

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

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Title of the abstract	Kenya's Evaluation Status and Way Forward under Vision 2030's MTP 4
Conference session	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <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)	Mr. David Kiboi – Director - Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Public Investment Management (MELPIM – formerly MED) Mr. David Waga – Chief Economist - MELPIM Dr. Moses Oyagi – Chair - ESK
Preferred format:	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal presentation (maximum 10 minutes) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Language to be used for presentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese

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

Abstract Text (max. 500 words)

Times are historical presenting unprecedented developmental opportunities and challenges. Technology has ushered the fourth industrial revolution, with new innovations from internet explosion, cloud computing, big data analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI) to advanced robotics, transforming how we live¹. Fast-paced geopolitics, increasing coups in Africa, Israeli/Gaza & Ukraine/Russia wars, climate-change crisis and impacts have left many nations in socio-economic and political difficulties.

Kenya is a regional technological hub, with a fast-growing tech-savvy youth. Its economy remained resilient with a robust services sector, whose growth e.g, in mobile commerce transactions rose by 2.2 per cent to KSh 20.7 trillion in 2023 (KNBS Economic Survey: 2024). Current national debt is more than USD 80 bn - more than half of annual tax collections. Repayment of this, among other issues has escalated the cost of living. Exacerbated by high socio-economic inequalities, growing poverty and unemployment levels especially for the youth as well as run-away corruption. Resultantly, there is growing pressure for strengthened and accountable service delivery characterized by more public participation, especially by the youth whose desperation is deepening.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Public Investment Management (MELPIM – formerly MED) National Treasury and Planning - State Department for Planning co-ordinates the operationalization of the National Integrated Monitoring & Evaluation System (NIMES) and the County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (CIMES) through a multi-stakeholder approach. Commendably over the years, the Systems have received support from various development partners (e.g, World Bank, UN, USAID, EU, DFID and SIDA). They track and provide feedback on the implementation of the Vision 2030 and its Medium-Term Plans (MTPs), aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Some key achievements are a draft national M&E Policy and National Evaluation Plan (NAP).

Evaluation Society of Kenya (ESK), has not been left behind in benefiting from some stakeholder support, albeit still largely operationalized on voluntary basis. It has collaborated with MELPIM to promote an increased national uptake of M&E, whose culture and practice remains weak. That, includes weak institutional and individual capacities, particularly of translating theory into practice with the evaluation function vs monitoring being left behind. Towards redressing these and promoting the evaluation of the SDGs, a national stakeholders' Technical Working Group (TWG) chaired by the MELPIM, with the Society as the secretariat, was established.

Among its key achievements are a pilot county evaluation capacity building project funded by the World Bank and endorsed by the Council of Governors (COG), with great potential for replication. Successful formal launch of Kenya's M&E Professionalization journey in 2022 and 2023 youth in evaluation events, with impressive national stakeholder support as well as parliamentary advocacy and involvement of academia are others.

We propose a joint MELPIM/ESK panel discussion of four representatives to share some of our experiences, including key challenges, lessons learnt and proposed way forward in contributing to

¹ UNIDO, 2024. Industrial Development Report

our government's MTP four's "*Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda for Inclusive Growth*" (2023-2027). The link between the national M&E status and its professionalization journey will be integral.