

Concerns: Application to the MSF BELGIUM BOARD of Administration
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Dear members of the board of administration of MSF Belgium,

Almost 10 years ago, I've started working with MSF. My experience in the field is various: from nurse team supervisor in Masisi & Niangara (DRC), Bangui (CAR), to Ebola nurse in Sierra Leone & Guinea, nurse team supervisor in Nepal and project medical referent in Eidomeni (Greece), Akkar (Lebanon), Bangassou (DRC) and Kananga (DRC). In between I've worked as a nurse in Belgium and did my studies for a teaching diploma. In that teaching component, I also went on a coaching position to Beni (DRC) just before entering the 3 years MSF-vocationer-contract.

A roller coaster of interesting and life-learning experiences I must say! Since mid-December, the expat life is put on a long-term break. I'm currently working again in Belgium as a nurse in a healthcare center in Gent (WGC De Kaai) where I hope to work for a couple of more years.

Being back for almost half a year, I do miss a connection with MSF. I still feel the desire to engage with the organization, but at "safe distance". Don't need to explain that after these last 3 fulltime MSF-years, I need to watch over a healthy balance between the addictive expat-life and the precious Belgian roots. In that regard, the MSF-association maintains that balance. And being an active board member will not only allow me to know what's ongoing in the MSF world, but also be part of shaping it.

It was by surprise, a friend and dear colleague has sent me the possibility for the application to the MSF Belgium Board. The information she shared triggered my enthusiasm and lead to this motivation letter.

After working all these years with MSF, I've developed a critical mindset. During those years, I've seen positive and less positive things. Those "things" concern operational choices, medical strategies, financial means, HR-management and decisions that define our MSF-identity. I've developed a set of constructive thinking on "The MSF we want to be" (only one of the few topics that passed by on the ASSO-agenda). Being out of the energy-consuming field, will allow me to have a broader view on these topics. I'm eager to help on defining how our growing organization can maintain a focus. How we can reassure to provide medical care for the most vulnerable in this challenging complex world, where conflict of interests puts pressure on the MSF principles. I do not claim to be the most experienced candidate applying, I do promise to be a very devoted one.

A personal note? I'm a curious person, eager to learn and absorb new information. In meetings, I'm a good listener, first taking time to analyze what is said, digest it and ask questions when needed. In decision-making, I'm analytical with a touch of humanitarian passion: I weight out the pro's and con's keeping the MSF principles at the core. When going for a new opportunity, I go for it 100%. The few board meetings per year I would consider the minimum of my participation. With shame-red-cheeks I do have to apologize for my absence during the next board ... I'm on a holiday, my first trip abroad since the last 3years. Add honesty and transparency on that personality list of mine...

Nevertheless, still hope this letter will at least capture your attention and interest. Hoping to hear from you.

Curious & Enthusiastic Greetings!

Jolien Colpaert