Evaluation framework for project progress and success metrics

1. Purpose

This evaluation framework is designed to assess the progress and success of projects participating in the UNDP x EMURGO Labs SDG Blockchain Accelerator. It provides a structured methodology for tracking technical, strategic, and developmental progress during and after the accelerator. The primary users of this framework are EMURGO Labs mentors, technical advisors, and UNDP stakeholders.

2. Evaluation categories and key metrics

2.1 Technical feasibility

- **Metric:** Degree of blockchain solution implementation
- **Scoring:**
    - 0 - No technical solution defined
    - 1 - Conceptual solution only
    - 2 - Prototype in early development
    - 3 - Working prototype with limited features
    - 4 - Mostly complete solution, limited testing
    - 5 - Fully developed prototype with technical documentation and scalability plan

2.2 SDG alignment

- **Metric:** Degree to which the initiative contributes to UNDP's strategic Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with emphasis on measurable outcomes and transformative potential.
- **Scoring:**
    - 0 – No relevance to SDGs
    - 1 – Vague or indirect reference to SDGs, with no clear contribution
    - 2 – General alignment with SDGs, but lacks focus or clarity on impact
    - 3 – Addresses specific SDG targets, with limited evidence of contribution or impact

- ○ 4 – Clearly contributes to defined SDG targets, with measurable indicators and expected results
- ○ 5 – Demonstrates strong, direct contribution to multiple SDGs, with clear, measurable outcomes and potential for systemic impact

2.3 Market readiness

- **Metric:** Readiness for scaling and real-world deployment
- **Scoring:**
    - ○ 0 - No market consideration
    - ○ 1 - Initial market research only
    - ○ 2 - Identified user segment with early traction plan
    - ○ 3 - Go-to-market strategy drafted
    - ○ 4 - Validated market hypothesis and early partnerships
    - ○ 5 - Pilot or partnerships established, roadmap for scaling

2.4 Curriculum completion

- **Metric:** Completion rate of accelerator learning modules
- **Scoring:** Percentage of completed modules by each project team
    - ○ 0%-20%: 1 point
      21%-40%: 2 points
    - ○ 41%-60%: 3 points
    - ○ 61%-80%: 4 points
    - ○ 81%-100%: 5 points

2.5 PoC integration

- **Metric:** Successful development and demonstration of blockchain PoC
- **Scoring:**
    - ○ 0 - No PoC initiated
    - ○ 1 - Initial concept with no implementation
    - ○ 2 - Partially developed PoC
    - ○ 3 - Functional PoC with limited testing
    - ○ 4 - Functional PoC tested with stakeholders
    - ○ 5 - PoC validated and integrated into a sandbox/test environment

2.6 Mentor and stakeholder feedback

- **Metric:** Qualitative assessments from mentors and UNDP advisors
- **Scoring:** Average of 1-5 based on structured feedback forms

2.7 Number of partnerships formed

- **Metric:** Number of Partnerships secured per each project
- **Scoring:**
    - 0 - No partnerships formed
    - 1 - 1-2 partnerships established but limited relevance to project goals
    - 2 - 3-4 partnerships formed with moderate alignment to project objectives
    - 3 - 5-6 partnerships formed with clear alignment to project goals
    - 4 - 7-9 partnerships formed with strong alignment and potential for scaling
    - 5 - 10+ high-impact partnerships established with significant contributions

2.8 Level of partner involvement

- **Metric**: Assessment of how the partner has engaged with the project
- **Scoring**:
    - 0 - No active partner involvement
    - 1 - Minimal involvement (e.g., verbal support or informal advice)
    - 2 - Some involvement (e.g., occasional collaboration or resource sharing)
    - 3 - Moderate involvement (e.g., regular collaboration or partial funding)
    - 4 - High involvement (e.g., co-development or substantial funding contribution)
    - 5 - Exceptional involvement (e.g., strategic partnership driving project goals)

2.9 User adoption and engagement

- **Metric:** Extent to which target users or communities are using the solution
- **Scoring:**
    - **0** - No users or engagement observed
    - **1** - Limited user testing: fewer than 5 users involved
    - **2** - Early adopters onboarded: up to 10 active users or <10 transactions
    - **3** - Consistent early usage: 10–50 active users or 10–100 transactions
        - **4** - Moderate adoption: 50–200 active users or 100–500 transactions
    - **5** - Strong usage with clear growth signals: >200 active users, >500 transactions, or significant stakeholder engagement (e.g., user feedback loops, adoption by institutional partners)

3. Evaluation process and timeline

Evaluations will be conducted at the following stages:

- **Onboarding:** Baseline assessment
- **Midpoint check-in:** After curriculum midpoint

- **Post-RPPS (PoC sprint):** Final accelerator evaluation

Evaluators include technical mentors, program coordinators, and UNDP stakeholders. Scores will be reviewed during milestone submissions and cohort reviews.

4. Data sources

- GitHub repositories (code, documentation, commits)
- Curriculum completion logs
- Mentor session reports and feedback forms
- PoC demonstration videos and technical documents
- Stakeholder feedback surveys/interviews

5. Use of evaluation results

- **Support allocation:** Identify projects needing deeper mentoring
- **Reporting:** Provide structured updates to Catalyst and UNDP
- **Selection:** Inform eligibility for next-phase support or partnerships
- **Improvement:** Feed insights into program iteration and curriculum refinement