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### ***Biographical Statement***

Eric Chinje is the Chief Executive Officer of the Nairobi-based African Media Initiative (AMI). Prior to moving to Kenya in July 2014, he was (and still is) a Visiting Scholar at the George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. He served as an Adviser to the governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo(DRC), Liberia and South Sudan on their strategic, development and international communications - an extension of his role as a Senior Advisor at the Washington-based International Communications and Trade-relations firm, KRL International.

He came to KRL after a stint as Director of Strategic Communications at the London-based Mo Ibrahim Foundation. Prior to that he led the Global Media Development Program at the World Bank Institute (WBI) and, in that capacity, launched the IMAGE (Independent Media for Accountability, Governance and Empowerment) e-learning program and network to build media capacity to report on and analyze global development issues. Mr. Chinje moved to the WBI from his position as External Affairs and Communications Manager in the World Bank's Africa Region and the institution's spokesperson on Africa. He initiated and ran a series of workshops on Economics and Business Reporting, Investigative Journalism, Budget Coverage, and Reporting on Agriculture, involving over 2000 journalists in Africa and Asia. He spent four years at the African Development Bank in Tunis as head of that institution's External Affairs and Communications Unit.

Mr. Chinje is a founding Board member of "Africa Check", a nonprofit and non-partisan organization established to improve fact-checking and news gathering in Africa. He is also Chair of the recently-created "Briser le Silence" Foundation in the DRC, an organization that supports victims of sexual violence in the country and region. Until recently, he was on the Board of the African Media Initiative (AMI) which he was instrumental in establishing as Chair of the Steering Committee, and is a founding Co-Convenor of the African Media Leaders Forum (AMLF). He has served as Vice President of the African Advisory Board of the National Museum of African Art of the prestigious Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC, a Senior Adviser at Tutu-Desk UK - a program to bring affordable school desks to children in rural Africa, a member of the Benefits Committee of the New York-based Africa America Institute (AAI), a Board member of the London-based Make Every Woman Count (MEWC), a Board member of Africa Unbound, and chair of the US arm of the Zambia Orphans Aid (ZOA) organization. Mr. Chinje is Honorary Chair of the ARK Jammers Connection Inc and co-conceptor of the Ancestry Reconnection Programme (ARP) - a programme connecting DNA-certified Africans of the historical Diaspora (American, Brazilians, etc.) to Africa.

He served as Vice Chair of the World Bank/IMF Africa Club from 1996 – 2002 and organized the Bank's first Africa Business Forum in 1998, the largest gathering of African businessmen and women ever held in the United States.

He has launched a number of very successful social enterprises, including: Santa MC2, an award-winning micro-finance institution in Cameroon; Santa Futures Incorporated, a Diaspora-funded investment initiative, and the "Bubinga Process" - an effort to strengthen micro enterprise in Cameroon with fresh capital and modern business skills.

Mr. Chinje studied in the universities of Yaoundé (Cameroon), Syracuse (New York) and Harvard (Cambridge, Massachusetts) and lectured in the Yaoundé University School of Mass Communication in Cameroon. He is fluent in both English and French.

He was the first head of News and Programs and Editor-in-Chief of Cameroon Television and, at various times from 1984 - 1991, a contributing correspondent for CNN World Report, and a stringer for the BBC World Service, Voice of America, and Deutschewelle Radio.

Mr. Chinje is an Officer of the Cameroon Order of Merit and an Officer of the Dutch Order of Orange Nassau. He has written and lectured extensively on Communication and Development in Africa.

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### ***Statement of Purpose***

I have spent an adult life in learning and application from a range of academic institutions and professional workplaces, and come to fully appreciate the central purpose of learning and application. I bring that knowledge and approach to every new challenge, in the social environment or work space.

### ***Education***

**University of Yaoundé, Cameroon** - Faculty of Arts and Sciences BA (Hons) 1977 - Modern Letters and Linguistics

**Syracuse University, New York** - Newhouse School of Communications

MSc 1981 - Telecommunications (Radio, Television, Film; Communication and Direct Broadcast Satellites; Social Impact of Television)

**Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts** - Center for International Affairs Harvard Fellow 1991 - International and Intercultural Communications

### ***Languages***

English - Fluent/written&spoken

French - Fluent/spoken; very good/written

Creole - Very good/spoken

### ***Work Experience***

- Chief Executive Officer, African Media Initiative (AMI) July 2014 to present
- Senior Advisor - KRL International 2013-present
- Lead Adviser on International Communication and Government Outreach to the governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and South Sudan
- Director, Strategic Communications and Adviser, Mo Ibrahim Foundation 2012-2013 Responsible for MIF communication, spokesperson, adviser to the MIF Chair
- Manager, Global Media Development 2010-2012 Conceived and launched GMD's flagship program: IMAGE - Independent Media for Accountability, Governance and Empowerment; Media training on a range of issues, including economics, finance, agriculture, etc.
- Manager, External Affairs and Communications, Spokesperson 2008-2010 Provided strategic direction in public affairs and communication, stakeholder engagement, project communication, media relations, corporate outreach.
- Senior Manager (Head of Unit), External Relations and Communications, Spokesperson 2004-2008 Responsible for management of Unit, Bank external relations, strategic and project communications, media relations, and stakeholder engagement, Bank Board communication.
- Editor in Chief - Cameroon Television 1984-1991  
Oversaw the launch of Cameroon television, design and production of news and

entertainment programs, inter-organizational relations, and publication of program guide.

- Lecturer - Yaoundé University School of Mass Communications 1984-1985  
I prepared and delivered courses on radio-television production and programming, and on the social impacts of broadcasting.
- Contributing Reporter - CNN World Report 1987-1991  
Provided national coverage and analysis of events in Cameroon and Central Africa
- Stringer - BBC, VOA, Deutchewelle Radio  
Reported on major national and continental events - on demand - until 1990

### ***Career Highlights***

Visiting Scholar, George Mason University, October 2013 to Present

Chair, Africa Media Initiative Steering Committee, 2005 - 2008

Vice Chair, World Bank-IMF Africa Club and President, Organizing Committee of first World Bank "Africa Business Forum", 1996 - 2004

### ***Professional Initiatives***

African Media Initiative - currently the only umbrella media organization in Africa

African Media Leaders Forum - an annual meeting of media owners and leaders

Independent Media for Accountability, Governance and Empowerment (IMAGE) Program, World Bank Institute

African Economic Writers Associations - across French-speaking Africa

Training for African journalists in Economics and Business Journalism, Budget Coverage, Agricultural Reporting, and Investigative Journalism

### ***Social Entrepreneurship***

Santa Microfinance Bank (MC2) - Founder

Santa Futures Incorporated - a Diaspora-capitalized business

Bobinga Group - online Data research and publication; business incubation and enterprise development center; micro enterprise restructuring and funding Women's Economic Empowerment Network (WEEN) - a cooperative of farm women

### ***Social and Professional Causes***

Chair, Briser le Silence (Break the Silence) Foundation

Founding Board Member, Africa Check

Honorary Chair, ARK Jammers Connection, Inc.

Co-conceptor, Ancestry Reconnection Program (ARP)

President, Zambia Orphans of AIDS (ZOA - USA)

Senior Adviser, Tutu Desk Campaign, UK

Board Member, Make Every Woman Count, UK

Vice President, National Museum of African Art Advisory Committee, Washington DC

Founding Board Member, African Media Initiative

***Recognition***

'Achievement in Media' Award

Officer, Cameroon Order of Merit Officer,

Officer, Dutch Order of Orange-Nassau