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Panel: Responsible Parliaments – Embracing Evaluation for Agenda 2030:  
Follow up to EvalColombo2018 and Colombo Declaration

# Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation Colombo Declaration and Follow up to Commitments

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## Take away message

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Participants will learn the importance of institutionalization of evaluation in Parliaments for strengthening evidence-informed decision making towards sustainable development. Participants will also learn the parliamentarians' role in national evaluation policies and systems.

# Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation

## Background

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Initiated in South Asia with three parliamentarians – Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka

Launched at the Parliament of Nepal in Nov 2015 in the context of the International Year of Evaluation 2015.

Governance – Steering Committee consisting of parliamentarian representatives from each region.

Around 300 parliamentarians around the world are members

# Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation

## Goal

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To create enabling environments for nationally owned, transparent, systematic and standardized evaluation processes. Through capacity building, knowledge sharing and advocacy.

The Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation supports and empowers parliamentarians to deliver evidence-based policy that helps achieve good governance, sustainable development and social equity.



**More than 250 participants, including  
MPs from 70 countries, gathered in  
Colombo, Sri Lanka**

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# The Colombo Declaration and its expectations

# The Colombo Declaration

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Parliamentarians, as citizens' representatives responsible for exercising parliamentary oversight and lawmaking, can play a leading role in creating and maintaining favorable conditions for the use of evaluation.

# In order to create such favorable conditions, parliamentarians should initiate, stimulate and coordinate:

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- The adoption of a **national evaluation policy** and the creation of a **national evaluation system** - taking into account the national context, existing governance systems, as well as international norms and standards;
- Allocation of budget funds for the creation of evaluation systems and evaluation;
- Development of deputies and employees of parliaments and state structures of technical skills necessary to use the results of the evaluation for the continuous improvement of development laws, programs and projects;
- Professionalization of evaluation through the institutionalization of training and professional development in the field of evaluation.

# Commitments

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**One of the outcomes of regional discussions of the way forward after EvalColombo2018 was revamped commitment to regional cooperation between members of parliaments interested in evaluation.**

For example, delegates from the East Asia and Pacific region agreed to establish a regional platform for cooperation between MPs interested in evaluation. Representatives of MENA region committed to cooperation and exchange of information between parliaments both within the region and globally.

# Commitments

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**Working towards stronger cooperation between members of parliaments and national VOPEs was another commitment made by the EvalColombo2018 participants.**

For example, a member of the city council from Kazakhstan committed to get involved with the national VOPE to learn about its work and evaluation in general. Members of the Kyrgyzstan Parliament and the national VOPE agreed to work jointly to develop a M&E system for the national programme “Healthy Person – Prosperous Country” to pilot principles to be embedded in the national evaluation policy.

# Commitments

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**Delegates also agreed to make efforts to build evaluation capacity of members of parliaments.**

For example, representatives of the East Asia and Pacific region agreed to conduct capacity assessment of national parliaments in the region to understand their specific capacity needs as well as political constraints in each of the countries.

# Commitments

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## Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)

EvalColombo2018 was an opportunity to discuss the role of national evaluation policies and systems in good governance, policy making, and accountability; the contribution (or lack thereof) of evaluation to Voluntary National Reviews in the context of reporting on SDGs; etc. Specific commitments were made by country representatives to foster evaluation and its contribution to the achievement of the SDGs.

# Forming a team of like-minded people

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## - In Parliament

Reaffirm amongst delegates the importance of using evidence as part of good governance,

## - Civil society (national professional community)

Raise awareness on the role of parliaments and parliamentarians in driving the SDGs agenda,

Promote dialogue between parliamentarians, government, evaluation practitioners, and civil society to encourage their joint use of evaluations for decision making,

## - In the Government

Agree on way forward compiled in the including country commitments for National Evaluation Policies/ Systems and Voluntary National Reviews.

# Form a supportive legal and regulatory environment

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- Provisions, regulations of the Parliament on the M&E of laws and results of programs
- Formation of units in the Parliament responsible for the terms of reference for the evaluation of laws and results of programs
- Laws at country level to conduct M&E
- Request the Government to evaluate the programs
- Request the Government for an SDG evaluation, not just statistics

GPFE invites parliamentarians, VOPEs, governments and dev partners

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Work together towards National Evaluation Policies and Systems in countries.

Stay connected:

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