

To MSF Belgium and OCB associate members

Dear association members,

With this letter I am declaring my interest to run for both association boards.

I joined MSF as a volunteer in December 1989, since then I have witnessed an impressive level of changes. Lately it is interesting to note MSF's accelerated evolution. MSF as a movement has realised it need to change and come even closer to the population it serves, hence the growing decentralised offices we see today in various regions across where MSF is operating. I hope with this our community level engagement will increase as well. Is OCB in the right track today in this aspect?

I believe the organization is in the right track, but we still have a long way to go. It is a promising work in progress. That is one of the reasons I wanted to join the board of directors to contribute in the ongoing discussions and help mould the MSF we wanted to be as international humanitarian medical organization. There are several issues which interest me such as the environment, the issues regarding our diversity and equitable involvement of all colours and background at decision making levels (are well represented). I strongly believe our diversity gives us a unique opportunity to make MSF a truly global organization. We are doing well at the association level; do we have the right mind set when it comes to translate that to our high management and board levels.

For more than 30 years my journey has been with MSF Belgium / OCB; mostly I worked at field level in various capacity pharmacist to head of mission in long term and emergencies related projects, the last part of my 5 years was spent at HQ in the Analysis Department with regular field visits, gap filling, support visits or exp. missions. I truly believe I could bring an added value to the ongoing conversations by sharing my 3 decades of operational experience at the board level. I can say I have also played a role in MSF associative life in most of my mission including at our Southern Africa association and board level.

I have recently retired from MSF operations, however, I remain connected and committed to humanitarian beliefs, vision and values my commitment to be on the sides of the most vulnerable is strong as ever. I would like to continue playing a strong role in MSF and help maintain and try to improve on its principles and values. For sure a bit stepping back from operations to look at the bigger pictures.

In this fast-tracked digital era MSF is required to adapt its way of working, stronger link with digital community build our capacity and capability. Where are we on this?

As we all know the world is much more interconnected in many ways, migration is a subject of interest to tackle where MSF could play a strong role, by addressing the needs of victims of violence including torture and sexual violence. I believe we could play a much stronger role in addressing the plights of refugees globally. Today, migration is not only due to war, political conflict, and economic reasons but also due to environmental reasons. Global warming is affecting the most vulnerable in our society across the globe. How can MSF contribute in the ongoing conversation in this important subject? I believe MSF could contribute more at all levels from policy making forums to strategic design and implementation levels based on our reach and diverse field experience, we might not be the experts, but we are witnessing the ground realities first hand on a daily basis. Here I don't want to pass without mentioning the growing trends of malnutrition, would MSF have a role to play in this? Is it in our priority agenda list?

The other dimension of MSF is the movement there is a need to continue the good work done so far by developing a stronger intersectional dynamic. Looking at MSF international roles, how far do we want to go?

So many interesting subjects to tackle and come up collectively with clear policy outline to address some of the issues. I hope we will have the opportunity to work with you all.

I am ready to serve at any level within the board and join any subcommittees where I can contribute meaningfully.

I am prepared to invest fully my time and energy ; if I am elected to join the board, I will run for the presidency. I will try to do all my best to assure the trust you put on me is not in vain.

Fasil Tezera