

## **Statement of Intent**

My relationship with the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS) began in 2013, when I attended the Barbados conference. Immediately, I was struck by the rich discourse among persons who came from different regions of the world about the issues they faced when undertaking evaluations. There was a strong focus on understanding context during the evaluation and inequality discussions, and that appealed to me. I had encountered results frameworks with indicators which left grantees overwhelmed, as they found donor demands intrusive and they in turn were failing to learn from the M&E data. For me, the inequality discussion had to consider not only access to resources, but the power dynamic between donors and grantees, the capacity to capture and use information, and also how information is used. That conference really clarified for me the importance of reducing fear among stakeholders when I work and to always focus on the value of personal contributions in my data collection and the utility of findings.

The discussions among Caribbean regional attendees at that 2013 conference, contributed to the birthing of the Caribbean Evaluators International. The CEI was officially registered in Jamaica in 2014 and I am one of the first five founding members. I became the second President of CEI in 2015 and worked with a team to guide the strategic focus of the CEI to increase its visibility but primarily to advocate for the use of regional professionals to conduct evaluation activities. The CEI signed an MOU with IDEAS in 2017

At the 2017 conference in Mexico, my focus as I participated in panel discussions and chaired sessions, was on contributing to the south to south collaboration in evaluation initiative by promoting the value of the knowledge which the global south can add to improve the evaluation field and development outcomes all round. Prior to the 2019 conference in the Czech Republic, I led a team of Caribbean and Pacific authors to produce a chapter in the 2019 IDEAS publication Evaluation for Transformational Change: Opportunities and challenges for the Sustainable Development Goals. During the Prague conference my focus was on sharing lessons learned from the implementation and evaluation of development projects designed to address climate change presenting jointly with the teams from the Caribbean and the Pacific.

I truly believe in the transformative value of evaluation, and I am very concerned that in my region, there is still low buy-in at the leadership level of governments to utilise the “learning” from evaluations to further national development outcomes and this has fueled my interest in serving on the Board of IDEAS. I would like to work on strategies that move past sensitisation about M&E and the SDGs to promoting the building of evaluation cultures. I am very interested in the professionalisation of evaluation as I believe that identifying parameters for the field would not only help to demystify what we do but help persons understand what to value about M&E processes. IDEAS activities have facilitated the illumination of the issues that we face as an international professional community and I would like to learn from thought leaders and contribute to furthering the mission of the organisation.