To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
From: Getaneh Alemu, WCEO
Subject: Formal response to SC/ExtentWG/2025/1/, Proposal for Manifestation: extent of manifestation and Manifestation: manifestation extent statement.

Recommendation 1: Recast the element Manifestation: extent of manifestation as a superelement that is used to record values constructed from values derived from its subelements in accordance with string encoding schemes.

Approve: Recasting Manifestation: extent of manifestation as a superelement allows extent values to be constructed from structured subelements (existing and newly created) using string encoding schemes, enabling structured, machine-actionable metadata while still producing familiar display statements such as for current 3XX MARC21 fields.
The proposed new definition is broadly satisfactory. However, the use of the term "quantification" may be slightly misleading, as there are legitimate cataloguing situations in which extent values may not be expressed numerically and a qualitative description is therefore required. It would be helpful if this point were made explicit.

Recommendation 2 – Manifestation: manifestation extent statement
Approve.

I am of the view that Recommendation 2 appears to be primarily a display issue, but it is still relevant to include it in the RDA Toolkit. Since Recommendation 1 establishes granular (atomic, structured) extent subelements for machine-actionable and Linked metadata, Recommendation 2 may be regarded as secondary and supportive rather than essential. My understanding is that Recommendation 2 simply concatenates the values recorded in the subelements listed under Recommendation 1.