

## **Nominee Statement: By Tewelde Gebremariam Adhanom**

### **1. Why am I interested in serving AfrEA as a Board member?**

I am interested to serve as a board member for AfrEA for Regional Representative for Eastern Africa position, at this juncture where social cohesion and cross-boundary projects and programmes needs to be initiated to increase inter-dependency and peaceful co-existence of the people of the East Africa and the Africa continent in general. I believe, cross boundary projects, and strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the region can be a catalyst for proper delivery of projects and to contribute to improve the wellbeing of the community and regional integration. I would like to serve the AfrEA in general and the East African region in particular in having better influence on improving M&E practice and accountability of governments and agencies to the community. In my time as the East African region coordinator, I will strengthen the East African VOPEs to have frequent opportunities to network by organizing regional conferences and virtually linking them to share experiences, opportunities for funds and networking.

### **2. What are my relevant skills and abilities to serve AfrEA as a Board member?**

I have proven skills, knowledge and interpersonal skills in mobilizing professional volunteers to serve their community and their associations. In my membership as Ethiopia Evaluation Association for more than 10 years, and particularly in the last five years, I was actively involved in improving the working process of the EEvA. Elected as Assembly Chairman in 2020, I served for two years, and I was an active committee member of the annual EEvA conference preparation. I contributed significantly to host impactful conferences despite the COVID-19 epidemic and the war in the Northern part of the country. Likewise, after being elected as a board member of EEvA, as Treasure and its Communication Director, I successfully reorganised EEvA to have better visibility and influence. I am handling its Twitter page and telegram group which enabled us to mobilize a critical mass of more than 300 M&E professionals and researchers to join the Association in June 2023. I initiated and made a strong effort to get the organization to have a website. In establishing partnership with AfrEA, I persisted to renew our membership despite difficulty to have hard currency, I facilitated EEvA to remain relevant and active in the AfrEA engagements. I and my team worked hard to negotiate to be granted to participate in the AfrEA 2024 conference with three delegates from EEvA. I have proven persuasion, negotiation, and positive interpersonal skills that can serve the AfrEA positively. I am member of National Advisory Council to the Ethiopia's Ministry of Labour and Skills which attested my professional and interpersonal skills to involve on such initiatives and I will use this endeavour to easily leverage to get support from the government, Intergovernmental, INGOs and CSOs that I closely work to empower AfrEA in East Africa.

### **3. What position within the Board am I applying for, and what is the motivation?**

I am running for the Regional Representative for Eastern Africa position. I want to contribute to the impact AfrEA can contribute in improving M&E practices in Africa and regional integration of the Africa regional communities. Applying my skills and knowledge accumulated so far in improving the Ethiopian Evaluation Association (EEvA), working with many international and regional consultancy firms for the last 10 years and leading influential consultancy of my own in Ethiopia with cross boundary projects in the East African will help me easily connect the East Africa evaluation associations to network; work closely; mobilize volunteer expertise, mobilize resource; and share knowledge and skills so as to contribute on improving M&E practices and influence policy uptakes. Involving in this position will help me to have an impact on the cross-border thematic areas, co-design projects among the VOPEs, and to have a collective impact in East Africa and the African continent at large. I will share my country's best practices and learn from my African colleagues to scale up best practices in M&E and emerging methods including to empower youth in the M&E practices.