Visionary leadership requires evidence. Parliamentarians need to know what interventions are best suited to their national context. The establishment of a National Evaluation Policy is a foundational step in better equipping parliaments and governments to make evidence-based decisions that are in the best national interest.

What is a National Evaluation Policy?

A National Evaluation Policy sets the standard for state level evaluative practice. It ensures that credible and objective evidence is used in the design, development, budgeting and review of any existing or proposed policy, bill or legislation.

By establishing the systems, processes and tools to carry out objective and independent evaluations, it improves parliamentary and governmental performance and accountability for delivering relevant, efficient, effective, sustainable and impactful policy, legislation and programmes.

What does a National Evaluation Policy do?

A National Evaluation Policy aims to:

- Strengthen and develop national evaluation capacity to ensure parliamentary and governmental decisions are evidence-based
- Support the establishment of robust and necessary mechanisms, systems, and processes that are required to conduct objective evaluations
- Promote evaluation as a requirement of development programming
- Advise parliamentarians about effective initiatives and development programmes to inform their decision making
- Ensure relevant data and information is captured to properly monitor progress of any policy or programme
- Provide evidence to better inform the public about national realities and respond to citizen demands

“...we have got a vision: we want to become a middle income country by 2020. How do we attain this? We need evidence. We need evaluation in whatever we are doing - every step that we are taking”
–Hon. Atim Joy Ongom, Parliament of Uganda

What can a National Evaluation Policy achieve for parliaments and governments?

A National Evaluation Policy can:

- Build public trust and confidence in parliamentary and governmental accountability, and the effectiveness of national development interventions
- Ensure more effective resource allocation, by monitoring and reviewing successes and barriers to achieving outcomes
- Provide assurance to tax payers, donors and investors for the accountability of resources and their appropriate investment in effective programmes
- Provide a framework and evidence-based learning to support civil society interventions, to ensure more holistic and aligned programming
- Assist in most efficiently meeting national Sustainable Development Goal targets, and achieving social equity and human rights
- Demonstrate the tangible achievements of the parliament in order to encourage popular public support

“With the Sustainable Development Goals we know that the livelihoods of the people will change - their lives will be changed - but this can only happen if there is effective evaluation by Members of Parliament” –Hon. Thokozani Khupe, Parliament of Zimbabwe
“When you talk in Parliament with evidence and you show that something is wrong people believe in you, people respect you and your stature” – Hon. Kabir Hashim, Parliament of Sri Lanka

Parliamentarians advocated for the inclusion of evaluation in the Constitutions of Nepal and Ivory Coast, to ensure evidence-based decision making.

Kyrgyz Republic parliamentarians brought about legislation on evaluation in 2014.

Want to know more?
The Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation can connect you with relevant experts to support your unique needs and advance evaluative practice in your parliament.

Contact us today.

Did you know?

The first national parliament to host an evaluation event was the Parliament of Nepal, in association with Nepal's National Parliamentarians Forum for Development Evaluation Policy.