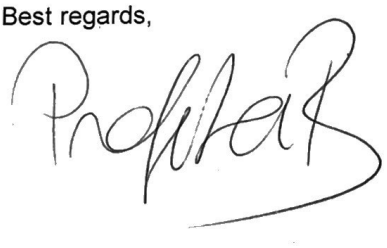
Statement of interest

I hereby would like to submit my brief statement of interest to join the Board in a general position, having been a member of the Health Systems Global society since the Vancouver symposium of 2016. In the past decade of working experience with the Swiss Development and Cooperation agency, I have had the chance to launch collaborations providing both technical and long-term financial support to global networks and platforms (mostly registered in Switzerland, like the HSG) dedicated to global health issues (e.g. malaria eradication, public-private partnerships on neglected diseases, patent pool, quality research for health systems transformation), and in this quality I have experienced the various challenges working as a horizontal heterogeneous society (as opposed to a classical institution). Among the challenges I am mostly motivated to work on and, hopefully, contribute to the further development of HSG is the business and governance model of the society itself.

Of all the initiatives listed above that I have curated, HSG is the one I believe in the most for its ambition towards inclusiveness both in terms of geographical outreach and acceptance of views and experiences from outside the academic/researcher community. As active lead person within the TWG on Fragile and Conflict Affected Settings (FCAS) I have spent the past 8 years investing in the mobilization of new members from hard to reach/work places and have realized how rich the global health community could be, if only a structure like HSG could appropriately harness the wealth of knowledge and experience of frontline individuals (regardless of their working title, which in FCAS are typically navigating in blurred zones anyway). My direct contribution to HSR has been and will continue to be about promoting more systematic inclusion of empirical evidence into research and policy-making, as well as supporting the case for more accurate analysis and understanding of the complexity of health arenas beyond classical public systems' schemes (e.g. the WHO building blocks).

As a non-accomplished interpreter and fluent speaker of 6 languages (4 of which are UN languages), I have also dedicated most of my 25 years of professional career in building bridges between people and cultures, including institutional cultures. My personal ambition for the HSG, should I be elected to integrate the Board, would be to help expanding the currently dominant Anglo-Saxon community to accommodate more linguistic diversity, possibly with the help of innovative social enterprise solutions (a topic I have been vividly discussing for years with colleagues from the TWG Private Sector in Health - PSIH, with whom the TWG FCAS has extensive collaboration under my stimulation).

In terms of institutional skills, I would like to highlight that 70% of the positions I have occupied in international bilateral and multilateral organisations, over 4 continents, in the past quarter of a century (programme management and evaluation, policy-making, peer reviewing, activism, public interventions and teaching), have a direct connection with public and global health. About half of those involved leading roles, managing offices and teams of 5 up to 24 staff and budgets for up to approximately 30 million USD. I therefore believe that besides technical and thematic skills, I could also bring to the Board sound practical managerial experience.

I look forward to answering any questions and requests for clarifications as may emerge from the selection process.

Best regards,