

**Invitation to participate in a
planning workshop for the
Strengthening Evaluation
Alliance (SEA) to be held on 25
October 2017**



Background	<p>SAMEA has been reflecting and engaging on the issue of professionalisation for a number of years. Its current position is that professionalisation is not a helpful approach at this point and that while there may be a place to professionalise evaluation in the future, the current priority is to strengthen the whole evaluation system in South Africa.</p> <p>In addition to building SAMEA and amongst a diverse range of efforts, this requires:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. focusing on increasing the number of evaluators and improving the quality of their work, 2. improving the ability of evaluation users to commission good evaluations and to make better use of the evidence they generate and 3. promoting evaluative thinking amongst programme beneficiaries and other key stakeholders, in particular the parties responsible for financing interventions. <p>No one player will be able to address the daunting challenge of strengthening evaluation alone, although there is consensus that SAMEA should play a leadership role. SAMEA however has limited capacity and resources and will have to draw on the support of a range of other actors.</p> <p>SAMEA is therefore leading the establishment of the STRENGTHENING EVALUATION ALLIANCE (SEA).</p> <p>The creation of the SEA was discussed at a consultative workshop in Cape Town on 19 June 2017. A report on this workshop is attached to this email. You are now invited to participate in a follow-up meeting.</p>
Purpose of the meeting	<p>This meeting seeks to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Propose a high-level programme of action for the SEA for the coming two years; 2. Appoint a Chairperson and a Steering Committee (comprising sector representatives) for the Alliance and 3. Appoint Convenors for two Task Teams, one to lead on the issue of evaluator capacity development and the other to lead on resource mobilisation.
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and introduction 2. Presentation on the process to date 3. Presentation of the draft Programme of Action 4. Appointment of a Chairperson and Steering Committee 5. Appointment of Task Team convenors
Meeting details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting will take place at 11am on 25 October at the Hilton Hotel. • Please confirm your attendance with Kate Mwaura (info@samea.org.za) before of by 20 October.

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