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| **ABSTRACT SUBMISSION TEMPLATE** | |
| Presenter’s full name (title, name, surname) | Daniel ALONSO VALCKX, UNICEF Multi-Country Evaluation Specialist |
| Nationality | Spanish & Dutch |
| Gender | Male |
| Country of residence | Nepal |
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| Title of the abstract | *Unlocking Potential: Parliamentarians as catalysts to drive National Evaluation Agendas Forward* |
| Conference session | □ Stream A. Responsive National Evaluation Systems |
| Name(s), title(s) and institutional affiliation(s) of all other authors/contributors (if applicable) | * **Jane Mwangi**, UNICEF Evaluation Advisor in East Asia and Pacific (F). * **Hon. Kabir Hashim**, Member of the Sri Lankan Parliament and current chair of the Global Parliamentarian Forum for Evaluation (M) * **Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif**, former Member of Parliament of people’s representatives in Tunisia and rapporteur of the Finance Committee, and a member of the committee of anti-corruption (F). * **Hon. Natalia Nikitenko**, Member of the parliament of Kyrgyzstan (F). * **Romulo Emmanuel M. Miral**, Jr., from the Congress of the Philippines (M) * One representative for the National People’s Congress (to be determine shortly) |
| Preferred format: | The 90-minute session will begin with an introduction by Jane Mwangi, UNICEF Evaluation Advisor for East Asia and the Pacific (or Daniel Alonso Valckx, Multi Country Evaluation Specialist in UNICEF).  Jane's opening remarks will underscore the significance and rationale behind UN support for National Evaluation Capacity Development (NECD), including a focus on advancing child rights. She will also address the influence of legislative bodies on evaluation processes and highlight the critical importance of evaluation for evidence-based decision-making.  Following the introduction, the session will feature concise 10-minute free-form presentations, each delivered without slides for the following countries:  **Sri Lanka**’s experience by Hon. Kabir Hashim  **China**’s experience by “to be defined”  **Tunisia**’s experience by Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif  **Philippines**’s experience by Romulo Emmanuel M. Miral  **Kyrgyzstan’s** experience by Natalia Nikitenko  Following the presentations, there will be a first round of questions by the moderator, Jane Mwangi, followed by approximately a 40 min Q&A session with the audience, encouraging interactive discussions and knowledge-sharing. |
| I will need to apply for bursary support, if selected. | □ Yes – Requesting support to finance two Parliamentarians. The other panelists will be financed by other sources, including UNICEF. |
| Language to be used for presentation | □ English |
| **Abstract text** | |
| **Description**  The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the critical role of evaluation in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). To contribute to this agenda, the United Nations General Assembly passed two milestone resolutions on "Building capacity for the evaluation of development activities at the country level" on 19 December 2014 and recently, on Country-led evaluation with the April 2023 resolution.  Legislative institutions are central in national governance, playing a crucial role in strengthening and advancing national evaluation systems. Their influence in shaping policies and allocating resources underscores their critical importance on the effectiveness and accountability of the national evaluation ecosystem, thus holding the potential to significantly contribute to evidence-based policymaking and sustainable development goals.  **Objectives**  This event aims to provide participants on the pivotal role that Parliamentarians can play in driving the evaluation agenda, emphasizing their unique abilities in policymaking, resource allocation, and oversight functions, including in the implementation of evaluation initiatives. The session will highlight diverse country experiences and showcase successful establishment of an evaluation ecosystem and an evaluation culture within the public sector. The event will facilitate the sharing of reflections, lessons learned, and progress made in NECD, addressing key challenges and opportunities in various countries’ context.  **Example of key topics addressed during this session:**   * The role of legislative bodies in advancing the evaluation agenda; * Diverse experiences in formulating national evaluation policies and other evaluation legislative acts; * Leveraging evaluation for accountability, learning, and its role in enhanced policy making and evidence-based decision-making; * Best practices for building sustainable evaluation systems; * Reflections on advancing the evaluation agenda in various countries; * The use of evaluation for result-based and child-sensitive budgeting; * Major capacity needs and gaps in different countries; * The importance of M&E units in Parliament to enhance oversight functions; * Strategies for engaging interested parties in the evaluation agenda (civil society, private sector); * Innovative approaches to integrating evaluation into national governance frameworks; * The role of the Global Parliamentarian Forum for Evaluation;   **Daniel ALONSO VALCKX**, UNICEF ROSA Multi-Country evaluation Specialist, is the focal point for the organization of this session, [daalonso@unicef.org](mailto:daalonso@unicef.org) | |