

Evaluating for the Better Future: Inclusive and Ethical Practices of Evaluation

Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Professionals Association
MELPA
Tbilisi, Georgia

Evaluation through a Human Rights Lens – Changing how we see, expanding what we see

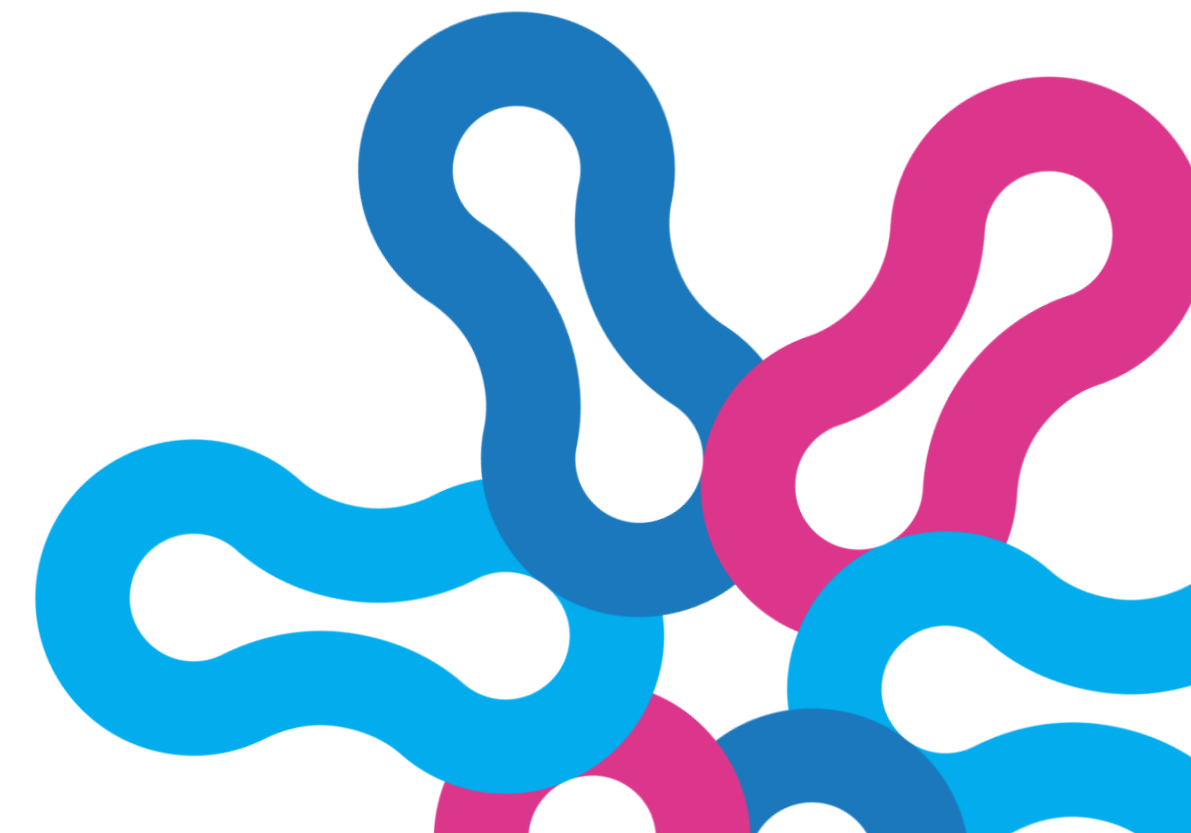
Lena Taube & Martin Bruder
German Institute for Development Evaluation

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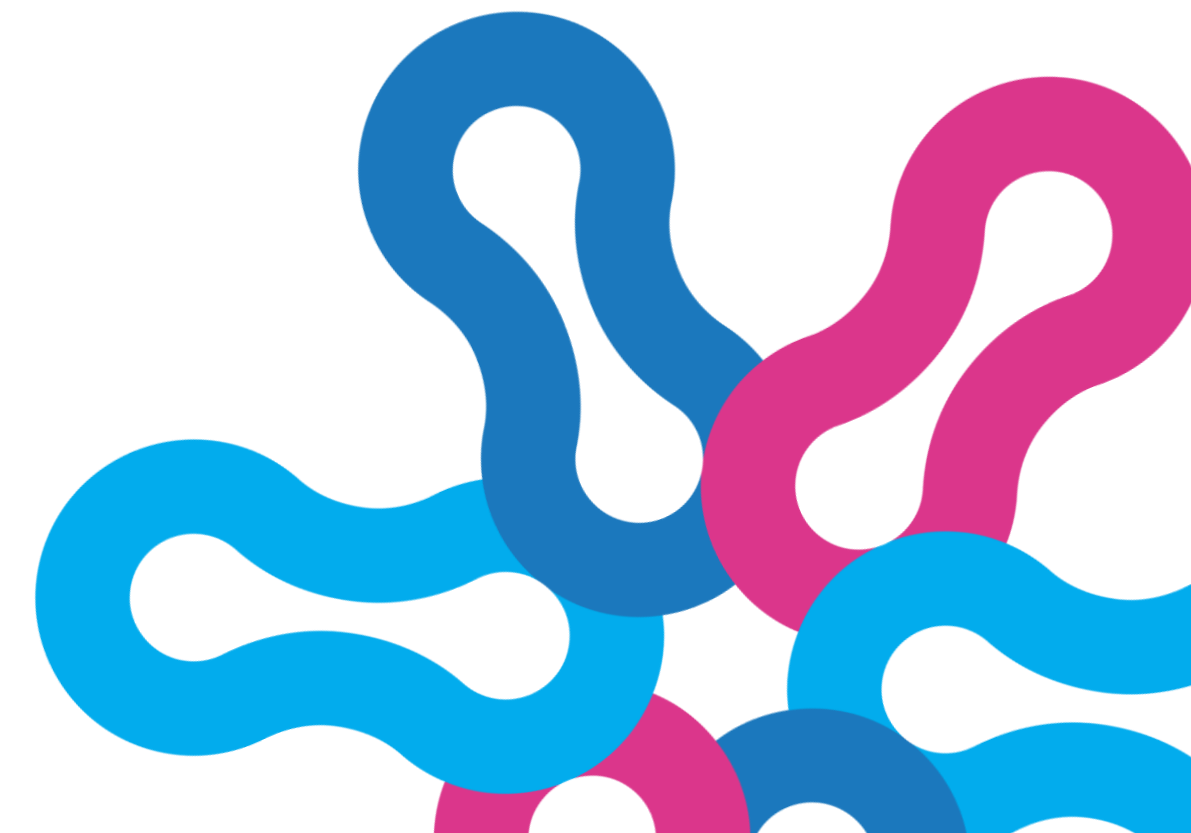
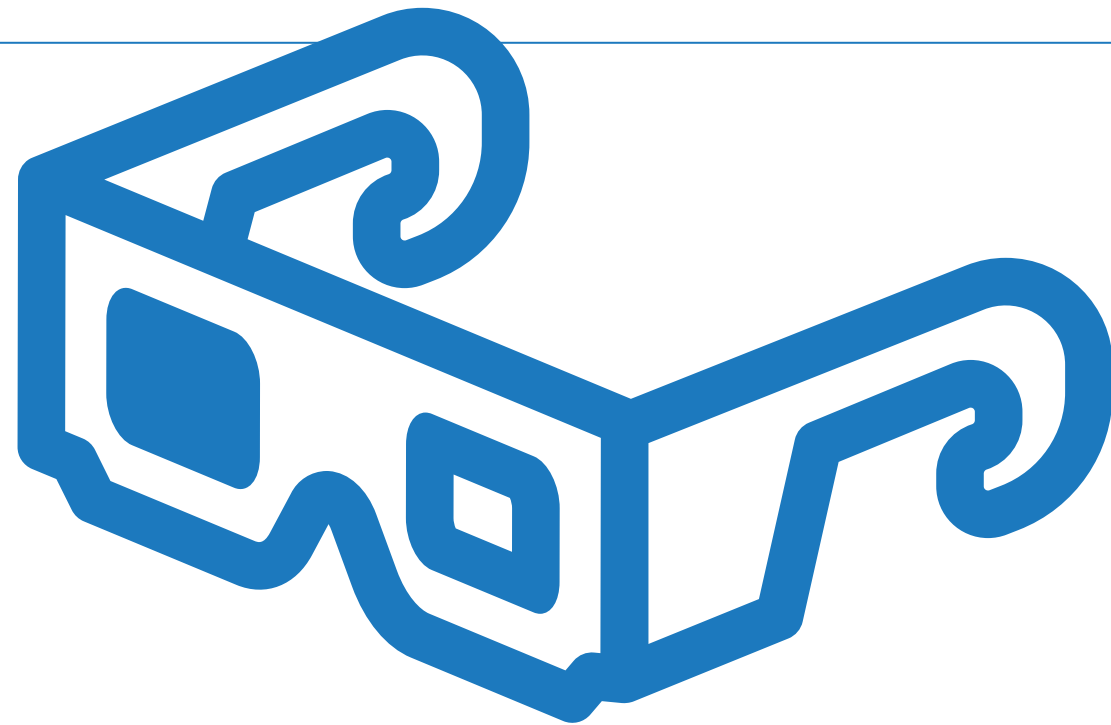
Agenda

- 1) What is human rights-based evaluation?
- 2) How can we evaluate in a human-rights-based manner?
- 3) What are the benefits of human rights-based evaluation?



New lens on evaluation – A human rights-based invitation to see differently

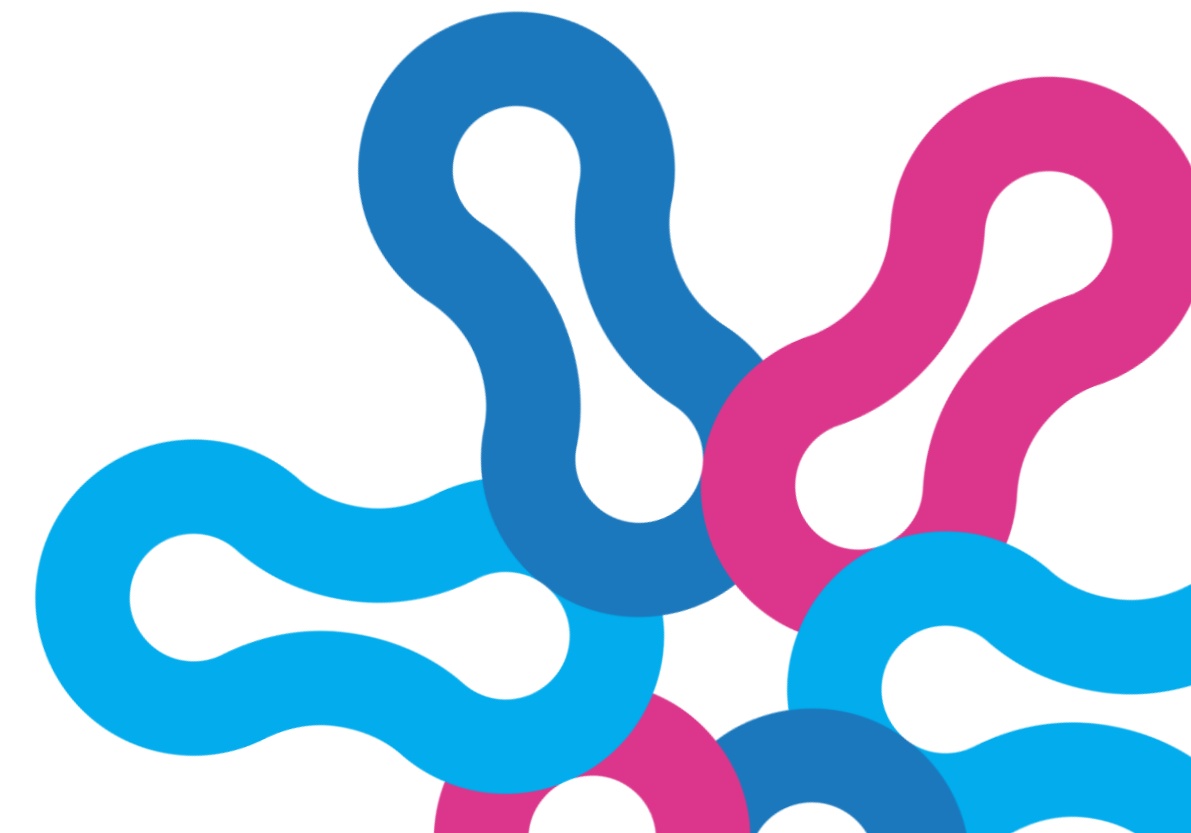
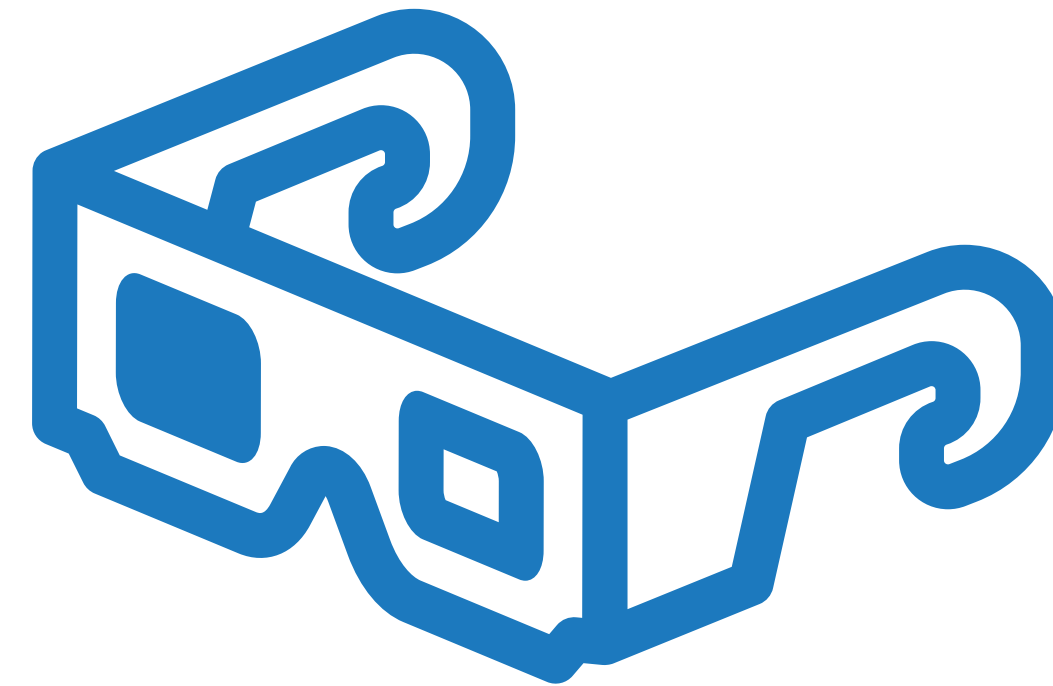
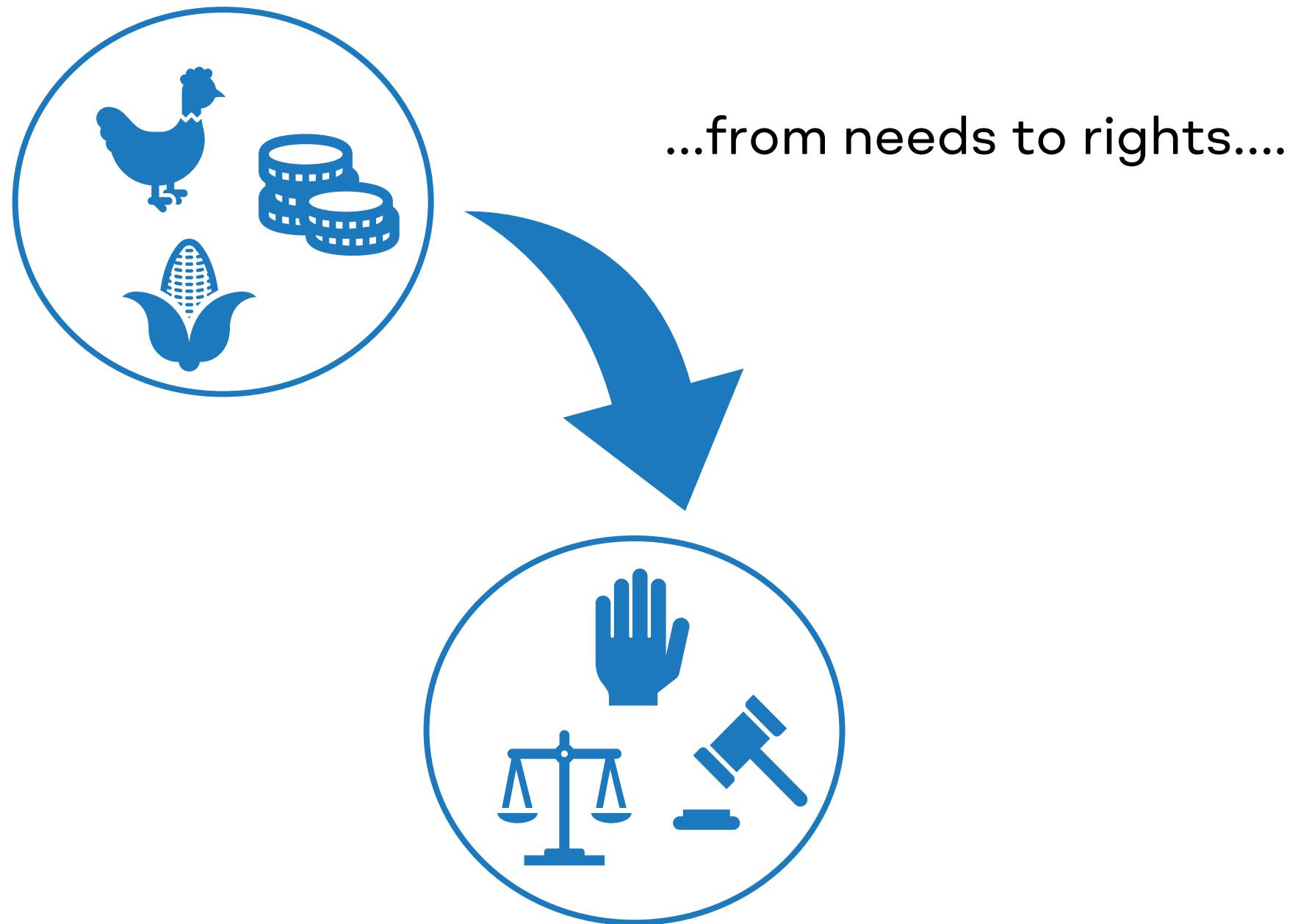
Human rights-based evaluation is not necessarily an evaluation approach, but rather a lens.



1) What is human rights-based evaluation?

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A change in perspective



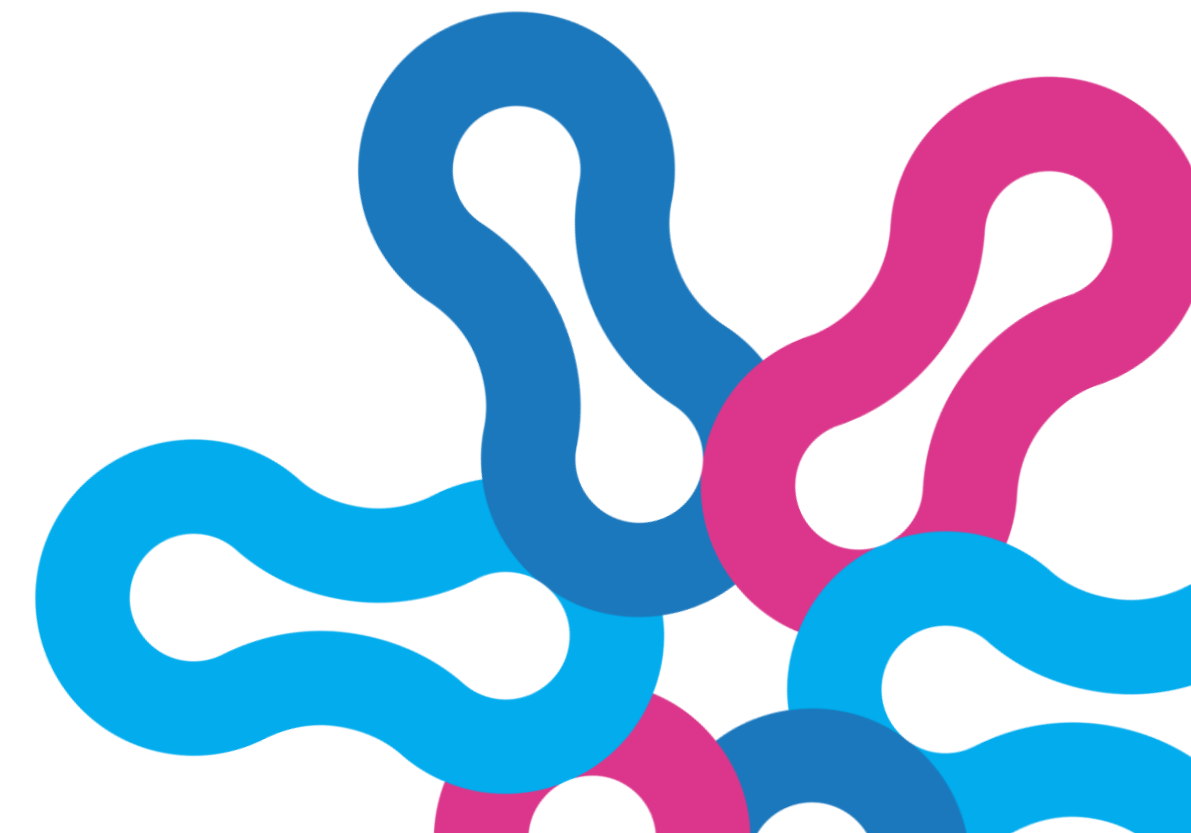
A change in language



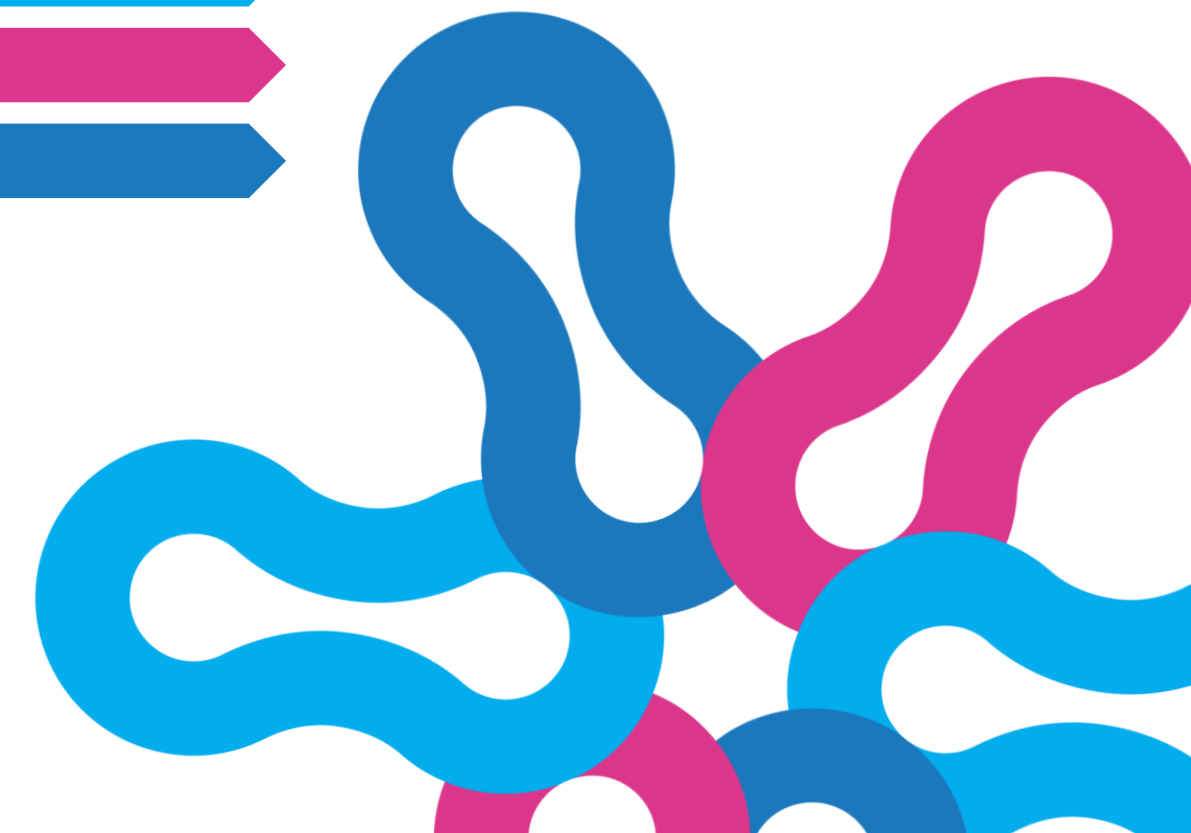
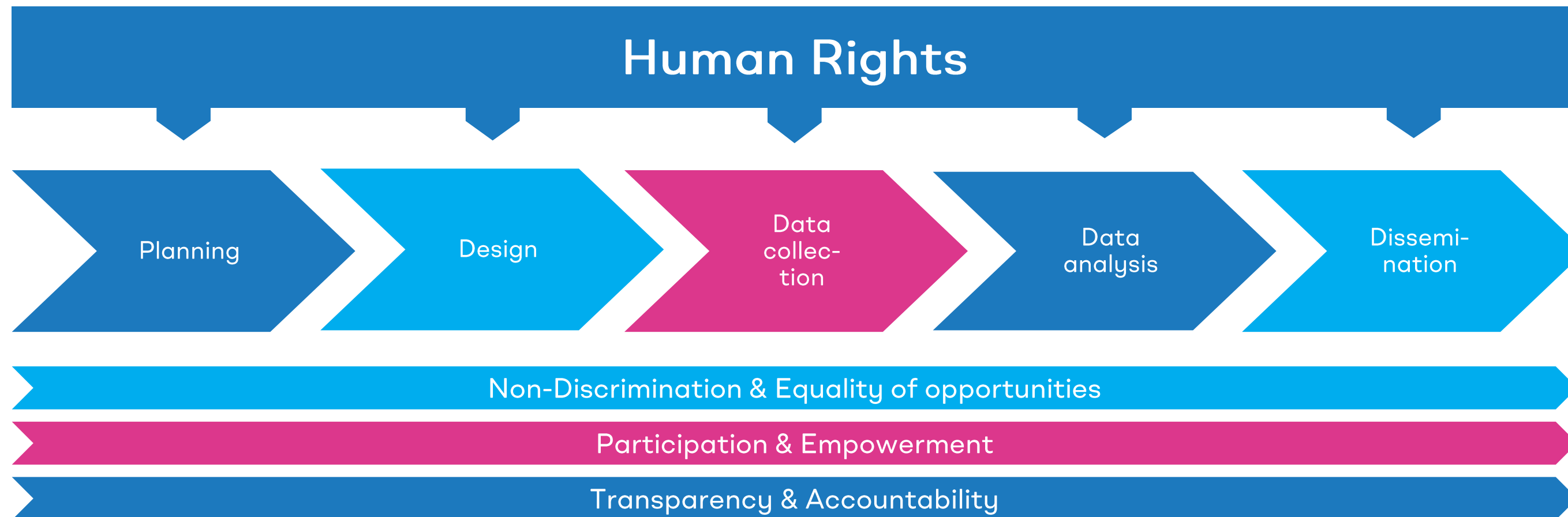
Populations affected by development interventions possess rights.
→ They are rights-holders.



Partner countries and development partners have duties and obligations. They are obliged to respect, protect and fulfil human rights.
→ They are duty-bearers.



A change in how we design evaluations



Two dimensions of human rights-based evaluations

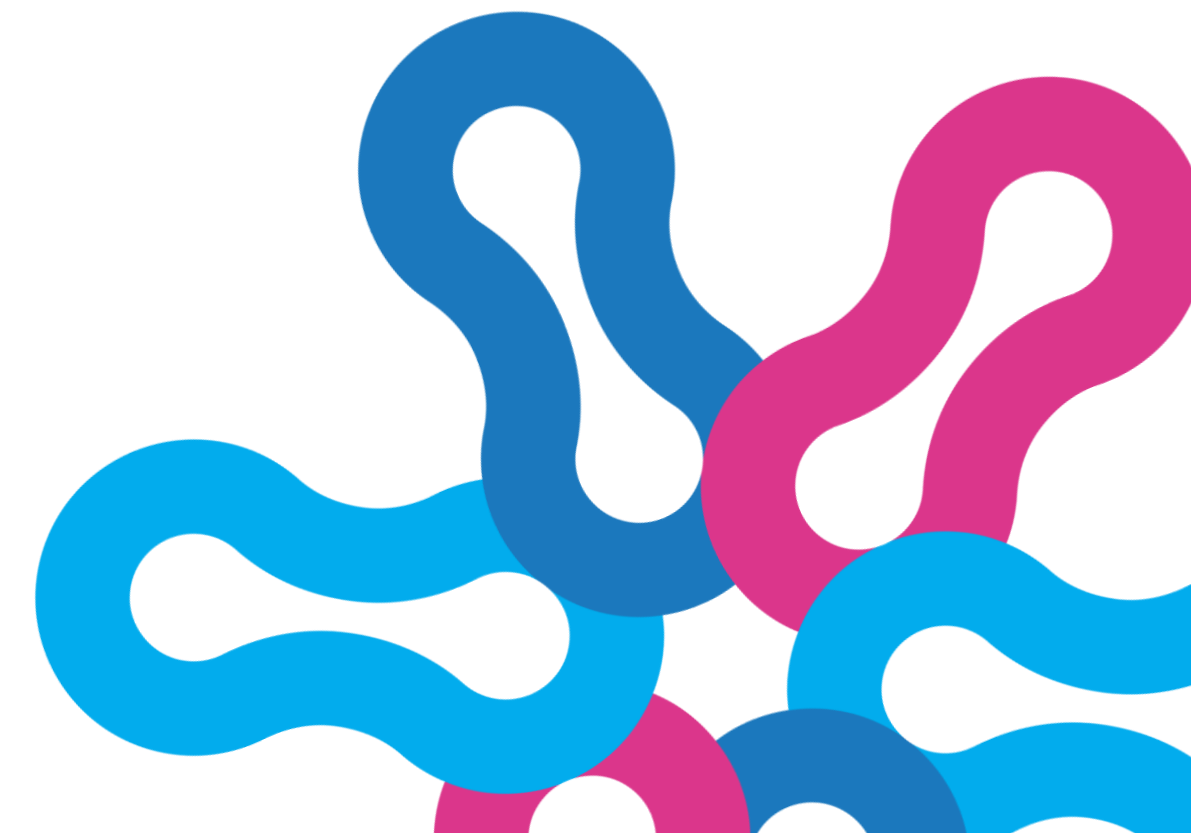
Content What?

Evaluation should...

- analyse the contribution of an intervention regarding the realisation of human rights.
- assess whether the development programme complies with human rights principles.

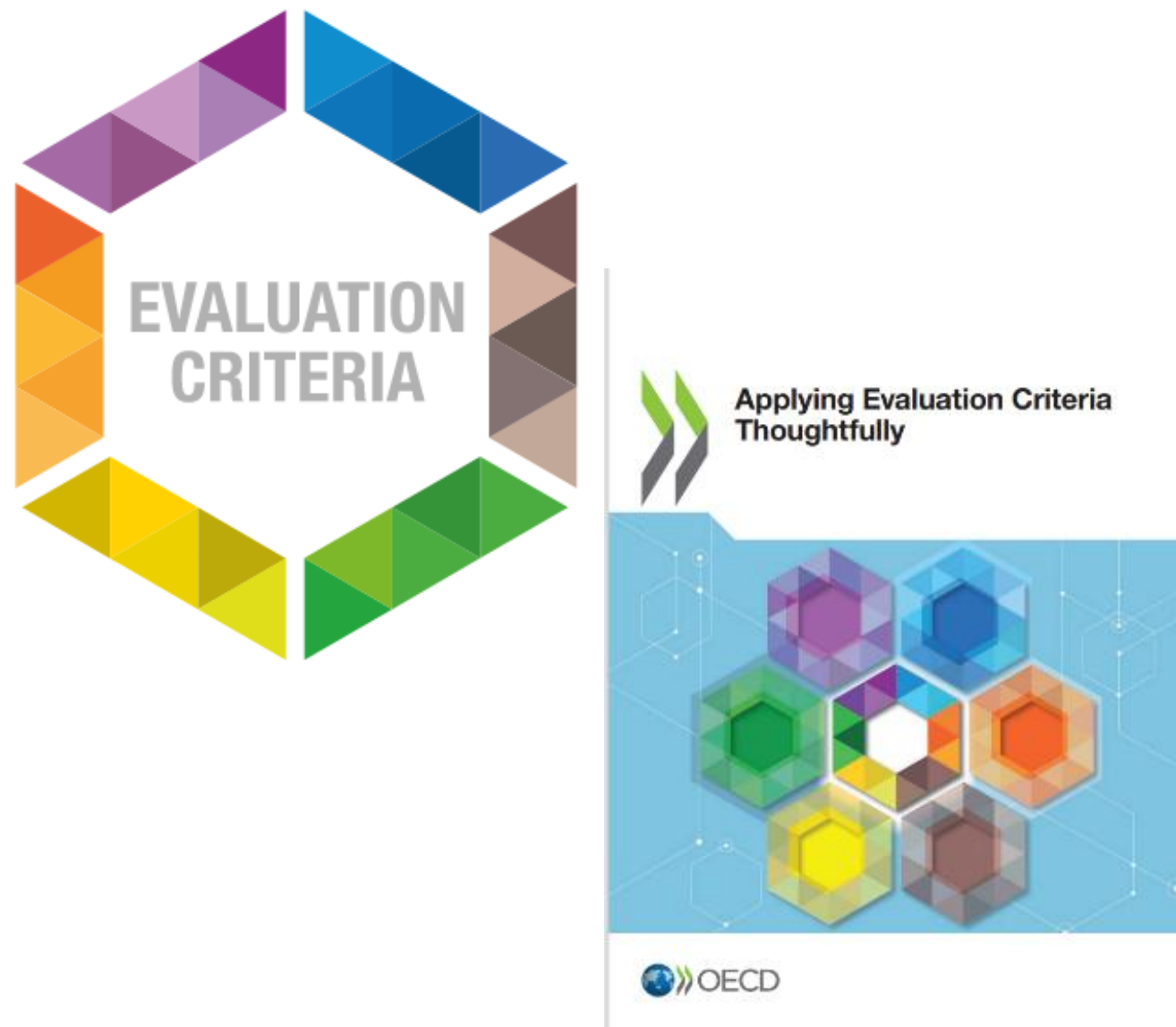
Process How?

- implement human rights-based principle throughout the whole evaluation process itself.
- strengthen duty bearers and rights holders to align with duties and to demand rights.

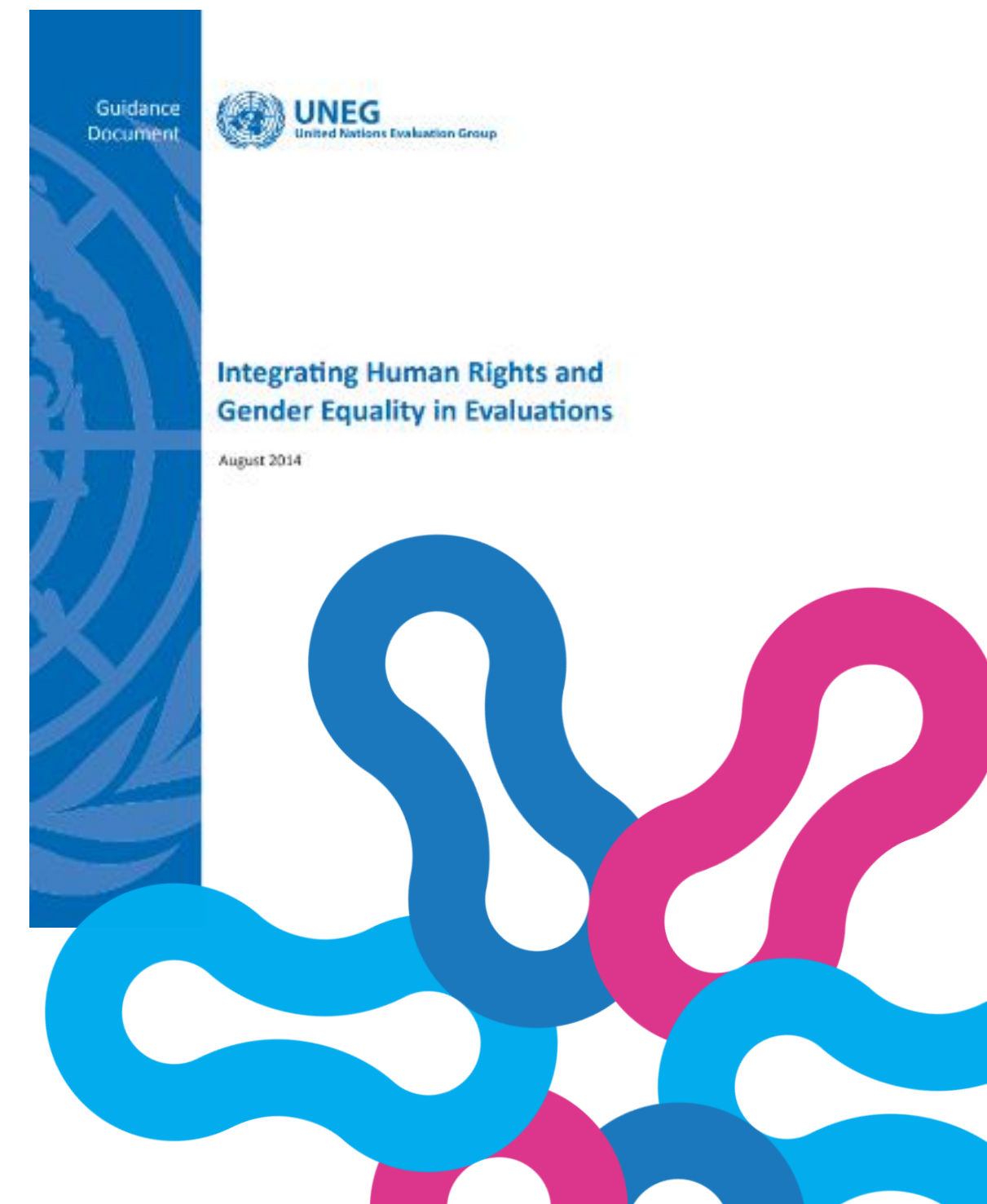
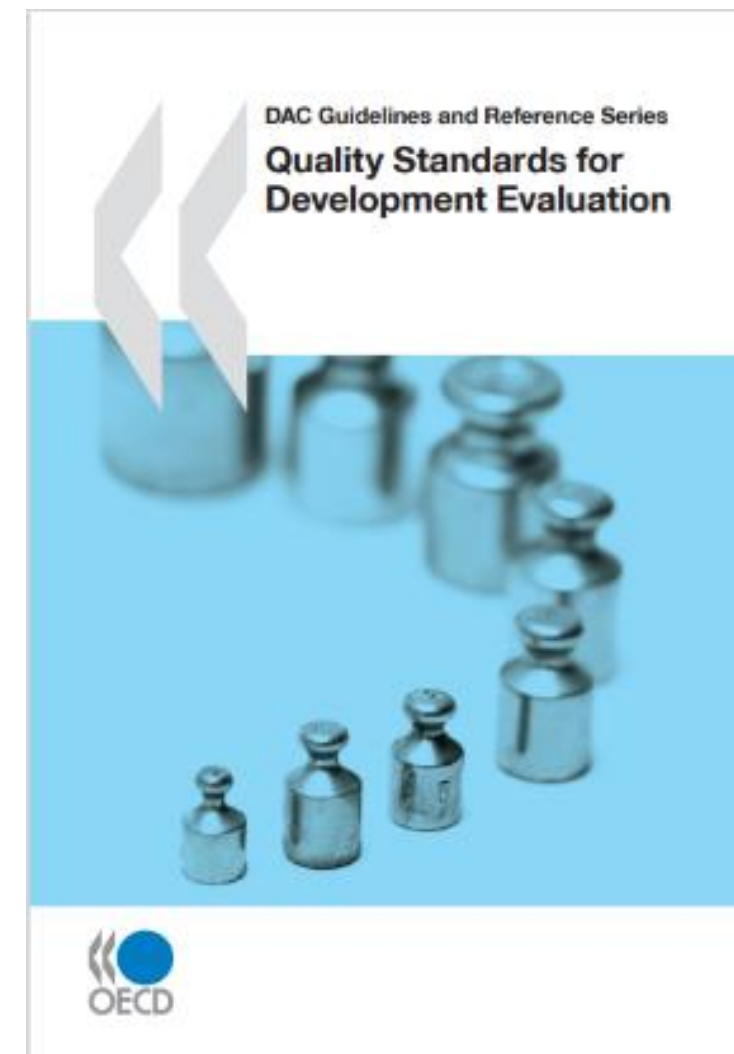


Two dimensions of human rights-based evaluations

Content dimension



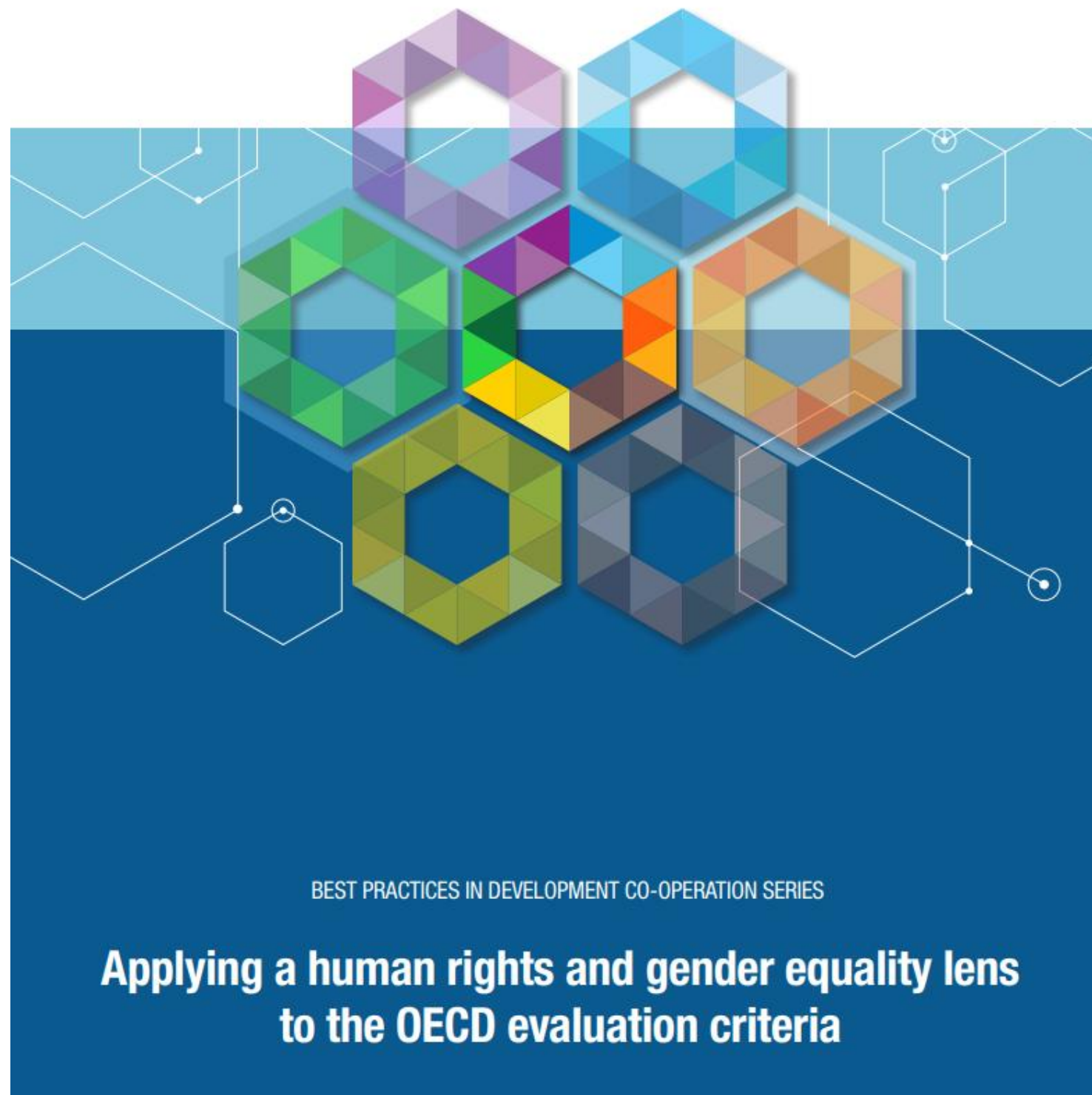
Process dimension



**2) How can we evaluate
in a human rights-based
manner?**

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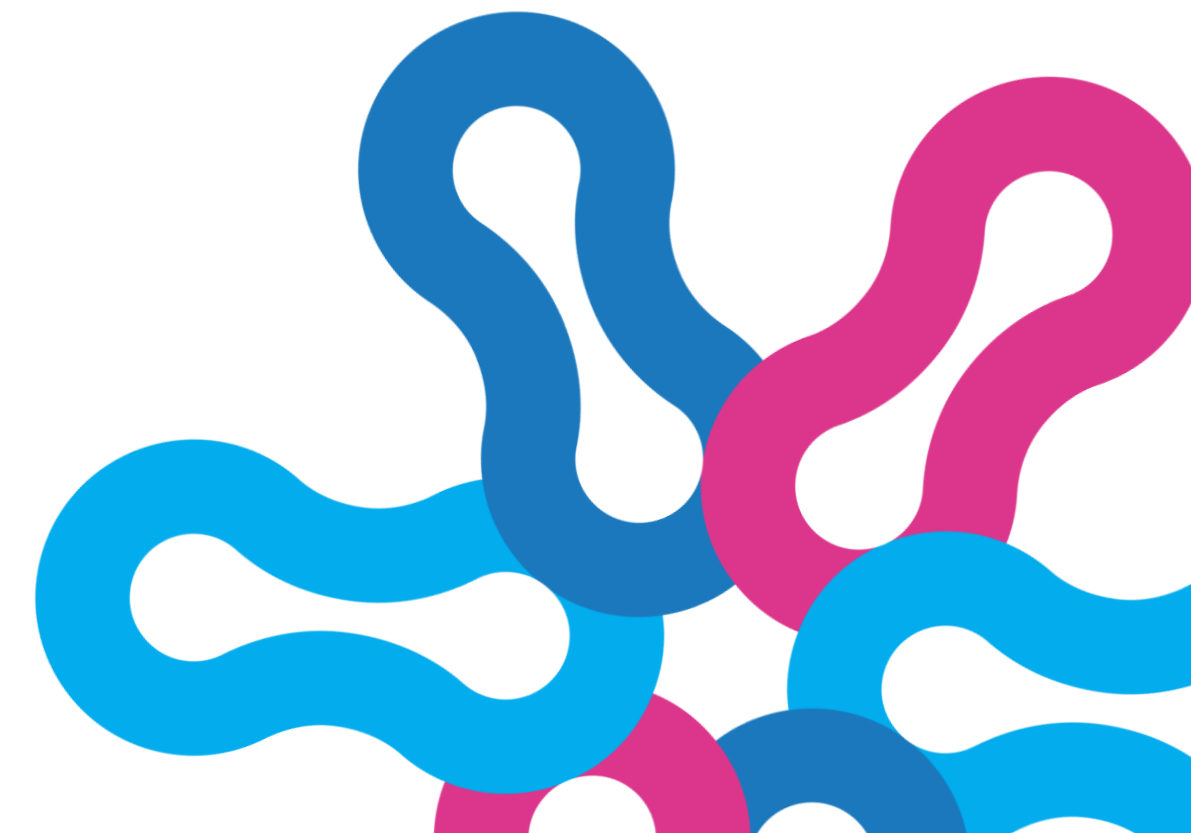
The content dimension



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- What is the substantive focus of the respective evaluation criterion from a human rights/gender perspective?
- What examples of good evaluation are there?
- What are the challenges?

[Source: OECD-DAC, 2023: Applying a Human Rights and Gender Equality Lens to the OECD Evaluation Criteria | OECD](#)



Content Dimension: Relevance

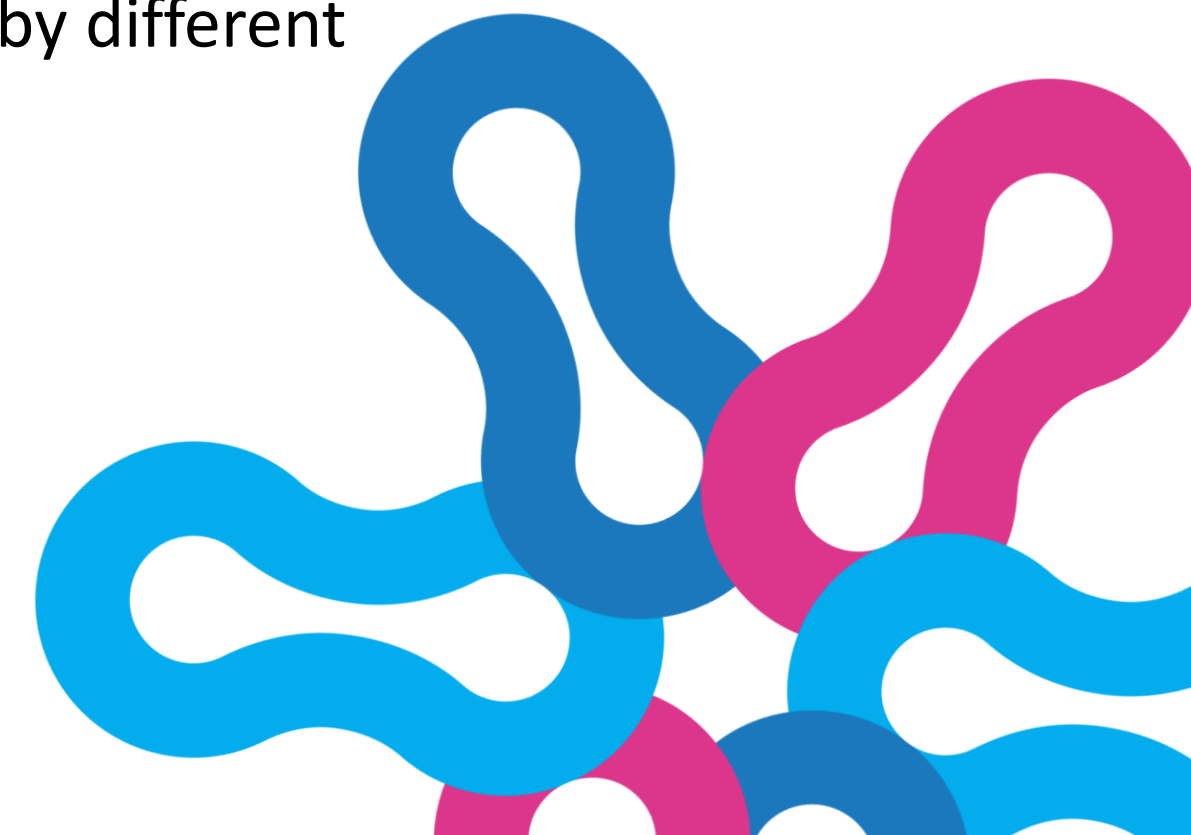


Focus

- Responding to rights, needs and priorities of rights-holders
- Being sensitive to the context
- Intersectionality

Challenges

- Different interpretations of the same rights by different stakeholders



Content Dimension: Coherence

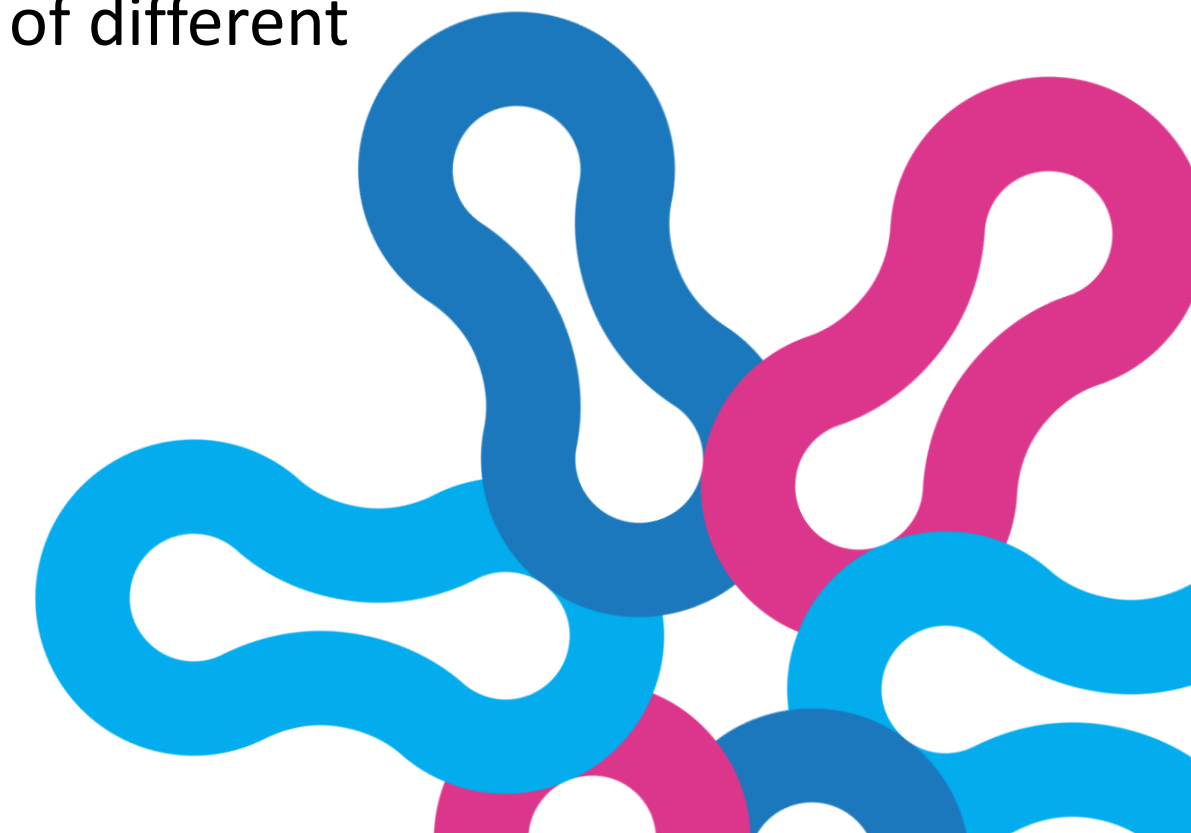


Focus

- Internal coherence: Horizontal alignment across policy areas
- External coherence: Cooperation according to joint human rights priorities

Challenges

- Mismatch between human rights standards of different stakeholders



Content Dimension: Effectiveness

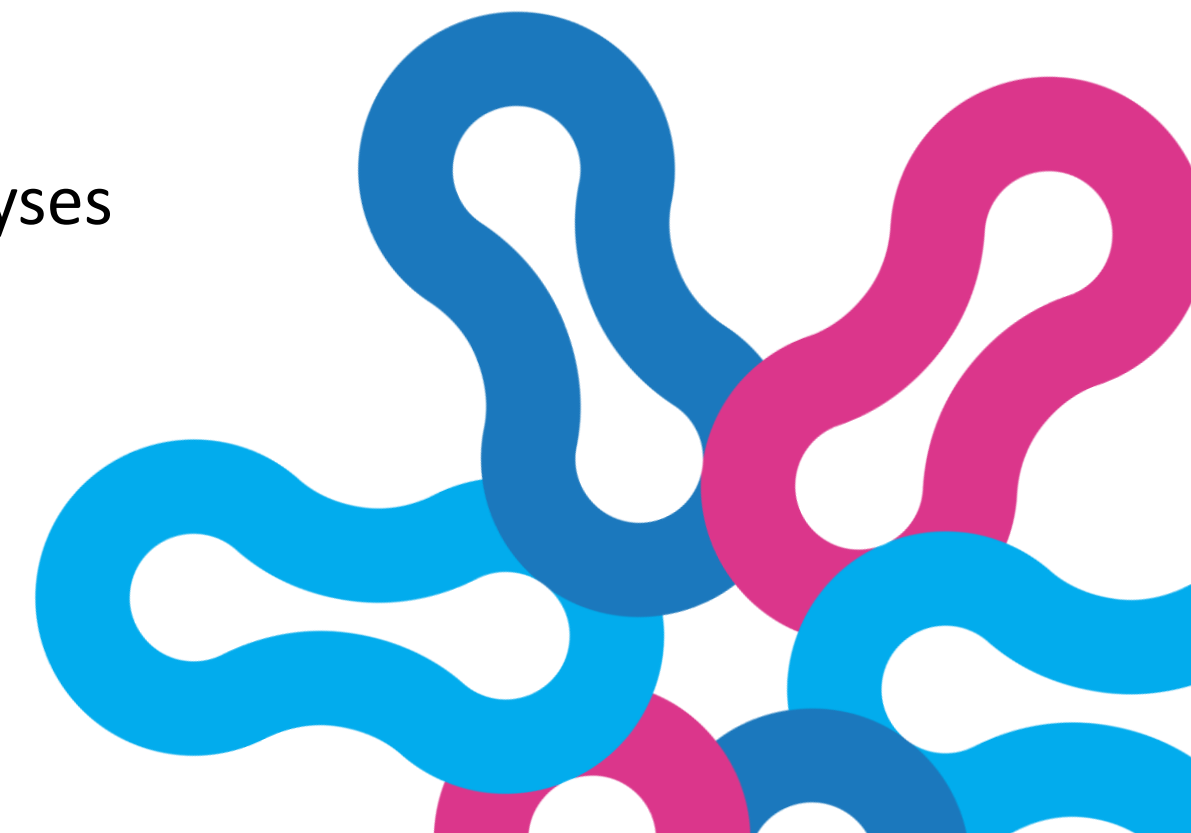


Focus

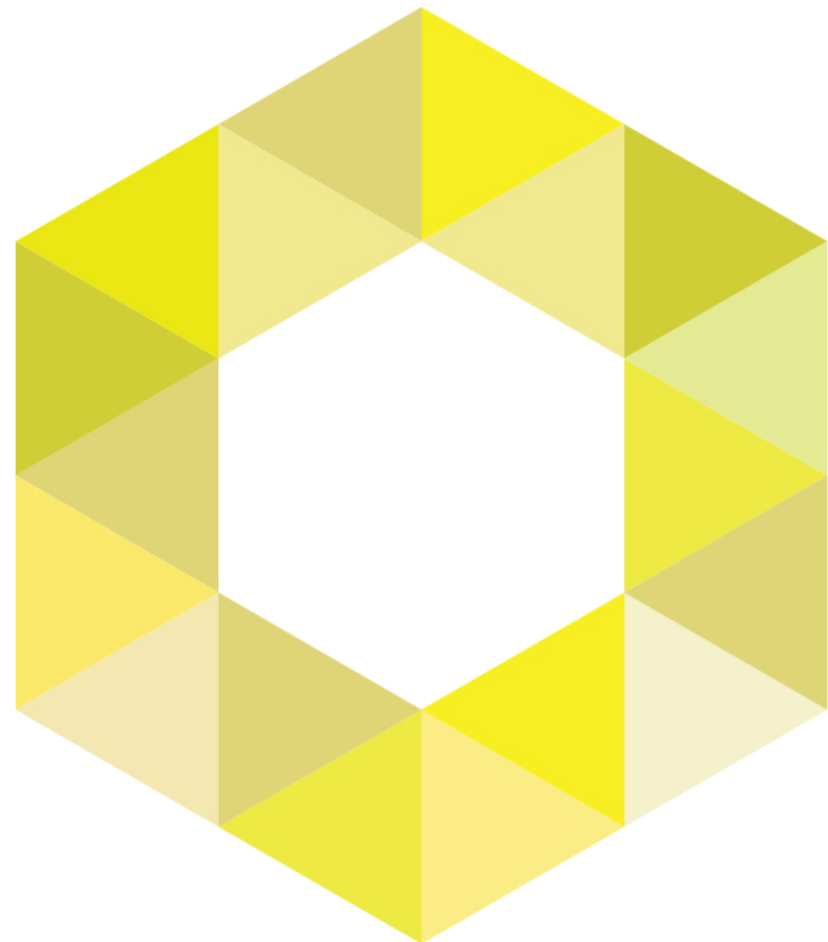
- Non-intended effects on marginalised groups
- Inclusive and participatory processes
- Equity in terms of participation in effects of development interventions

Challenges

- High demand on resources for process analyses



Content Dimension: Sustainability

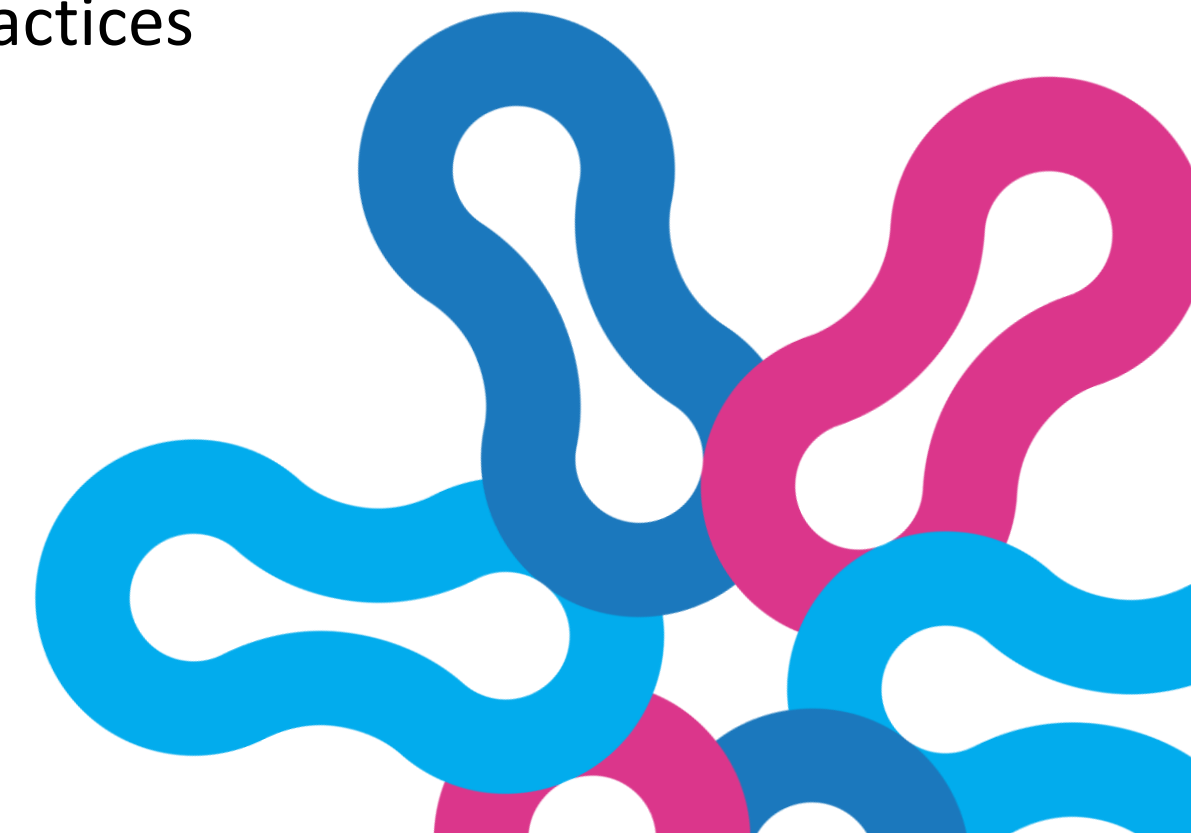


Focus

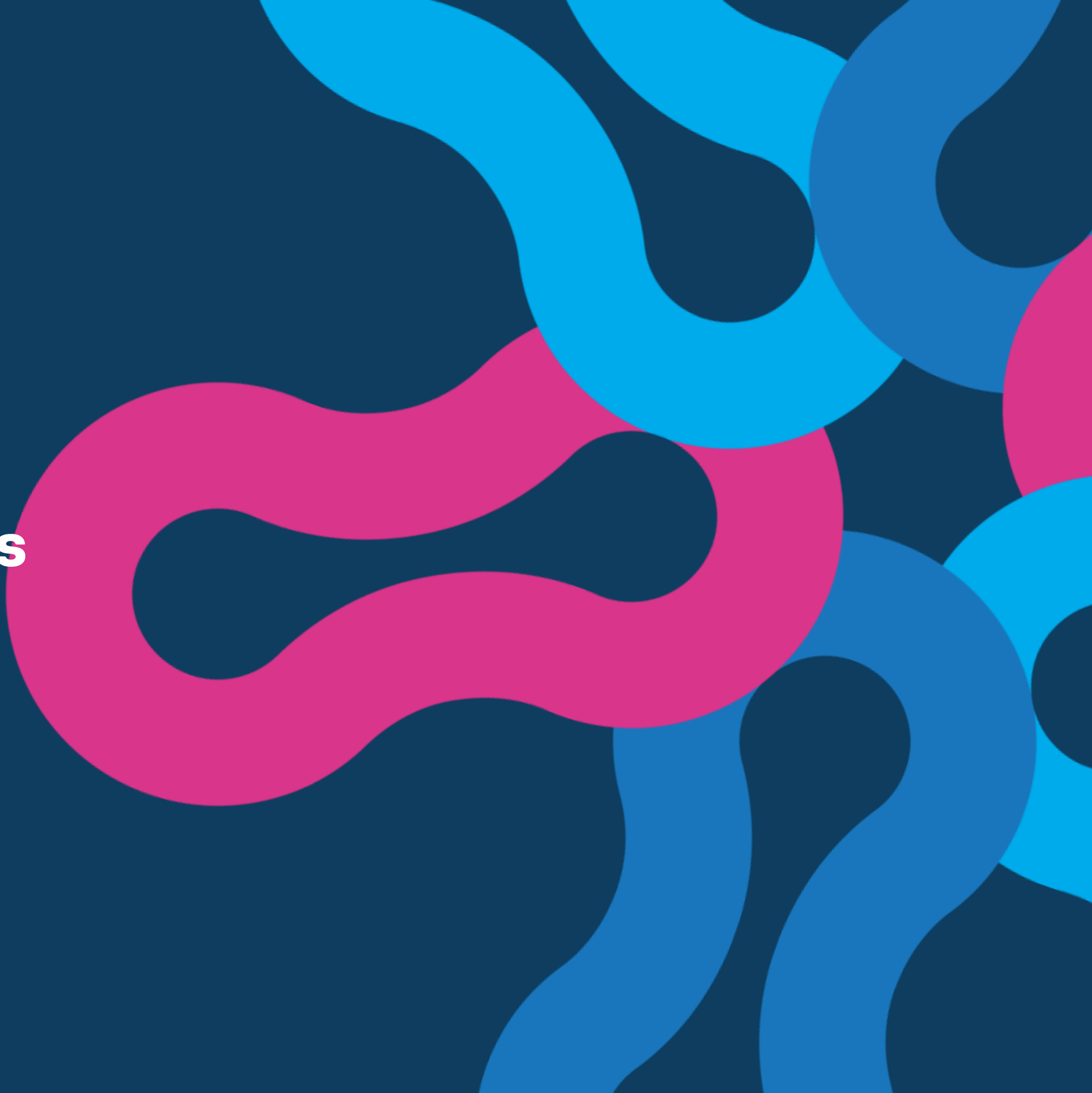
- Contribution to an “enabling environment” for the fulfilment of human rights

Challenges

- Complex dynamics (with many contextual factors and stakeholders) in transforming norms and practices



3) What are the benefits of human rights-based evaluation?



What are the benefits of human rights-based evaluation?

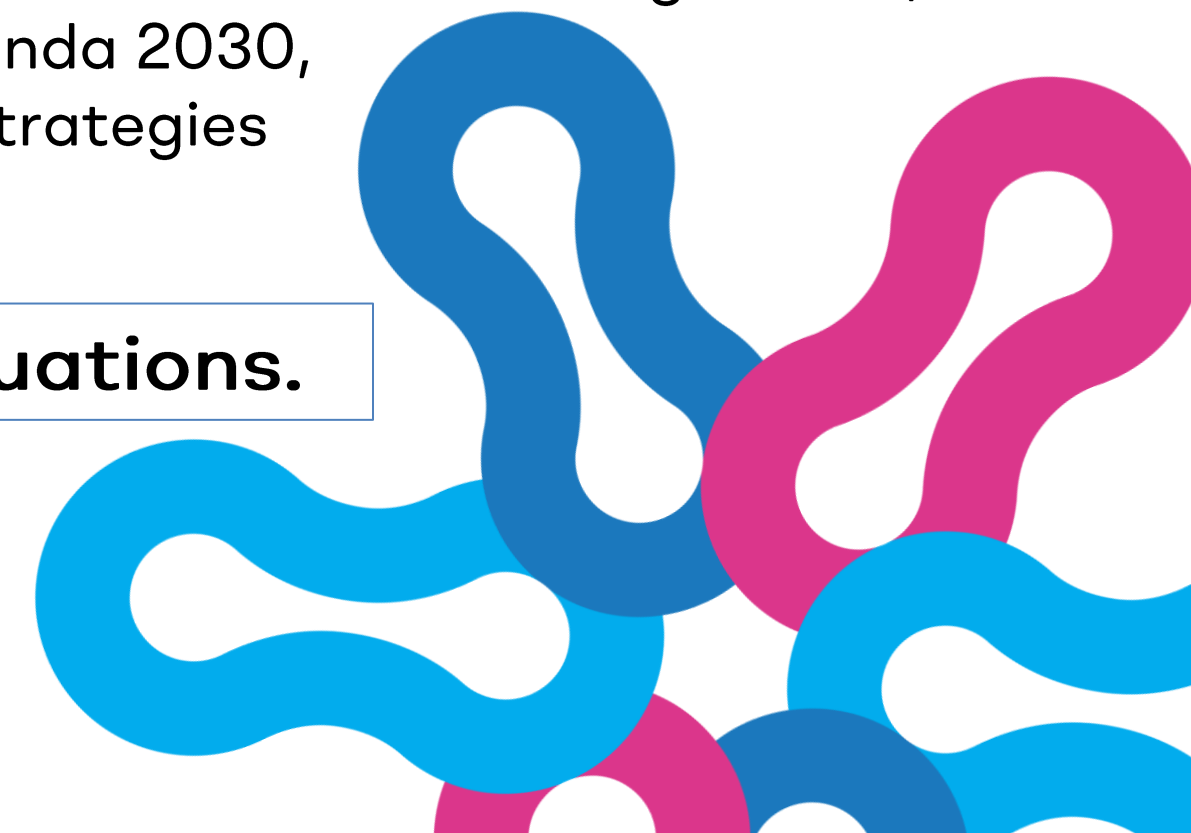
Instrumental:

- Human rights based evaluations result in more reliable and accurate data
 - Multiple perspectives due to inclusion of marginalised groups
 - More systematic data collection, avoidance of bias & discrimination
- Supported by evaluation standards, like UNEG and OECD

Normative:

- Obligation to conduct evaluations in a human-rights-compliant way
- Guiding principles are, e.g.
 - Non-discrimination & Equality
 - Participation & Empowerment
 - Transparency & Accountability
- Supported by international human rights law, like CRPD, Agenda 2030, development strategies

Human rights based evaluations are a driver for good evaluations.





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Thank you!

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