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## **SOUTH AFRICAN DECLARATION SUPPORTING THE 2015 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF EVALUATION**

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Evaluation is the systematic analysis of policies, programmes and projects to assess their value and worth, including their contribution to the realisation of national, regional and international societal goals. Evaluations should be undertaken for a specific purpose and provide knowledge and evidence to inform strategic decision-making and improve operational performance.

Evaluation helps to improve learning, provides an opportunity to people who are often excluded from participating in important decision-making and can strengthen institutions and initiatives. Good evaluations also build trust and help to hold government bodies and other role-players accountable for their performance and results.

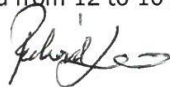
The International Year of Evaluation is a collaborative effort to increase people's awareness of evaluation as an important practice that can add value to development processes and lead to improved governance.

We are stakeholders from civil society, government, private sector, academia, donors and multi-lateral agencies active in evaluation in South Africa. We strongly support the decision made in Brazil by a broad-based group of evaluation stakeholders to declare 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation (EvalYear).

By the end of 2015 we aim to have broadened the evaluation community and increased commitment and understanding amongst evaluation users and decision makers.

The South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA) seeks to cultivate a vibrant community to support, guide and strengthen development evaluation as an important discipline, profession and instrument for empowerment and accountability in South Africa. It will be coordinating a series of EvalYear events in partnership with local and international partners. These events will include training and capacity building events, the release of knowledge products, and hosting a number of networking opportunities.

We call on all South Africans who are interested in deepening democracy, improving governance and promoting development to participate in the EvalYear programme of activities. In particular we encourage people to participate in the SAMEA Conference to be held from 12 to 16 October in Johannesburg.



**PROFESSOR RICHARD LEVIN**  
**SAMEA CHAIRPERSON**

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