

## NOMINEE STATEMENT OF INTENT



**Dr. Awuor PONGE**

**AfrEA Vice-President Candidate 2024**

Dear Friends and Members of AfrEA,

**(I) Why am I interested in serving AfrEA as Board member?**

I have served as your Vice-President for the past three years (2021 – 2023), during which time, I have been part of the Great Team that achieved the following:

- Supervised the successful development of the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027;
- Partnership with the American Evaluation Association (AEA) Thematic Interest Group (TIG) on Democracy, Human Rights and Good Governance (DRG);
- Spearheading the formation of the AfrEA TIG on DRG;
- Continued mentorship and capacity development of the Young and Emerging Evaluators (AfrEA YEEs) through the Global Eval4Action Campaign;
- Co-option of the Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEEs) into the AfrEA Board;
- Effective management of AfrEA Projects on “**Realising the Made in Africa Evaluation**” e.g. one implemented with Cameroun Development Evaluation Association (CaDEA) and the other with the Tanzania Evaluation Association (TanEA);
- Extension of the AfrEA reach through inspiring new membership from Lusophone Africa;
- Supported the African evaluation capacity targeted projects and programmes e.g. through Peer-to-Peer (P2P) learning and experience sharing among and between members of National Association (VOPEs) and Networks;
- Oversaw the successful organisation of the first ever AfrEA Virtual Conference, the 10th AfrEA Conference from the Digital Control Point in Cape Town, South Africa;
- Shared about the interlinkages between the African Evaluation Principles (AEP) and the Indigenous African Ethical Protocol that I developed for the EvalIndigenous Global Network; **and last but certainly not the least;**
- Because of my unrelenting push for **DIVERSITY, EQUITY** and **INCLUSION (DEI)**, I have shelved my ambitions to run for President of AfrEA, so we can give a chance to a person from Francophone or Lusophone Africa, with Anglophone having served as President for 7 years in a row.

I have been a member of AfrEA since 2010; and I have also been a member of the Africa Gender and Development Evaluators Network (AGDEN) since 2012 and I'm in good standing. I have also served in various VOPE Executive Positions including the Evaluation Society of Kenya (ESK) – 3 Years; the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA) – 1 Year; the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS) – 4 Years and the International Organization for Collaborative Outcome Management (IOCOM) – 7 Years. I have attended several AfrEA biennial conferences and General Assembly meetings namely: 7th. AfrEA Conference in Yaoundé, Cameroon; 9th. AfrEA Conference in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and the 10th. AfrEA Conference virtually and in person from the Digital Control Centre (DCC) in Cape Town, South Africa.

I offer myself as the '*continuing learning student*' in leadership with great experience to share from leadership of some of the leading VOPEs nationally, regionally and globally. I promise to generously give without measure and to be equally open to receive with humility and open hands from the rest of the membership. I promise to continue with the **FIVE** core values that have guided my leadership at the AfrEA Board. I'm true to these FIVE core values which I hold Dear to my Heart, and which have shaped my engagement with the Board of AfrEA and the general membership:

- **Personal commitment;**
- **Promoting ethical leadership;**
- **Teamwork;**
- **Culture of sharing best practices; and**
- **Visionary leadership.**

Teamwork will continue to be central in my engagement with the other members of the Board and the general membership of AfrEA. Through teamwork, we shall be able to recognise our strengths and compensate for our weaknesses through synergy, in the overall belief that together we are stronger but divided we fall. As your Vice-President, I will continue to work with other leaders to ensure that we put appropriate mechanisms for the countries in Africa for the establishment of effective frameworks for monitoring and evaluation; and that evaluation is given prominence in any policy decisions at the national, regional and even at the global levels. This will ensure enhanced engagement with like-minded networks from across the Evaluation fraternity globally.

## (II) **What are my relevant skills and abilities to serve AfrEA as a Board member?**

I have served you successfully as Vice-President for the past 3 years. I am a member of the Africa Gender and Development Evaluators Network (AGDEN) and the African Evaluation Society (AfrEA). I have previously served as the National Treasurer and Board Member at the Evaluation Society of Kenya (ESK); a Board Member at the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA); as well as former Board Member and Regional Representative for Sub-Saharan Africa at the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS). I have previously sat in the Board of the International Organization for Collaborative Outcome Management (IOCOM), representing Africa; as well as served as the Kenya Country Representative at the International Organization for Collaborative Outcome Management (IOCOM); I am the founding Convener of the Gender and Evaluation Thematic Interest Group at IDEAS; and also the founder and former leader of the Working Group on Mentoring Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEEs) Programme at IDEAS. I have sat at the EvalGender+ Management Group, where I was Co-Convener for the Communication and Knowledge Management Task Group;

and Co-Convener of the Advocacy and Leadership Task Group. Presently, I am the Secretary of the African Chapter of the Guidelines International Network (G-I-N) and the Africa Regional Representative at the EvalIndigenous Global Network. I was awarded the International Organisation for Collaboration in Evaluation (IOCE) and EvalPartners **Award in 2015 for my contribution to Evaluation in Africa and Mentoring Young and Emerging Evaluators**. I'm also credited with the formulation of the Indigenous African Ethical Protocol for Evaluations, under the auspices of the EvalIndigenous Global Network.

(III) **What position within the Board am I nominating myself for and what is the rationale behind it? (Candidates are invited to clearly state if they are running for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, regional representative or institutional representative).**

I am nominating myself for the position of **Vice-President at the AfrEA Board**. If re-elected to the position, I promise that I will continue with following:

- That I will continue to play an important part in promoting the AfrEA ideals and ideas at all Evaluation functions I attend globally;
- That I will continue to work with other members of the Board and the Secretariat for the benefit of the membership of AfrEA;
- That I will continue with my mentoring of the Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEEs);
- That I will prepare a comprehensive policy document for AfrEA on Membership Mobilisation and Benefits;
- That I will continue to listen to the wishes of the members and to articulate the silent voices of the membership at the AfrEA Board level;
- That I will contribute in the activities to realise the objectives of the Strategic Plan for AfrEA 2023 – 2027 guiding our operations and long-term vision; *and*
- That I will prepare a Roll of Honour Policy for AfrEA – the Awards and Recognition Policy.

I look forward to continuing offering my selfless service and to work with the other members of the Board and Secretariat to ensure that AfrEA fulfills its mandate and achieves its vision. I would be really humbled and privileged to continue serving in the AfrEA Board.



**Dr. Awuor PONGE**

**Candidate – AfrEA Vice-President 2024.**