Evi4Dev | Evidence for Development CONFERENCE
May 6-8, 2025

AFIDEP
African Institute for Development Policy

AUDA-NEPAD
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

CALL FOR ABSTRACT

Conference Theme:

Optimising the Role of Data, Evidence, and Innovations in Africa's Efforts to Create Wealth, Empower Citizens, and Foster Responsive and Inclusive Governance

The Evidence for Development (Evi4Dev) Conference is a biennial continental conference organised by the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), and other stakeholders to centre data, evidence, and innovations in Africa's development efforts in order to accelerate progress towards the realisation of the Africa's Agenda 2063 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Evi4Dev Conference will, every two years, convene both government and non-government actors to collectively review progress and agree on urgent actions that governments and other actors will take to put data, evidence, and innovations at the centre of the continent's Agenda 2063 implementation efforts. The primary stakeholders that the conference will convene include governments, scientists, practitioners, knowledge brokers, private sector, media, and civil society. The conference will be held in Nairobi on May 6–8, 2025. The theme of the first conference is: "Optimising the Role of Data, Evidence, and Innovations in Africa's Efforts to Create Wealth, Empower Citizens, and Foster Responsive and Inclusive Governance". We would like to invite abstracts for oral and poster sessions, and for side-sessions/meetings organised by stakeholders as outlined below.

A: Oral and Poster Sessions

The Evi4Dev Conference is not a scientific conference. The conference provides a platform for a wide range of stakeholders working to ensure data, research evidence, and innovations are developed and harnessed to accelerate Africa's development progress in different sectors. This unique conference convenes diverse stakeholders to share, review progress, and agree on specific continental, country, and stakeholder-specific, actions needed to sustain steady progress towards Agenda 2063 goals. The first conference has prioritised development issues drawn from the ambitions of the second 10-year Implementation of Agenda 2063, including wealth creation, infrastructure development (physical, energy, and digital), food production, and transforming education and health systems. Responsive and inclusive governance, and climate-proofing are cross-cutting issues for the conference.

We therefore invite submission of abstracts from governments, scientists, practitioners, knowledge brokers, private sector, media, and civil society, working in the two themes of the conference:
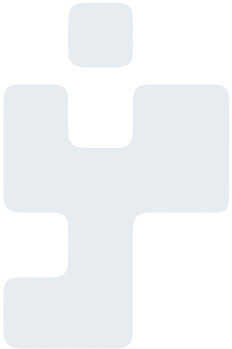
• **Theme 1:** Generation and translation of research and innovations for the realisation of Agenda 2063
• **Theme 2:** Evidence-informed policymaking (EIP) to accelerate Agenda 2063 progress

The abstracts should be no more than 300 words and must share work that is driving progress in the five priority sectors for the conference, namely:

• Wealth creation (unlocking inclusive business opportunities, industry development, job creation, etc)
• Infrastructure development (physical, energy, and digital)
• Food production
• Transforming education systems
• Transforming health systems

For the first theme, abstracts that look at science, technology, and innovation (STI) as a cross-cutting enabler of development without a focus on any of the five priorities above are also invited.

The table below provides a detailed outline of the abstracts to be submitted for the Evi4Dev Conference.

Theme 1: Generation and translation of research and innovations for the realisation of Agenda 2063		Focus Sectors/Issues
Sub-theme 1.1: Strengthening national research generation and translation systems	**Submissions by African Government Agencies:** We welcome submissions by relevant government agencies to share best practices in strengthening national research generation and translation systems. Specifically, the abstracts should cover: • Specific actions that governments have taken to strengthen their national research generation and translation systems. Actions taken may include: development of policies and/or strategies, investments, capacity development, and research translation, etc. • Experiences, challenges, and lessons in strengthening their national research generation and translation systems • Recommendations for sustained improvement **Submissions by other Stakeholders:** We welcome submissions by other stakeholders working with governments to strengthen national research generation and translation systems to share their initiatives, experiences, and lessons. Other stakeholders may include: researchers and academia, civil society organisations, funding partners, private sector players, etc. Specifically, the abstracts should cover: • The goal and objectives of the initiatives • Implementation of the initiative, including the specific activities implemented, the partners you worked with, the period of implementation, etc. • Results of the initiative, mainly the outputs and outcomes /impact of the initiative • Lessons from the initiative • Recommendations for future initiatives	Wealth Creation (unlocking inclusive business opportunities, industry development, job creation, etc) Energy Infrastructure Digital Infrastructure Food Production Education Health National Science, Technology, and Innovations (STI) system
Sub-theme 1.2: Strengthening national innovations and transfer systems	**Submissions by African Government Agencies:** We welcome submissions by relevant government agencies to share best practices in strengthening national innovations and transfer systems. Specifically, the abstracts should cover: • Specific actions that governments have taken to strengthen their national innovations and transfer systems. Actions taken may include development of policies and/or strategies, investments, capacity development; and, establishing clear innovations transfer pathways, etc. • Experiences, challenges, and lessons in strengthening their national innovations and transfer systems • Recommendations for sustained improvement **Submissions by other Stakeholders:** We welcome submissions by other stakeholders working with governments to strengthen national innovations and transfer systems to share their initiatives, experiences, and lessons. Other stakeholders may include: researchers and academia, civil society organisations, funding partners, private sector players, etc. Specifically, the abstracts should cover: • The goal and objectives of the initiatives • Implementation of the initiative, including the specific activities implemented, the partners you worked with, the period of implementation, etc. • Results of the initiative, mainly the outputs and outcomes/impact of the initiative	

Theme 1: Generation and Translation of Research and Innovations for the Realisation of Agenda 2063		**Focus Sectors/Issues**
Sub-theme 1.3: Ground-breaking research and innovations to drive Africa's development	**Ground-breaking research:** We welcome submissions from stakeholders generating ground-breaking research that is contributing to accelerating Africa's progress towards goals in the Agenda 2063's Second 10-year Implementation Plan focusing on the priority sectors/issues for the conference (see column 3 of this table). The abstracts will showcase ground-breaking research and how it has been translated or is being translated into action by governments so as to contribute to accelerating development progress. Specifically, the abstracts should cover: • Aim and objectives of the research • Design and methods • Results, implications, and recommendations • Actions taken to translate the research into action (to inform government policy decisions, strategies, budgets, implementation plans) • Outcomes and/or impact of the research translation efforts • Lessons and recommendations for the future **Ground-breaking innovations:** We welcome submissions from stakeholders generating ground-breaking innovations that are contributing to accelerating Africa's progress towards goals in the Agenda 2063's Second 10-year Implementation Plan focusing on the priority sectors/issues for the conference (see column 3 of this table). The abstracts will showcase innovations and how they have been transferred or are being transferred into the market (including commercialisation) so as to contribute to accelerating development progress. Specifically, the abstracts should cover: • Aim and objectives of the innovation • Design and methods • Results, implications, and recommendations • Actions taken to facilitate innovation transfer • Outcomes and/or impact of the innovation transfer • Lessons and recommendations for the future	

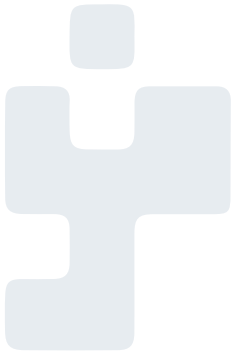| **Theme 2:** Evidence-Informed Policy-making (EIP)		**Focus Sectors/Issues**
Sub-theme 2.1: Institutionalising EIP practice	We welcome abstracts that share efforts and initiatives of African governments and other stakeholders to institutionalise the practice of evidence-informed policy-making (EIP). EIP institutionalisation refers to the process of integrating evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) into the formal structures, policies, and practices of organisations, particularly within healthcare, public health, and policymaking bodies. Specifically, the abstracts should share: • Goal and objectives of the efforts or initiative • Implementation including specific activities implemented • Results of the implementation of the initiative, including outputs, outcomes, and impact • Lessons from the implementation of the initiative • Recommendations for future efforts	Wealth Creation (unlocking inclusive business opportunities, industry development, job creation, etc) Energy Infrastructure Digital Infrastructure Food Production Education
Sub-theme 2.2: Results-based performance in African governments' delivery of development goals	We welcome abstracts that share efforts and initiatives of African governments and other stakeholders to strengthen results-based performance in governments' delivery of development goals. Specifically, the abstracts should share:	Health

Theme 2: Evidence-Informed Policy-making (EIP)		Focus Sectors/Issues
	• Goal and objectives of the efforts or initiative • Implementation including specific activities implemented • Results of the implementation of the initiative, including outputs, outcomes, and impact • Lessons from the implementation of the initiative • Recommendations for future efforts	
Sub-theme 2.3: Harnessing data science and artificial intelligence (AI) to optimise decision-making	We welcome abstracts that share efforts and initiatives of development stakeholders to harness data science and artificial intelligence (AI) to optimise government decision-making in Africa. Specifically, the abstracts should share: • Goal and objectives of the efforts or initiative • Implementation including specific activities implemented • Results of the implementation of the initiative, including outputs, outcomes, and impact • Lessons from the implementation of the efforts or initiative • Recommendations for future efforts	
Sub-theme 2.4: Centring equity and inclusion in EIP in Africa	We welcome abstracts that share efforts and initiatives of development stakeholders to centre equity and inclusion in evidence-informed policy-making (EIP). Specifically, the abstracts should share: • Goal and objectives of the efforts or initiative • Implementation including specific activities implemented • Results of the implementation of the initiative, including outputs, outcomes, and impact • Lessons from the implementation of the initiative • Recommendations for future efforts	

B: Organised/Side Sessions

The Evi4Dev Conference will provide opportunity for stakeholders to organise side meetings on their topics of interest related to the focus of the conference. We therefore welcome abstracts from stakeholders interested in taking advantage of the conference to hold side meetings. The abstracts should be no more than 300 words and should outline purpose and structure of the meeting. Where needed, we will support stakeholders in publicising their side meetings among registered conference delegates to enable registration for side meetings ahead of the conference. The side meetings will take place in the mornings between 7.30-9.00 am and evenings 4.30-6 pm/5.30-7.00 pm of the three days of the conference (except the last day of the conference where there will be no evening side-meetings).

Note: Organised/side meetings are exclusively available for partners registered under the Platinum, Diamond, Gold, and Silver packages only.

Abstract Evaluation and Selection

Abstracts for 'oral and poster' sessions will be evaluated using the criteria below:
• Relevance to the conference theme, sub-theme, and priority sectors
• Significance of the contribution of the work shared in the abstract to unlocking or accelerating progress towards specific Agenda 2063 goals and sub-goals
• Clarity of the work/initiative, how it was implemented, the results (outputs, outcomes, and impact), lessons, and recommendations
• Novelty of the approaches and/or solutions implemented in the work/initiative shared

All accepted abstracts will be in the official conference abstracts book.
Abstracts for organised side meetings will be accepted based on a first-come and first-serve basis.

The **deadline** for submitting conference abstracts is **January 31, 2025.**
For inquiries, please reach out via email at **evi4devconference@afidep.org** or call/WhatsApp us at **+254 748 239 223.**