Session Title  Enhancing Parliamentary Oversight in Africa Using Evaluative Evidence – Challenges, Opportunities and Possibilities

Conference Strand  Strand 5: The role of the Judiciary, Executive and Legislature in Evaluation: Responsive National Evaluations

Date and time  Day 2: Thursday 14 March, 11h00 to 13h00

About the panel  Accountability and its importance for good governance has been widely discussed in the extant literature. Parliaments are, undoubtedly, essential to advancing the oversight central to good governance – by providing leadership in driving development and translating policy into enabling legislation. Their capacity to enhance and advance oversight and fiduciary authority over the executive is vital to building a transparent and trusting bridge between the state and its citizenry. Parliaments across Africa are uniquely positioned to strengthen their oversight function and transform democratic governance. The parliamentary landscape is significantly enhancing and advancing the capacity of parliamentarians to demand, and utilize evaluative evidence, and to champion and adopt relevant policies to entrench evaluation use through effective national evaluation systems. While the emerging parliamentary landscape is dynamic and holds a lot of promise for transformative governance in Africa, more needs to be done to ensure that such efforts are well sequenced, institutionalized, and fit-for-purpose.

The objective of the panel discussion is to explore the rapidly changing parliamentary landscape in Africa in light of the above, highlighting key initiatives aimed at enhancing parliamentary oversight through evaluative evidence. The discussion will focus on the following aspects:

- The role of citizens in enhancing evidence use in parliaments
- The use of parliamentary oversight tools
- Institutionalizing evaluations for more effective oversight
- Evaluative arrangements in legislatures

Moderator/Chair  Mr Kobena Hanson: Principal Evaluation Capacity Development Officer, Independent Development Evaluation Department (IDEV) of the African Development Bank

Panel  
- Ms Velia Manyonga, Senior Researcher, Parliament of Malawi
- Mr Shaphic Karenzi, M&E Officer, Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Rwanda
- Mr Wilhelm Janse van Rensburg, PhD Candidate, Stellenbosch University
- Dr Mercy Kamau, Senior Research Fellow, Tegemeo Institute, Kenya
- Mr Andile Mphunga, Senior Manager, Parliament of South Africa

Session format  The session will be introduced by the Chairperson. Each presenter will then have 10 minutes for presentations based on the abstracts submitted. This will be followed by a plenary discussion and an overall summary of the emerging issues by the Chair.