

# UKES INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## Draft FRAMEWORK

### Background

This document sets out the policy for the International Group within UKES for the next 3 years. A roundtable meeting including both individual and corporate members of UKES met in Manchester on 22 November 2005 in order to agree priorities to be tested during a wider meeting at the 2005 Conference on December 2. Whilst many of our activities over recent years have been consistent with UKES wider mission, it was felt that a clearer direction including vision and strategy was required. This would enable closer integration with UKES overall aims and help to focus future efforts.

In particular, a niche area for the team was identified around the increasing interest in international evaluation practice and the potential for cross-cultural learning. Through its work UKES is an ideal vehicle for collaborative efforts which draw out the contribution that international experience can make to UK practice and vice-versa. This is a rich agenda which combines the merit of being attractive to existing and new members, as well as challenging traditional norms and practices.

The roundtable noted that we all have a moral responsibility to engage with international concerns and that UKES has exciting opportunities to contribute to these needs. Cutting edge thinking is now well beyond the traditional constructs of the aid agenda and our work must embrace public, private and civil society innovations. We should also look to influence policy makers in demonstrating how evaluation thinking is relevant to thinking about options and impacts. Overall the international group need to build a holistic approach which includes a wide range of actors and institutions. In many situations we can be an effective broker for services by working with other international and national evaluation bodies. We need to ensure clarity over those services which we can directly provide.

A clear statement of intention will further allow us to approach other bodies, including sponsors with greater authority over our role and contribution.

The approach is crystallised into a mission statement and set of objectives below. These will be checked with a wider range of members and other stakeholders at the Annual Conference and then translated into an agreed Action Plan in late January 2006 at the Council meeting. To provide a basis for discussion and put some flesh on the bones, possible activities are also listed below.

### Mission

**UKES International Group aims to promote and participate in international exchange about evaluative practice (including monitoring and review). Our purpose will be to encourage learning and innovation among evaluators and policy makers about how to meet the challenges to society of sustaining democracy, participation and accountability around the world by drawing together evaluation experience across regions, cultures and institutions.**

Overall the intention is to strengthen the role of UKES by emphasising the mutual benefits of international co-operation. This should prove an exciting dimension which is attractive to existing and new members and other partners.

## **Objectives**

- To promote dialogue and learning across evaluation communities in the UK and internationally
- To attract new members from a wide range of interest groups, including public, voluntary, private and state.
- To provide a range of services that will appeal to members by highlighting innovative evaluation practices and themes in developed, transitional and developing countries.
- To encourage collaborative relations among practitioners, researchers and academics at national, regional and local levels.
- To facilitate debates between those who commission and those who undertake evaluation

## **Activities**

Over a period of 3 years we will both host and enable activities consistent with our mission and objectives. There are several activities which clearly fit within this agenda. They are:

- Joint initiatives and profile raising activities with other international evaluation bodies such as IOC, EES, IDEAS and PARC, around mutual themes such as building capacity, policy making, accountability and the use of standard tools for practitioners.
- Examine linkages with evaluation societies in the South with a view to connecting local and national initiatives in developing countries to UKES interests, especially at the regional level.
- Activities which will reach out to new interest groups in the UK and help to increase membership at both corporate and individual levels. These can be talks, seminars and other events at national level around the Annual Conference and at local level building on our regional networks.
- Publications on international themes using both the Evaluator newsletter and Evaluation journal as means to communicate new ideas and themes.
- Website links which will help internationalise UKES and put us in touch with a range of players from community to central government inside and outside the UK

**Once the framework is agreed, the next step will be to develop an Action Plan for 2006 with specific activities, costs and timetable.**