation stakeholders including: UNICEF Executive Board Members, UNICEF Senior Management, UNICEF Staff involved in evaluation work, both at headquarters and in the regions, Project and Programme Managers, professional evaluation consultants and a range of other external partners and interlocutors that regularly interact with UNICEF in the context of evaluations.

A review mission by the Peer Review Panel to UNICEF headquarters has been planned for 6th- 10th of March 2017. The UNICEF Evaluation Office will be setting up appointments with stakeholders on behalf of the panel. We very much look forward to the opportunity of engaging with UNICEF evaluation stakeholders and convey our gratitude in advance for the anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,

Michael J Spilsbury
Director

Summary background information on Peer Review Panel Members

UNICEF Peer Review Panel	Experience / Perspective
Panel Chair Mike Spilsbury	Director of Evaluation, UN Environment. More than 20 years evaluation experience. UN Environment Evaluation function since 2005, Director since 2013 –UNEG Co-Chair of Peer Review sub-group. Chaired UNODC Peer Review. Formerly research impact assessment specialist in a CGIAR centre.
OECD-DAC Member Per Øyvind Bastøe	Evaluation Director NORAD, formerly World Bank and Asian Development Bank, RBM and Change Management Specialist, on the executive boards the Inter-American Development Bank and the Inter-American Investment Cooperation
UNEG Member Anne-Claire Luzot	Chief Evaluation Officer at WHO. Formerly ILO, WFP and UNICEF (regional) – brings important contextual knowledge and understanding of decentralised evaluation arrangements and humanitarian work in the UN in general. Panel member for the ITC evaluation function peer review.
Foundation Member Nancy Macpherson	Director of Evaluation, Rockefeller Foundation. Experience of managing evaluation functions at strategy, programme and grant portfolio levels and has 25 years of experience in development evaluation in Asia and Africa with international development organizations, IUCN, the United Nations, multilateral and bilateral agencies. She brings evaluation perspectives from ‘foundation world’.
Panel Member A.K. Shiva Kumar	A development economist and evaluator who works on issues related to human development - poverty, health, nutrition, basic education, and the rights of women and children. He has served as senior policy advisor to UNICEF India and as the Director of the International Centre for Human Development in New Delhi, India. He is Co-Chair of the Know Violence in Childhood – a global learning initiative that is synthesizing evidence to advocate for ending violence. Founding board member of the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS). He has undertaken several evaluation assignments for IDRC, IFAD, the Rockefeller Foundation, UNDP, UNICEF and other agencies. He has been a regular contributor to UNDP’s Human Development Reports and National Human Development Reports.
International Consultant Tullia Aiazzi	More than thirteen years as a Senior Evaluator in FAO and as an evaluator for a bilateral development assistance organisation. Understanding of central and decentralised evaluation processes. In-depth understanding of UNEG Norms and Standard, Peer Review frameworks, and SDGs, served as consultant for the UNODC Peer Review.