**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION TEMPLATE**

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| Title of the abstract | The National Monitoring and Evaluation System in the Dominican Republic: A necessary tool to harmonize the actions of the Government, strengthen results-based management and ensure the welfare of the people. |
| Conference session | **x** 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: | **x** Formal presentation (maximum 10 minutes)  **x** 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. | **x** Yes  □ No |
| Language to be used for presentation | **x** English □ French  **x** Spanish □ Chinese |

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

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| The Dominican Republic faces significant challenges in developing a comprehensive and effective national evaluation system that meets current and future needs. In a comparison among 10 countries in the Latin American region using the National Evaluation Capacities Index (INCE in Spanish), led by representatives of the German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval) and the World Food Programme, the Dominican Republic ranks second lowest among the participating countries in terms of evaluation capacity development. This position is not surprising, given that the National Monitoring and Evaluation System has only 4 years of design and implementation, and historically in the country, evaluative practices, although conducted by certain institutions, have mainly focused on meeting the requirements of international organizations for fund approval.  Currently, the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Development (MEPyD in Spanish) is conscientious about enhancing evaluation capacities for programs and public policies to ensure evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement. Pursuant to the National Development Strategy 2030, efforts have been made over the past four years to strengthen the National Monitoring and Evaluation System. Lessons learned from recent years include:   1. Significant cost reductions in evaluations can be achieved by cleverly utilizing comprehensive administrative records that closely relate to the theory of change of the programs being evaluated. 2. Partnerships with international organizations, other Latin American countries with current higher evaluation capacities, and academia can enhance national development in evaluation practices. 3. Coordination among national institutions responsible for finance, budget, presidency, and planning is crucial to establish a common agenda for evaluation, ensuring consensus, mutual understanding, and coordination to efficiently channel resources for evaluating public interventions. 4. Under specific scenarios, support from the private sector is key in terms of budget availability, when there are no conflicts of interest.   Several tasks have been undertaken because of those lessons:   1. Development of the first National Evaluation Plan, aimed at prioritizing, planning, and systematizing evaluations of programs and public policies, as well as using results to improve public action continuously. 2. Promotion of a consolidated system for gathering administrative records and indicators, meeting international quality standards, including disaggregation by vulnerable groups, available for both monitoring and evaluating programs and public policies. 3. Support for institutions in strengthening their administrative records to enhance their quality. 4. Establishment of partnerships with academia, peers from Costa Rica, international organizations to transfer evaluation knowledge (CLEAR-LAC, Development Innovation Lab, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, MIDEPLAN), or support in budget resources by national private sector representants (National Council of Private Firm or CONEP in Spanish).   The remainder of our work focuses on presenting the current status of each of the aforementioned tasks and how it is expected to enhance decision-making in public policy. |