The launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the International Year of Evaluation give the global community a significant opportunity to bring evaluation to the forefront of the new Sustainable Development Goals.

Seizing this opportunity, representatives across sectors took part in two official side events of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development on 13 July 2016, at UNICEF Headquarters in New York.

These events featured lively panel discussions and Q&A on evaluation in the service of the SDGs. The talks focused on how evaluation can support effective national follow up and review of progress to achieve the SDGs and how to develop equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluation frameworks to ensure that “no one is left behind”. Gender equality and social equity featured prominently in the discussion, and comments from the panel and audience echoed the sentiment that gender equality is everyone’s business.

Participants and audience left the vibrant discussions with five key takeaways:

- Gender equality, equity and the “no one left behind” principle is most important.
- The SDGs can only succeed if guided by evidence.
- Partnerships are crucial to move forward.
- Not all targets are relevant for all countries- an integrated approach linking goals is key.
- Evaluation identifies what progress means, what works, how and why.
Event 1:
Evaluation in the service of national SDG review mechanisms focusing on gender equality and social equity

Chair: Marco Segone, UNEG Chair; Director, UN Women Independent Evaluation Office; Co-chair, EvalGender+
Opening remarks: HE Rohan Perera, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations

Panelists:
Hon Olfa Cherif, Member of Parliament, Republic of Tunisia, and Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation Steering Committee
HE Rachid Benmokhtar Benabdellah, Minister of National Education and Vocational Training, Kingdom of Morocco
Hon Natalia Nikitenko, Member of Parliament, Kyrgyzstan, and Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation Steering Committee
Gonzalo Hernández Licona, Executive Secretary of The National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL)
Felipe Castro Pachon, Director of M&E of Public Policies, National Planning Department, Colombia

Are the evaluation functions in your country gender-responsive and equity-focused?

"If we really want to leave no one behind, we need to start with evaluating those traditionally left behind" - @Felipe_Castro #HLPF2016

It’s not only about disaggregating #data, #evaluation should look at structural causes of inequalities- @msegone #HLPF2016

Monitoring and #evaluation should be an integral part of government, local, national - Hon Natalia Nikitenko of @un_kyrgyzstan #HLPF2016

We include a gender perspective focus on all of our #evaluations, we work w/ @UN_Women’s local office in #Colombia- @Felipe_Castro #HLPF2016

Information at the community level is important to know what kind of disparities exist- @BenmokhtarMENFP #HLPF2016 #evaluation #data

"Most of the conflicts we have in the world now are about people feeling left behind." - @GHLicona #HLPF2016 #SDGs #GlobalGoals

3 takeaways: #SDGs only succeed if guided by evidence. No one left behind principle is most important. Partnerships are crucial. #HLPF2016
What efforts are underway to supplement monitoring of the SDGs with evaluative critical thinking, policies, plans, and programs that affect the accomplishment of the SDGs?