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I hereby declare that this thesis is a presentation of my original research work and that no other sources were used other than what is cited.

I furthermore declare that wherever contributions of others are involved, this contribution is indicated, clearly acknowledged and due reference is given to the author and source.

I also certify that all content without reference or citation contained in this thesis is original work.

I acknowledge that any misappropriation of the previous declarations can be considered a case of academic fraud.