

Cover letter to apply as Candidate to the MSFB Board

My name is Karen De Smedt, a 49 year old ICU nurse and mother of 2. I have worked for MSFB from 2000 till 2009 mainly in high security contexts which is why I left MSF to start a family instead of moving on to family missions. I started working in the University Hospital in Antwerp in the ICU but MSF was never that far from my life as my husband still worked for MSFB in Brussels. That way I learned that during the Ebola epidemic in 2014 there was a need for human resources, so after 5 years of absence I left again on mission to Guinée. Still the children were too small to make long-term commitments at the time.

But now 7 years later my mind and heart is wondering back to MSFB, I recently left for another short mission to Ukraine and learned that the work, the mandate, the team spirit of MSF is still all I want to be part of.

As above mentioned children still need a lot of my attention I have been thinking how I can contribute to this organisation in another way then on the field and when I was approached by a member of the board as to see if I wouldn't be interested to join the board I found the way forward.

So I formally want to put in my Candidacy to join the MSFB board at the General Assembly of 2022. I will do my very best to represent the values of MSF to the best of my abilities

Best regards

Karen De Smedt