**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION TEMPLATE**

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| Title of the abstract | **Strengthening evidence-based decision making in parliaments: The role of knowledge brokers** |
| Conference session | □ Stream A. Responsive National Evaluation Systems  □ Stream B. Inclusive National Evaluation Systems ✓  □ Stream C. Future Driven Systems and Approaches |
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| 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 |
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**Abstract Text (max. 500 words)**

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| Parliaments are inherently political institutions, characterised by contestation and debate. Different segments of parliament eco-system access and use evidence in diverging ways. In practice however, evidence use competes with diverse actors and factors to influence decision-making in parliaments. Although many studies have documented the complexity of evidence use in the other contexts, the relevance of evidence use to parliament is largely unexplored, particularly in Africa. There is a limited understanding of the ecosystem of evidence in parliaments and key players who shape debate and influence policy decisions.  Improving evidence use requires access not only to the evidence, but also to the expertise needed to address the uncertainty of that evidence. In the recent past, there has been a growing interest in knowledge brokering for enhanced evidence use. Knowledge brokers are vital intermediaries who sift through the evidence and synthesise, consolidate and pump it to those in positions to capitalise on it in accessible and usable forms.  Knowledge brokers play a central role in parliamentary evidence eco-systems. This paper explores evidence use in the Parliaments of Uganda and South Africa with a focus on the role of knowledge brokers in evidence translation and implementation, hence enhancing evidence use.  The critical role of knowledge brokers ranges from providing seamless access to credible information which is required by MPs when they want it and how they want it, knowledge of the local context, needs and capacities of policy makers, as facilitators and linkage agents, capacity builders and knowledge managers. In the Parliaments, for example, researchers and content advisors possess institutional memory of the sectors that their committees oversee, allowing following up on implementation of committees’ resolutions and recommendations by departments and entities.  Knowledge brokers in the context of parliament are positioned internally in technical departments like research and externally within independent research bodies, academia, civil society organisations among others. Knowledge brokers perform different roles like knowledge managers, facilitators and linkage agents and capacity building. These roles define how policy makers accessed and engaged with evidence. The importance of evidence in informing the representation, oversight, legislation and appropriation functions of parliament is uncontested. Conversely, parliaments operate in a complex environment that greatly benefits from the roles played by knowledge brokers.  This paper will share experiences on how knowledge brokers navigate the dynamics of generating, translating and influence evidence use in institutions of parliament. |