



# The Colombo Declaration

- 1 We the participants of EvalColombo2018 convened by the Global Parliamentarians Forum in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka, and the Sri Lanka Parliamentarians Forum here in Colombo 17 - 19 September 2018 declare to the people that;
- 2 Representing a global partnership of parliaments, governments, international development institutions, United Nations agencies, non-governmental agencies and evaluation professionals from over seventy nations, we have exchanged our views and experiences on the special role for parliamentarians in underpinning the role of evaluation evidence in support of development that brings; an end to poverty and hunger, protects the planet from degradation, and allows human beings to enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives, in peaceful, just and inclusive societies.
- 3 We strongly believe that decision making for such development must be informed by evidence that is credible, objective and timely and that well conducted evaluations are a valuable source of such evidence.

We understand that parliamentarians as representatives of citizens, custodians of parliamentary oversight and lawmakers, can play a leading role in creating and sustaining an enabling environment for evaluation.

- 4 To create such an enabling environment, parliamentarians acknowledge the need to provide guidance, encouragement and to facilitate;
  - i. the establishment of National Evaluation Policies and Systems that consider national context, governance structures as well as international norms and standards,
  - ii. the allocation of budget for the establishing of systems and for carrying out evaluations themselves,
  - iii. the development of technical capacity within parliament and administrative structures to utilize evaluative knowledge as evidence for continuous improvement of development interventions,
  - iv. the professionalisation of evaluation through institutionalising training and developing cadres of professional evaluators.
- 5 We acknowledge that parliaments must evaluate their own institutional performance to build coherence and capture synergies for achieving SDGs while national policies are developed.
- 6 We recognize that the building of collaboration and trust between all development stakeholders but particularly between evaluation professionals, as producers of evaluative knowledge and parliamentarians and program managers as users of that knowledge, is essential to guide development programs and policies to success.

