# Annex 2: Abstract submission template (to be uploaded to the submission portal)

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION TEMPLATE**

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| Presenter’s full name (title, name, surname) | Ms Caroline Makuvire |
| Nationality | Zimbabwean |
| Gender | Female |
| Country of residence | Zimbabwe |
| Institutional affiliation | Government of Zimbabwe- Office of the President and Cabinet |
| Contact information including email and telephone | Email: [opcevaluation@gmail.com](mailto:opcevaluation@gmail.com)  Mobile - +263 772 247 585 |
| Title of the abstract | Strengthening Evaluation Systems in Zimbabwe Strategies for Effect Governance and Development |
| Conference session | □ **Stream A. Responsive National Evaluation Systems**  **□ Stream B. Inclusive National Evaluation Systems**  □ Stream C. Future Driven Systems and Approaches |
| Name(s), title(s) and institutional affiliation(s) of all other authors/contributors (if applicable) | None |
| Preferred format: | □ **Formal presentation (maximum 10 minutes)**  □ **Participation in a panel discussion where the experience can be shared**  □ Participation in an interactive session where the example can be shared, without a formal presentation  □ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| I will need to apply for bursary support, if selected. | **□ Yes**  □ No |
| Language to be used for presentation | **□ English** □ French □ Spanish □ Chinese |

**Abstract Text (max. 500 words)**

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| National Evaluation Systems (NES) are crucial for promoting accountability, enhancing decision-making, and improving public sector performance. In Zimbabwe, establishing a robust evaluation system is essential to assess the effectiveness of development interventions in achieving national and international development strategies Vision 2030 and the SDGs. However, Zimbabwe faces several challenges in developing a strong evaluation system, including limited institutional capacity, inadequate funding, lack of skilled personnel, and insufficient data quality and availability.  In 2018, the Office of the President and Cabinet, with UNICEF's support, conducted a National Evaluation Development Capacity Readiness Assessment. It aimed to understand the evaluation environment and factors shaping Social Sector Line Ministries programs. Findings revealed a low evaluation culture, focus on monitoring and audits, and limited budget for evaluation. Recommendations were made to enhance capacities. Zimbabwe has developed a National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy and Guidelines, established M&E offices, and ongoing capacity building.  To overcome these challenges, it is crucial to strengthen the legal and policy framework as well as build a strong institutional framework by establishing evaluation units within Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), defining clear roles and responsibilities, and enhancing coordination among stakeholders. Capacity building is another key strategy, focusing on investing in training programs and workshops to equip government officials and stakeholders with necessary evaluation skills, and forming partnerships with academic institutions and international organizations for knowledge transfer and technical assistance. It is crucial to ensure adequate budgetary support by allocating sufficient financial resources to carry out evaluation activities. To complement government efforts, it is crucial for development partners to offer financial and technical support to strengthen evaluation systems.  Further, in order to strengthen evaluation systems, it is vital to improve data collection and management systems, enhancing data quality, establishing data repositories, and promoting the use of technology in data collection and analysis. Implementing a supportive policy and legal framework is necessary to mandate regular evaluations of public programs and projects, ensuring that evaluation findings are integrated into decision-making processes and aligned with the SDGs. Engaging stakeholders is vital for enhancing the relevance and credibility of evaluations, involving a broad range of stakeholders such as civil society, the private sector, and beneficiaries to promote transparency and accountability. Ensuring the utilization of evaluation findings is paramount, which involves integrating results into policy and program design, fostering a culture of learning and continuous improvement, and disseminating evaluation reports to relevant stakeholders for informed decision-making.  Establishing a robust evaluation in Zimbabwe necessitates concerted efforts to address capacity building, data quality, transparency, and inclusivity challenges. By implementing practical strategies such as investing in capacity building, institutionalizing evaluation through policy frameworks, promoting stakeholder engagement, enhancing transparency, and leveraging technology, Zimbabwe can strengthen its evaluation systems. Emphasizing evidence-based decision-making will enable policies and programs to effectively meet the diverse needs of Zimbabwean society, thereby contributing to sustainable development and inclusive growth across all segments of the population. Whole of Government approach not only enhances governance effectiveness but also fosters accountability and transparency in policymaking processes. |