

MOTIVATION STATEMENT – ELYVIN NKHONJERA

I am a Malawian woman with over 15 years' experience of working in the development sector. Through the years of working, I have acquired skills and experience in evidence based advocacy informed by research in order to influence policy review on issues identified through a comprehensive political economy analysis. In my previous role at Oxfam, I facilitated a study on review of oil contracts that were signed in 2014 by the government of Malawi and eventually led on a campaign on the renegotiation of the signed contracts. I have excellent experience in Transparency and Extractives, Artisanal and Small Scale Mining, Human Rights and Governance, Project Management, Gender Programming and Research. I am currently serving as a Secretary for Nyasa Mining Cooperative and I am into gemstone value addition.

I have excellent background in programme design and management. The most recent experience was the designing of the Extractives Governance Programme for Oxfam in 2015 which I eventually managed its implementation until June, 2020. I further developed three projects under the programme which were funded by Australian Aid, Open Society Foundation and some other individual donors. I am currently Coordinating a consortium where I support the consortium members to build strategic partnerships with like-minded organisations, networks and other key stakeholders. Since programme implementation, the PROTECT programme has engaged over 35 partners from the media institutions, CSOs and INGOs and other government institutions.

I have further experience in coordinating engagements with policy makers including the ministers, members of parliament and other key stakeholders from the private sector and civil society actors on rights based issues both at national and international level. I also ably participated in high level panels in global conferences around Extractive Industries and inequality. (Refer to the video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZq0VyiOeM8>. I have attained a number of leadership positions in strategic spaces. I have served as a Multi Stake Holder (MSG) member for Malawi Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (MWEITI) representing the Civil Societies in Malawi from 2015 – 2020, a vice Chairperson for Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Coalition, Malawi Chapter from 2017 to 2020 and a President for the Young Earth Scientists (YES) Network Africa from 2010 to 2015.

With this vast experience I have it is why I would like to contest on the position of the President for the Young Earth Scientists Network. I would like to be the first African Woman to hold this high position. It will not only inspire my fellow young women but it will also portray the potential that women have in leading in male dominated sectors like the earth sciences. I will be glad if you can vote for me