

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

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION TEMPLATE	
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Title of the abstract	An investigate of the impact of collaboration between civil society, government, and the private sector on the national evaluation systems and evaluation outcomes of Liberia, 2018-2024
Conference session	<input type="checkbox"/> Stream A. Responsive National Evaluation Systems ✓ <input type="checkbox"/> Stream B. Inclusive National Evaluation Systems <input type="checkbox"/> Stream C. Future Driven Systems and Approaches
Name(s), title(s) and institutional affiliation(s) of all other authors/contributors (if applicable)	This paper will be contributed to by the Foundation for International Dignity (FIND), the Delta Human Rights Foundation, Nymote Partners for Democratic Development, UN Women, Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), and Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
Preferred format:	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal presentation (maximum 1 minutes) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation in a panel discussion where the experience can be shared ✓ <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in an interactive session where the example can be shared, without a formal presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____
I will need to apply for bursary support, if selected.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes ✓ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Language to be used for presentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese

Abstract Text (max. 500 words)

It is common to realize greater impact and ultimate change from initiatives that leverage the nexuses between government, civil society, and the private sector. Many development and political actors across the globe have designed different theories that give relevance and need for such triangular collaboration. For example, the Global Thinkers Forum (GTF), a London-based non-for-profit organization promotes positive change by fostering conversations, collaboration, and accountable leadership, through a network of influencers and partners that reach more than 70 countries around the world and engages leaders across business, philanthropy, academia, science, civil society, NGOs and government.¹ The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s Triangular Cooperation structures are also at the heart of the innovative ways of collaborating to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).²

But just how these global initiatives are harnessed in the local context to enhance national evaluation systems is the core concerns for most developing countries. What practical steps there are for ensuring participatory, transparent, and accountable evaluation systems in developing countries? How can other existing local structures feed into the collaboration triangles more flexibly in planning and executing evaluations and jointly harvesting the outcomes of development interventions? What safeguard there are to ensure social inclusion in collaboration? These are among several questions that this paper tries to address.

This paper tries to investigate the impact of collaboration between civil society, government, and the private sector on the national evaluation systems and evaluation outcomes of Liberia. It draws its analysis from a review of the collaboration and non-collaboration of the national stakeholders in the planning, execution of development initiatives and their commensurate outcomes from the 2018-2024 for the purpose of strengthening the systems.

First, it considers current initiatives by civil society to support citizens' understanding of the impact of government projects and programs of Liberia and how that feeds into the country's monitoring and evaluation systems. Liberia has more than 1500 registered and functional CSOs, many of whom focus on diverse development programs, activism, and advocacy, and evaluations. Learning from civil society engagements with government and the private sector has impacted many political and development processes including the conduct and outcomes of national elections as well as the tracking and reporting of citizens' feedback on these outcomes.

Second it reviews existing policies, structures, and systems that foster and or impede collaboration between and among government, civil society, the private sector and other local actors in Liberia in effecting national evaluation. Liberia is a unitary state with centralized government structure. The country passed into law a Local Government Act (LGA) in 2018 which creates space for decentralization of key national government functionaries. The government also signed into law the Land Rights Act (2018) to give customary land rights to communities. But how effective are these laws in supporting collaboration between local communities, the private sector and the government is the critical evaluation question.

The paper is presented by Development Education Network-Liberia (DEN-L), a local, rural-based NGO in Liberia, with vision: "Liberia at peace with itself and its neighbors".

¹ <https://www.globalthinkersforum.org/about/about-us>

² OECD/Triangular Co-operation/why does it matter