Generating a Synthesis Report of the EvalSDGs Spotlight Countries

1. Background

EVALSDGs, as a network, advocates for the use of “EvalSDGs Spotlight” as a tool to build and reinforce the national evaluation capacities of the countries and contribute to empowering various partners in exchanging and sharing learnings and experiences accumulated and generated through the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) and national evaluation processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

EVALSDGs is an EvalPartners initiative that seeks to promote evaluation activities around the SDGs, mobilize and support the evaluation community to work on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The network aims to trigger the enabling environment for evaluation relevant to the SDGs, providing a platform for dialogue, advocacy and knowledge generation in relation to evaluation and the SDGs, assisting the institutional capacities of VOPEs and evaluators, and fostering inter-linkages and interactions between initiatives to strengthen evaluation and implement and review the SDGs.

2. Scope of the EVALSDGs Spotlights:

This EvalSDGs Spotlight reflects the perspectives of EVALSDGs inspired by its “raison d’être”, and aims at:
- Capturing the learnings from the “follow up and review” Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) and other national evaluation processes of the SDGs.
- Providing a platform for learning, sharing and exchanging between countries,
- Building and reinforcing national evaluation capacities and empowering various partners to engage in the process.

The Spotlight process, so far, has been led by country focal points, mostly the VOPEs in the respective countries. Six countries have been part of the process, namely: Afghanistan, Tunisia, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan and Philippines.

3. Purpose and Scope of the Assignment

The consultancy aims at generating a synthesis report covering a total of 12 countries representing the various regions of the world. It should build on the existing six initial spotlight countries, and will add another six countries from the other regions.

The consultancy scope entails:

a) Framing the EvalSDG Spotlight and developing the spotlight tool that capture the various elements related to the national efforts to evaluate Agenda 2030
b) Developing a clear set of selection criteria for the additional countries.
c) Developing a synthesis report of the 12 countries based on a thorough desk review and consultation with the relevant stakeholders (will be identified in close coordination with EvalSDG Management
d) Engaging in a dialogue/consultation with the VOPEs and key government authorities/representatives of the leading government entity engaged in the SDG process and review. It is anticipated that the VOPE colleagues will help in establishing such contact between the consultant to the government entity.
Consulting all existing reports and studies relevant to the assignment. They include, but not exclusively, the following:

- The different spotlight presentations, documents and material generated by the EVALSDGs team
- The Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) of the respective countries presented at the two rounds of the HLPF
- National evaluation processes and reports on the SDGs
- EVALSDGs Briefing Paper series
- Relevant reports generated by the international Development Partners

Developing an EVALSDGs Spotlight diagnostic tool or maturity map to be used to engage other countries in the spotlight process.

Providing recommendations on how better to support spotlights in the future

4. Target Audience

The primary audiences for the reports will be EvalPartner with all its networks (EVALSDGs, the Global Parliamentarian Forum for Evaluation, among others), respective national authorities and development partners, international and national civil society, VOPEs (national and regional), in the Spotlight countries etc... The synthesis is also expected to be of wide interest amongst the evaluation community and those interested in the SDGs Follow-up and Review processes.

5. Timeline and deliverables

It is anticipated that the assignment will kick off the first week of September 2017 for a period of two months. It is envisaged that the framework and the tool, along with a preliminary assessment, should be communicated by the first week of October 2017. The inception should be shared one week after signing the contract, along with a proposed timeframe.

6. Management

The consultancy will be managed by EVALSDGs Executive Committee. The consultant will be in close and direct contact with EVALSDGs Vice-Chair. Regular updates will be provided to the Vice-Chair and the Executive Committee members.

7. Required qualifications and skills

The Consultant would need to have expertise in:

- Conducting multi-country studies on evaluation processes
- Synthesis of a large amounts of secondary literature
- International development evaluation practice and systems
- Knowledge international development evaluation practice and terrain
- Strong analytical and writing skills
- Competent in second language (French, Spanish, Russian or Arabic)

Interested candidates should submit a 4-page proposal describing the approach, methodology and timeframe, along with a budget proposal no later than September 8, 2017. Proposal should be submitted to kelsaddik@gmail.com with the email subject (EvalSDGs Spotlight Synthesis Report)