

# ALEXANDRE LIEBESKIND

12 April 2019

Dear friends and colleagues,

I would hereby like to submit my candidacy for another term as an elected member of OCB board at the next general assembly. I am aware that this would be my fourth mandate and that I had expressed that the third one would be the last one, but if the association members feel that I can still add value in steering OCB I am willing to serve.

There are several reasons that prompt me to submit yet again my candidacy: First with all its weaknesses and contradictions, MSF remains the most efficient, courageous and dedicated humanitarian organisation there is and I feel honoured to be part of this noble enterprise. Second we are going through troubled times as the rise of populism threatens the very concept of empathy for the weak and boosts aggressive, exclusive and dominating ideologies. Third being close to MSF yet not part of its workforce I feel that I bring a useful external view to the board and can represent the voice of the associative members in full independence.

Aside from contributing to the best of my abilities to the core duties of the board, I would like to advocate for select issues that are repeatedly brought up by associative members in the field and need to be addressed by the leadership of the movement, starting with OCB. These are:

- **Diversity:** I strongly believe that we need to actively select, train and promote young talents from our field operations in order to gradually have a fair representation of our planet's diversity at all levels of MSF. This is key to improve the acceptance of our operations, set our priorities right and empower a new generation of humanitarian leaders.
- **Unity:** As all attempts at unifying the movement from the top have failed, I believe it is time to work on a bottom up strategy consisting in merging MSF sections context by context. This not only will considerably increase our efficiency and strength, but corresponds to what MSF associative members in the field have been asking for over and over again.
- **Priority:** I sometimes feel that we spend too much energy on managing ourselves rather than providing medical care. Most professional board members being heavily involved in institutional projects, they naturally lose the perspective. As an associative board member I have the kind of distance to headquarters and proximity to the terrain that allows me to challenge our priorities and make sure they reflect the needs of the weakest.

Yours sincerely,