

Multi-Dimensional Evaluation for Influence & Transformation

With the world facing rising geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, climate change and widening social inequities, how effective are current evaluation approaches and methods at supporting and driving real-world transformational change? Participants met in Rome over 3 days, from 4-6 March 2025, to discuss this pressing subject. The forum for such discussion was the joint global conference organised by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of NDB and the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS), under the title “**Multi-Dimensional Evaluation for Influence & Transformation**”. The conference was held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Around 300 participants converged for the conference including: senior government officials from NDB member countries and beyond; Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives from NDB member countries, BRICS and BRICS partner countries to the United Nations in Rome; policy and decision-makers; heads and high-level officials of evaluation offices from major multilateral development institutions; representatives of academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector; and others. Notable speakers included: **Dr. Qu Dongyu**, Director-General, FAO; **H.E Rania Al-Mashat**, Minister of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation, Egypt; and **Professor Michael Kremer**, winner of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics, who gave a keynote lecture on “Evaluation, Innovation and Development”.

On day one, attendees met to take part in professional development workshops, designed for beginners to experienced evaluators, on the practical application of, for example, artificial intelligence in evaluation and how to scale up evaluation impact. The main conference then took place on 5-6 March, with 35 sessions taking place over 6 different thematic “strands” in the form of panel and round table discussions.

Sessions covered topics of interest, such as how evaluation can support the achievement of the SDGs and action on climate change, and the role of young people in evaluation. IEO organised strand 6 of the conference, partnering with organisations like the AIIB, EBRD, IFAD, and IsDB under the theme of “Evaluation for sustainable development in the BRICS and other emerging market and developing economies (EMDCs)”.

The joint organisation of this global conference by IEO with IDEAS provided a unique opportunity to raise NDB’s visibility as a credible multilateral development bank that devotes necessary attention to assessing results and learning through rigorous independent evaluations for better prosperity and wellbeing in EMDCs. It was also a demonstration of the Bank’s increasing convening power, a further reflection of its growing global standing in the multilateral architecture. A full conference report will be prepared and circulated widely in the near future. In the meantime, further information may be seen at the conference website [here](#).

Independent Evaluation Office

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