

Role of parliamentarians in building an enabling environment for evaluation

Parliamentarians have the power to debate and shape national evaluation policy, adopt and formulate laws pertaining to evaluation, earmark resources for the implementation of such legislation and monitor its implementation. These attributes make parliamentarians key players in developing an enabling environment for evaluation. In several regions such as South Asia and Europe and in countries such as Morocco, and the United States, CSOs and VOPEs are proactively working together with parliamentarians to increase the demand and use of evaluation in public policy-making. For example, in South Asia, the Parliamentarians Forum on Development Evaluation is an emerging collective of parliamentarians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka committed to development evaluations in SAARC countries. However, CSOs' and VOPEs' capacities to effectively engage with parliamentarians to build an enabling environment for evaluation vary greatly.

Specific ways in which parliamentarians can support an enabling environment for evaluation include the following¹:

- Parliamentarians can organize themselves as a formal group to work on development evaluation and can partner with VOPEs and other stakeholders to establish national evaluation policies, systems and mechanisms.
- Parliamentarians can ensure evidence from evaluation informs public policy-making.
- They can raise awareness on the need for national performance evaluation mechanisms within the parliament, government and civil society. They can play a key role in facilitating dialogue on development evaluation within the parliament.
- Parliamentarians can take the lead in advocating for national evaluation policies within the parliament, and can submit the policy to the parliament.
- Parliamentarians can partner with VOPEs to draft the national evaluation policy, and support finalization of the policy in consultation with the government.

For more information on how to work with parliamentarians to increase the demand for evaluation, see [Section 6](#).

¹ Adapted from EvalPartners, Parliamentarians Forum on Development Evaluation. (2013). *How to Engage Parliamentarians in Development Evaluation: Training for VOPEs, Government Policy-makers and Evaluation Professionals (Draft)*