

## ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2016

### **The role and contribution of collective response evaluation for accountability and learning to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda**

Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Steering Group

**Tuesday, 28 June, 13.30 – 14.45**  
**Conference Room 12, United Nations Secretariat, New York**

This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year's theme: *Restoring Humanity and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.*

#### **Background and objectives**

Robust, independent and credible evaluation plays a key role in strengthening the effectiveness and accountability of development and humanitarian action. Findings from evaluations demonstrate effectiveness and results, and have informed and should continue to inform system wide policy decisions and change initiatives, such as the Transformative Agenda, the Grand Bargain, and the 2030 Agenda. In particular, IASC-Inter Agency Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHEs) demonstrate the strength of the international humanitarian system's commitment to learning and continuous improvement for even more coherent, effective and efficient humanitarian responses.

The objectives of this side event, therefore, are to provide Member States an opportunity to consider some of the key learning from recent collective evaluations, as well as to discuss the role that evaluation should play in the follow up, review and assessment of progress towards the achievement of the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit, the ten commitment areas of the Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity, and as a vital and independent source of evidence on the global humanitarian system's performance and results.

#### **Discussion points**

Against this backdrop, the side-event will focus on the following suggested questions:

- **1- Learning to date from IAHEs:** *How does learning from inter-agency humanitarian evaluations and evaluation synthesis help inform the ten commitment areas in support of the Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity?*
- **2- Measuring progress through collective evaluations:** *What is the potential for using collective evaluation and evaluation synthesis to inform our analysis and understanding of progress made towards the achievement of WHS commitments and the SG's Agenda for Humanity?*
- **3- The use of evaluation evidence by decision makers:** *Are evaluations currently used to their full potential by policy and decision-makers, and in which ways can the use of evaluation continue to be improved?*

#### **Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations**

Lessons learned through evaluations can help to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda commitments. They create a body of evidence around key areas, such as on how to build the nexus between humanitarian and development, and to define a new way for the international community to work together, as requested by the Secretary-General in his report for the World Humanitarian Summit “One Humanity – Shared Responsibility”. They can also help us track progress towards the achievement of the outcomes and objectives stated. This session will discuss the ways in which agencies can work with evaluations and evaluation methodologies better, in order to harness the power of this form of evidence for achieving the core commitments of the 2030 Agenda. The outcomes of the side event will be used to define and agree on ways to better use evaluation evidence for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda commitments.

### **Format**

The format of this side event will be a panel discussion that will take place around the three questions posed by the Chair to the panelists. Following the panelists’ interventions, speakers from the floor will be invited to contribute their views through an interactive dialogue.

### **Chair(s):**

- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

### **Panel composition:**

- Panelist: Mr. Manuel Bessler, Ambassador, and Head of Swiss Humanitarian Aid, Switzerland
- Panelist: Mr. James Darcy, Senior independence evaluator, and Vice-Chair of Oxfam’s GB Board of Trustees, and Chair of Oxfam’s Programme Committee
- Panelist: Ms. Loreine Dela Cruz, Executive Director, Center for Disaster Preparedness, Philippines
- Panelist: Mr. John Mitchell, Director, ALNAP

### **Background Material**

*Link to the pages on Inter-agency Humanitarian Evaluations at the IASC website:*  
<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/evaluations>

### **Contact**

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