



# 19TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 March 2024  
Geneva, Switzerland



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION



## ICVA Board and Chair Elections March 2024

List of candidates with full profiles

## List of Candidates

The Membership will vote to elect nine (9) Board members from the list of candidates. The Chair will be elected from the newly elected Board members by the members attending the General Assembly.

Organization	Candidate	Country of HQ
ABAAD - Resource Center for Gender Equality	<a href="#"><u>Mrs Ghida ANANI *</u></a>	Lebanon
Abs Development Organisation for Woman & Child	<a href="#"><u>Dr Aisha THAWAB *</u></a>	Yemen
Action Against Hunger (ACF)	<a href="#"><u>Mr Vincent STEHLI</u></a>	Spain
Africa Development Aid (ADA)	<a href="#"><u>Rev John Riek YIOR</u></a>	South Sudan
Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA)	<a href="#"><u>Mr Wossen Taye TESFAYE</u></a>	Ethiopia
Airlink	<a href="#"><u>Mr Steve Smith</u></a>	USA
All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)	<a href="#"><u>Mr Mihir BHATT</u></a>	India
Amity Foundation	<a href="#"><u>Ms Ling CHUNXIANG</u></a>	China
Asylum Access	<a href="#"><u>Ms Deepa NAMBIAR</u></a>	USA
Bondeko Refugee Livelihoods Center	<a href="#"><u>Mr Paul Bahati Bebin KITHIMA</u></a>	Uganda
Christian Aid	<a href="#"><u>Ms Jane BACKHURST</u></a>	United Kingdom
CHS Alliance	<a href="#"><u>Mr Steven PARKINSON</u></a>	Switzerland
Community World Service Asia (CWSA)	<a href="#"><u>Mr Marvin PARVEZ *</u></a>	Pakistan
Finn Church Aid (FCA)	<a href="#"><u>Dr Ikali KARVINEN</u></a>	Finland
Foundation for Rural Development (FRD)	<a href="#"><u>Mr Azmat KHAN</u></a>	Pakistan
Good Neighbors	<a href="#"><u>Dr Ha Eun (Marcellino) SEONG</u></a>	Republic of Korea
International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation (IBC)	<a href="#"><u>Mr Muzaffer BACA *</u></a>	Turkey
IHH – The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief	<a href="#"><u>Dr. Durmuş AYDIN *</u></a>	Turkey
Impact Initiatives	<a href="#"><u>Mr Luca PUPULIN</u></a>	Switzerland
Islamic Relief Worldwide	<a href="#"><u>Mr Tufail HUSSAIN</u></a>	United Kingdom

Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS)	<a href="#"><u>Mr Suraj RAY *</u></a>	Mauritius
Medair	<a href="#"><u>Ms Anne REITSEMA</u></a>	Switzerland
Norwegian Peoples Aid	<a href="#"><u>Mr Raymond JOHANSEN</u></a>	Norway
Plan International	<a href="#"><u>Dr Unni KRISHNAN *</u></a>	United Kingdom
Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (R-SEAT)	<a href="#"><u>Ms Rez GARDI</u></a>	Canada
Somali NGO Consortium (SNC)	<a href="#"><u>Ms Nimo HASSAN *</u></a>	Somalia
Sphere India	<a href="#"><u>Mr Vikrant MAHAJAN</u></a>	India
Tamdeen Youth Foundation	<a href="#"><u>Mr Jameel ABDO HODISH</u></a>	Yemen
Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA)	<a href="#"><u>Mr Nabil ABDULLAH *</u></a>	Yemen

- Standing for Chair if elected

## ABAAD – Resource Center for Gender Equality, Lebanon

### Mrs. Ghida Anani

#### *Organization Profile*

Founded in 2011, ABAAD – Resource Centre for Gender Equality is a UNECOSOC-accredited organization that aims to achieve gender equality as an essential condition to sustainable, social and economic development in the MENA region. ABAAD advocates for the development and implementation of policies and laws that enhance women's effective participation, through a rights-based approach that would bring about tangible change to gender justice.

With the purpose of ending gender-based violence (GBV), ABAAD adopts a holistic care approach to provide protection and support services to GBV survivors/right holders during times of peace, war and disasters. As a leading agency promoting gender equality in the MENA region, ABAAD seeks to support and build the capacities of local, regional and international entities that are working to promote human rights, democracy and peacebuilding.

Through its pioneer “Masculinities” programme and by adopting a gender transformative approach, ABAAD also seeks to effectively engage men in working towards achieving an equitable society, free of hegemonic masculinities and violence against women.

#### *Nominee Information*

### **Mrs. Ghida Anani**



**Gender: Woman**

**Job title: Founder & Director**

Ghida Anani is the Founder & Director of ABAAD – Resource Centre for Gender Equality, a leading CSO in the region advocating for gender equality. Ghida is putting in place the infrastructure for a sustainable system of protection against gender-based violence. She engages stakeholders that others avoid or fight: men, parliamentarians and ministries, and religious leaders. She has led a number of public opinion campaigns, notably the #Undress522 which resulted in a historical parliamentary vote, repealing Article 522 – the infamous “rape-marriage” law - from the Lebanese Penal Code. In 2019, the campaign received the first prize “UN SDG Action Award” for the most impactful campaign globally.

As an expert in GBV and Child Protection, Ghida has published a number of studies, articles, training kits and community educational materials on GBV & Child Sexual Abuse in Lebanon and the MENA region. She has also dedicated some of her time teaching at the Faculty of Public Health at the Lebanese University.

In 2018, Ghida was listed by the World Bank as one of 10 Inspiring Women Entrepreneurs Making a Difference across MENA and in 2019 she was selected by the UN Solutions Summit as one of the 10 extraordinary solution makers across the globe advancing the SDGs.

Her remarkable experience as the founder and director of ABAAD, brings a wealth of expertise to the ICVA Board, particularly in the realm of gender equality and combating gender-based violence. Her proven leadership in advocacy and policy change positions her well to contribute to the effective implementation of

decisions made by the ICVA General Assembly. Ghida's skills in stakeholder engagement and policy development are crucial for the establishment of by-laws and the strategic oversight of the Secretariat. Her experience in leading ABAAD shows her capability to handle complex projects and bring about significant societal change, which aligns with ICVA's mission of making humanitarian action more principled and effective.

Ghida's background in organizational management and budget oversight is also perfectly suited for managing ICVA's finance and administration committees, ensuring effective, strategic alignment of resources with the organization's goals. Her involvement promises a balanced and thoughtful approach to ICVA's financial and administrative decisions, enhancing efficiency and strategic coherence.

Ghida's expertise and global recognition for her work in gender equality and social justice also make her an ideal candidate for reviewing ICVA membership applications and for disciplinary decisions regarding members. Her ability to foster and maintain strategic partnerships, both nationally and internationally, would be a significant asset in expanding ICVA's network and influence. Her organizational skills, shaped by managing large-scale campaigns, projects and initiatives, would also be instrumental in the preparation for General Assembly meetings.

Ghida's nomination to the ICVA Board promises not only a deep understanding of gender and humanitarian issues but also a commitment to driving effective, principled action in these fields. Her appointment to the ICVA Board would greatly reinforce the organization's mission towards principled and effective humanitarian action, notably in gender equality and the combat against gender-based violence. Her skills in advocacy highlight her capacity to influence policy and promote humanitarian action. Aligning with ICVA's strategy of being globally distributed and locally rooted, Ghida's inclusive approach to stakeholder engagement is key in steering ICVA towards its 2030 Vision, aiming to create a more inclusive, responsive, and effective humanitarian sector.

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- ***Chair –Yes***

***If yes, what qualities would you bring to the position of Chair?***

Ghida Anani's potential as the Chair of ICVA is underscored by her extensive experience and skills, which align perfectly with the role's responsibilities. Her leadership at ABAAD, where she has effectively monitored and acted on issues impacting the organization's integrity, demonstrates her ability to uphold and safeguard the identity and values of ICVA. This skill is crucial in maintaining the ethos and mission of the organization at the forefront.

Ghida's ability to clearly and persuasively communicate complex ideas, ensuring transparency and clarity in communication, is essential for her role in chairing and reporting to the General Assembly and Board meetings. Her skills in planning and overseeing large-scale initiatives are invaluable for guiding ICVA's direction and key decision-making processes. This blend of hands-on management experience and oversight expertise positions her exceptionally well to lead ICVA's future endeavors.

In terms of financial and legal oversight, Ghida's experience in managing budgets and financial decisions at ABAAD indicates her capability to handle the financial and legal responsibilities associated with the Chair position, including carrying signing authority. Her global recognition as an advocate for gender equality also makes her an ideal representative for external relations.

Lastly, Ghida's experience in leadership roles equips her with the skills necessary for the supervision of the Executive Director and conducting annual performance reviews. This ensures the effective operation and management of the Secretariat. Her collaborative approach in stakeholder engagement reflects her ability to work effectively with other Board members, fulfilling the broader functions of the Board as outlined in the ICVA Statutes.

## Abs Development Organisation for Women & Child, Yemen

Dr. Aisha Thawab

### *Organisation Profile*

Abs Development Organisation for Woman &Child (ADO); Abs Development Organization for Woman and Child (ADO) is a well-established national, humanitarian, developmental, non-profitable, and non-governmental organization, founded in August 1996 by a group of Yemeni girls to provide a better life for women, Child and youth in Yemen. ADO has been operating in Yemen for more than 29 years with an excellent presence in the deprived rural areas located on the coast of Tehama and various areas in Yemen to get rid of poverty and infectious diseases. Since its inception, it has implemented over 320 development and humanitarian interventions in 10 out of the 22 governorates of Yemen benefiting over 7, 400,000 people. As a result, the organization has established itself among the most effective civil society organizations in Yemen that are working on issues related to livelihood, health, food security, Climate change, education, social, protection, and WASH in support of women, children, and youth. Operating out of its headquarters office in Sana'a and its offices in Hodeidah, Hajjah, Abs, Raymah Taiz, and Aden, ADO, provides critical education, protection health, livelihood, and WASH services to urban and rural communities. ADO believes that a woman is the essence of life, therefore it has devoted all its activities and programs to empower and educate a woman, because the educated and empowered woman will lead to an educated family in which empowered family will ensure a developed society leading to a civil state, good governance and conscious civil society out of oppression.

ADO believes that youth are miraculous energy. If they are enabled, they will build a civil state and good governance, as well as ADO, believes that protecting and caring for children will result in a beautiful future and free from crime and terrorism. Our Mission We work with everyone to contribute to better living conditions for women, children, youths, and minorities, provide innovative and sustainable solutions in responding to emergencies, deliver protection and care services, support the educational process, empower women in various fields of life, as well as enhance resilience by improving livelihood opportunities. Our Vision Together we achieve a better life for women, children, and youths. Strategic Goals 1 Reduction of poverty to achieve a better life for Women, Children, youth, and minorities. through innovative and sustainable food security and livelihoods. 2 To contribute to providing education for all and narrowing the gender gap in education. 3 improving health conditions, hygienic culture, and environment for women, Children, Youth, and minorities. 4-Enhancing social justice, and civil and political rights for women, youth, Children, and minorities to achieve peace. 5- Saving lives and providing Humanitarian Assistance to the affected people.

### *Nominee Information*

**Dr. Aisha Thawab**

**Video presentation**



**Gender: Female**

**Job title: Executive Director**

I have over 20 years of experience in; Strategic Planning, Advocacy and networking, Mobilization and mobilization, Environment and climate change

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- ***Chair –Yes***

***If yes, what qualities would you bring to the position of Chair?***

My motivation for election for the position of Chair is to contribute to achieving Strategic goals of ICVA, I'm a Tehama Women, birth at 1974, working with the marginalized and the vulnerable people over the course of 29 years of struggle and fitting for national rights and social justice, and my first issue is women's rights and their empowerment in community leadership.

I hold a bachelor's medical degree (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery-MBBS) from the University of the Sana'a, and Diplomas in Community Medicine from Ministry of Health in Yemen, and Arab Board in Public Health.

I founded and led many initiatives, such as establishing the Collective Voice Network to advocate for social justice issues, a leadership network for Yemeni women's organizations, an advocacy network for issues of national organizations, and the Nexus Network.

I am the founder of the Abs Organization and its leader in strategic planning and community studies, I worked with several international organizations such as Oxfam, CARE, Islamic Relief, UNICEF, NRC, I have multiple experiences in humanitarian and development work at the national and international levels. Moreover, my experiences are in building community capabilities and empowering localities to manage their affairs, make me qualified to work on promoting principled humanitarian action, addressing climate change and helping local communities to do DRR community led initiatives, SCLR and I will also contribute to diversity and inclusion in accordance with our value system as ICVA.

The field and practice are considered the basis of humanitarian work, and as a result of my long experience in the field and continuous practice over 29 years in voluntary and humanitarian work, this will help to understand the issues of all ACFA members and do advocacy and empowerment for members well.

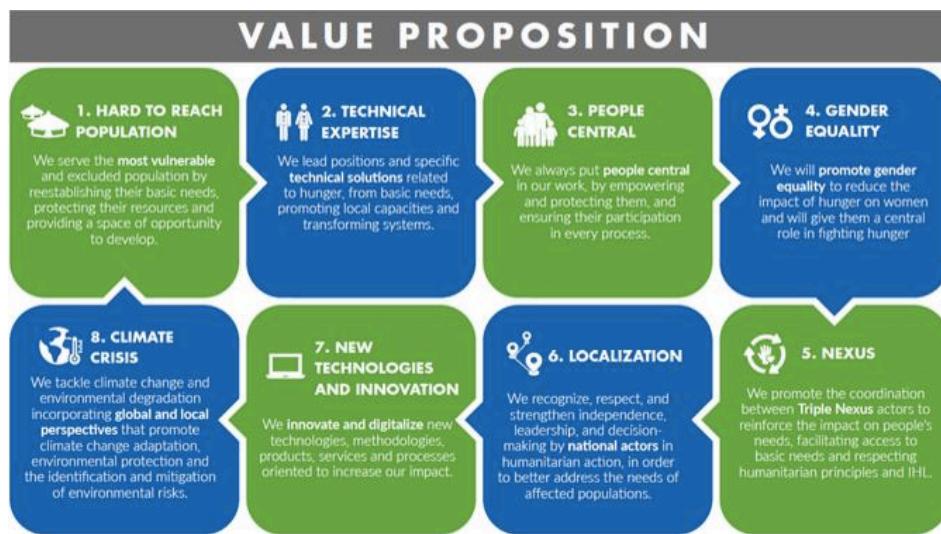
## Action Against Hunger (ACF), Spain

### Mr. Vincent Stehli

#### *Organisation Profile*

Action Against Hunger is a network of 8 member organizations that have as mission to save, improve and protect lives by eliminating hunger through the prevention, detection and treatment of undernutrition, especially during and after emergency crises caused by situations of conflict, displacement, poverty, discrimination, inequality or natural disaster. Our principled humanitarian interventions in more than 58 countries, together with some longer term solutions or policy transformation, assure, in close partnership with many international, national and local actors and stakeholders, solutions to hunger and a delivery of basic services for affected communities and populations. Main sectors of work are nutrition, food security, health, agriculture and WASH. Special attention goes to women and children. With extensive experience in countries and populations affected by conflict and climate change, and a deep understanding of specific contexts and vulnerabilities.

On global and national level, we are very active on cluster level, support intensively FAO-IPC and SMART assessments worldwide with unique technical expertise, country based pooled funds, HCT, HLTF for famine prevention, WFP executive committee, VOICE board, and active membership with ICVA, Interaction and various national platforms. We are a signatory of the code of conduct for International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and non-governmental organizations in disaster relief. Importantly, all ACF staff strictly adhere to humanitarian principled aid. We are actively promoting and implementing triple NEXUS programming and positioning, and through the network participate in the climate change-COP and committee on world food security. As an organization we actively participated in the development of the UNSC 2417 and following projects on conflict and hunger. We have actively working to promote localization in the humanitarian and development sector, are working on strategies and protocols throughout the organization, including a locally-led advisory group for the network. Our value proposition is based on the following:



## Nominee Information

### Mr. Vincent Stehli



### Video presentation



**Gender:** Male

**Job title:** Director of Operations

I started to work in the sector in 1996 and joined Action Against Hunger in 2004. After years working in various countries and regional positions, I became Operations Director in 2010 with Action Against Hunger Spain. I had been actively involved in numerous emergencies during the 20 years with Action Against Hunger, evaluating and reinforcing responses, coordination mechanisms and humanitarian leadership. I actively participated in two steering committees for the EHF and reached the maximum term of 6 years as board member with VOICE, where I not only represented the ACF network, but also the Spanish NGO sector. I was actively involved for over two years in the Grand Bargain steering committee with VOICE and following up the humanitarian financing within the presidency of the Czech and Spanish governments, in coordination with various humanitarian rapporteurs at the EU-EP DEVE group. Lately, I have been selected to represent INGOs in the CBPF OCHA-NGO Dialogue Platform Advisory Group; moreover, I have been participating in the WFP executive board, supported network members as referent in the HLTF for famine prevention, and would now like to contribute to the workings of the ICVA board, where I would represent the Action Against Hunger network at large, as well as other NGO members (local and international).

My added value for the application is not only the extended knowledge and experience on most of ICVA's strategy priorities, but also my extended experience as Operations Director, being able to bring down to the reality of the field some of the discussions and decisions in Geneva and Brussels, to pragmatic solutions adapted to what is happening in our areas of intervention, in the countries where the needs are most acute. We always must keep in mind why and for who we are doing this and keep population/communities and their needs central to our work. I am convinced of the importance of, sourcing out all humanitarian instruments and tools we have so that people are protected and can access the humanitarian services we deliver in a principled way, including reinforcing the collective impact of NGOs on the overall system through fora such as ICVA.

*Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for*

- **Chair –No**

## Africa Development Aid (ADA), South Sudan

Rev. John Riek Yior

### *Organisation Profile*

Africa Development Aid (ADA) is a Christian base, humanitarian and development non-government organizations formed legally registered by the Ministry of Justice and Relief and Rehabilitation Commission of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in 2012, and Relief and Rehabilitation Commission 2016. ADA has a commitment to deliver humanitarian relief assistance to the most vulnerable populations and recovering from disasters. We are a Christian based organization and take the gospel to the unreached communities. Through our Christian outreach programmes, we are able to identify critical needs on the population and tailor our programmes appropriately.

We provide lifesaving interventions that include but not limited to NFIs, WASH, Community Nutrition, Food Security and Livelihood, Emergency Education, Child Protection and Peace Building. In addition, ADA has a focus on community health and nutrition services to reduce the high prevalence of communicable diseases such as malaria and diarrheal diseases as well as acute malnutrition among children less than five years including pregnant and lactating mothers. In addition, ADA will be keen to implement community based maternal and child health services.

Our primary target beneficiaries include children, women, youth and men from IDPs, returnees, refugees and mobile pastoral communities. Our secondary beneficiaries include host communities.

We work with donors such as UNICEF, CAFOD, ZOA, Christian Aid, Caritas Germany, SSHF, IOM, Caritas Swiss, CORDAID, NPA, Save the Children, Tearfund, and NCA. ADA is flexible and open to partnership with other implementing partners. ADA works closely with local community leaders and volunteers to reach populations in secure locations. It is important to note that ADA is the focal point for partners Humanitarian Coordination in Fangak Country and plays instrumental role in building better liaison with the host community and NGO actors on the ground. Working in conflict fragile environment and mindful on the need to ensure that communities live peacefully and embrace peace within their communities, ADA is planning to integrate conflict sensitivity into its programmes with the aim of enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction and mitigating conflict of interest existing in the communities and those arising from interventions that ADA plans to undertake.

ADA believes in empowering communities to be self-reliant even during emergencies. Our approach is that. As much as we respond to meet the immediate needs of the vulnerable people, we provide them with the skills and knowledge as a means to meet their needs. Staff who work with communities do comply and sign code of conduct including PSEA.

### Nominee Information

#### Rev. John Riek Yior

#### Video presentation



**Gender: Male**

**Job Title: Executive Director**

Rev John Reik Yior is the founder and Executive Director of Africa Development Aid in South Sudan. Rev Yior previously served as Chair of the South Sudan NGOs Forum Steering committee from 2018-2020, a body responsible for the coordination of the NGOs activities in the Republic of South Sudan. Besides that Rev Yior represented ADA in many coordination humanitarian and development bodies in South Sudan including but not limited to Pooled Fund working group base in Geneva, HCT in South Sudan, Near Network, Charter for Change (C4C), Localization agenda and Grand Bargain in South Sudan to mention but a few. Rev Yior is a South Sudanese national and resourceful person.

*Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for*

- **Chair –No**

## Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), Ethiopia

### Mr. Wossen Taye Tesfaye

#### *Organisation Profile*

Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) is an Ethiopia-based and Africa-focused regional NGO founded in 1994 in response to the atrocities in Rwanda. AHA provides emergency and long-term humanitarian assistance, development-focused interventions, and advocacy initiatives that seek to save lives and improve the wellbeing of forcibly displaced persons and vulnerable communities throughout Africa. In nearly 30 years of our history, AHA has extended its programmes to 20 African countries and reaching over 26 million people affected by crises. Guided by universal humanitarian principles and values, and upholding its independence, impartiality and integrity, AHA advocates on humanitarian issues. AHA takes responsibility for its actions and is accountable to those with whom it works and its programme supporters.

#### *Nominee Information*

### Mr. Wossen Taye Tesfaye



### Video presentation



**Gender: Male**

**Job title: Director of Operations for East and Horn of Africa**

The nominee, Mr. Wossen Taye Tesfaye, has 30 years of managing humanitarian programmes and projects in Africa and is currently working for Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) in the capacity of Director of Operations for East and Horn of Africa Region, based in AHA's Country Office in Uganda. Wossen has also served as a Board Member for the current ICVA Board since 2018. He is a strong team player with deep understanding of the dynamics involved in the humanitarian work regionally and globally. Wossen has consistently sought to represent the voices of African NGOs during his tenure on the ICVA Board, and we believe he will continue to contribute his wealth of experience to the board if given the chance to serve in another term. Wossen has also been part of various initiatives at the global stage especially working with UNHCR on partnership matters. These include the Network organizations group as well as the field resource persons group working with UNHCR's Implementing Partnership Management Guidance. He was also part of the ICVA governance body that oversaw the development of the ICVA 2030 Strategy and its ongoing implementation.

*Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for*

- **Chair –No**

## Airlink, USA

### Mr. Steve Smith

#### *Organisation Profile*

Airlink is an international humanitarian organization providing free transport and logistical solutions for a global network of 200+ NGO partners. Airlink's mission is to ensure transport costs are not a barrier to NGOs responding to disasters and other humanitarian crises. It supports NGO programs covering five key areas of humanitarian need: Rapid Onset Disasters (earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, outbreak of war, etc.), Health Systems Strengthening, Food Insecurity, WASH, Complex Crises, Displaced and Migrant Populations, and Medium and Long-term Recovery.

Airlink's partner network comprises an even split of small-medium and large NGOs, many of which are ICVA members. We provide free transport and coordinating services through a funding mix of in-kind donations from over 50 airline and logistics partners, as well as cash donations from businesses in the aviation sector, the public, government bodies such as USAID / BHA, and grants from foundations such as the Hilton Foundation and Tzu Chi Charitable Foundation. In addition to transporting humanitarian cargo and responders for its NGO network, Airlink provides regular coordination calls during disaster responses and training sessions throughout the year to help NGOs better understand the complex compliance processes for transporting humanitarian cargo.

Airlink is a long-term member of InterAction and regularly engages with regional coordination bodies including ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO), and Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), UN Logistics Cluster, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the US. In addition, Airlink has a working partnership with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and several international transport-focused trade bodies, including the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Airlink operates a Regional Response Framework model aiming to improve responses to regional disasters and ensure the needs of each regional community are met in the most efficient and timely way by building localized NGO and airline partnerships. The Framework addresses the globe in six regions – Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, North America, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2023, Airlink delivered aid to over 13.7 million people, aiding 122 NGOs, moving 2,237 tons of aid and 1,686 responders. We have responded to 48 individual disasters spread across 52 countries, providing transport cost savings of \$10.8 million to our NGO partners. Airlink's experience, connections, and expertise have found us increasingly establishing and running multi-modal transport aid bridges for partners, often being the only cost-effective transport solution for operating aid programs in countries experiencing complex crises; this was the case in Haiti, Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan. Additionally, Airlink has developed a substantial on-the-ground partner base, enabling capacity expansion in aid missions where NGOs hoping to operate programs lacked those direct local links. This was the case in our health systems' strengthening programs in Moldova, India, and Nepal in response to COVID- 19 outbreaks and, most recently, Trigray, Israel/Gaza, and Türkiye in response to the earthquakes of 2023.

Logistics is the little-understood keystone of humanitarian response. As Airlink has grown over its 14-year history, we have filled a critical gap in the global humanitarian and disaster response ecosystem. This is evidenced by the year-on-year increase in demand for our services through an expanding NGO partner network.

## Nominee Information

### Mr. Steve Smith



### Video presentation



**Gender: Male**

**Job title: President and Chief Executive Officer**

I would be an asset to the ICVA board in two key areas - 1) understanding the global humanitarian landscape and the role of NGOs, and 2) experience in leading and governing a growing and global organization.

#### 1) understanding the global humanitarian landscape and NGOs' role

I have over 20 years of experience across multiple sectors, the the past 12 years being in the global humanitarian sector. I have amassed a comprehensive understanding of global disasters for the past decade through our responsive efforts. Public speaking, media engagements, and public presentations have allowed me to promote Airlink and the NGO sector as a whole effectively.

My extensive network, cultivated through Airlink's collaboration with over 200 NGO humanitarian disaster response partners globally, keeps me constantly informed and connected. This network extends beyond NGOs to coordination bodies and many aviation and logistics companies.

I have firsthand experience in tackling challenges related to collaboration, funding from diverse sources, and creating impactful cross-sector partnerships. Our responses to crises, such as the Ukraine war, Haiti cholera outbreak, and Ebola epidemic, showcase my ability to lead multi-partner initiatives and foster cooperation between the private sector, NGOs, philanthropy, and government aid agencies.

Furthermore, Airlink's engagement across five themes of activity, namely Rapid Onset Disaster, Displaced and Migrant Populations, Health Systems Strengthening, Food and Water Insecurity, and Medium and Long-term Recovery, provides me with a nuanced understanding of on-the-ground realities across critical areas of sector activity on a global scale.

#### 2) experience in leading and governing a growing and global organization

I have steered Airlink from its humble beginnings to becoming a pivotal partner in the NGO sector. Under my leadership, Airlink has achieved a remarkable 40-fold increase in both humanitarian impact and financial growth. My hands-on experience as the President and CEO of Airlink equips me with invaluable insights into the challenges faced by NGOs at every stage of growth.

At a macro level, I offer a distinct perspective rooted in Airlink's specialization in transport, logistics, and supply chain management in disaster response. Recognizing the critical significance of this often-overlooked aspect, I aim to shed light on its importance, considering that 73% of the cost of any aid program goes to the supply chain.

Airlink's unique position at the intersection of the private sector, NGOs, and aid agencies has afforded me practical insights into successful collaboration models and best practices in this domain.

In 2023, I was selected as a Presidential Leadership Scholar - a program run by four U.S. Presidential Libraries - George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B. Johnson - to learn from and harness the lessons learned during their administrations. I also serve on the Board of the Aero Club of Washington, DC.

In conclusion –

I am confident my experience will position me as a strong candidate for the ICVA board to champion and govern the priorities set in ICVA's 2030 Strategy. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the board's deliberations, bringing strategic insights and practical solutions to the challenges faced by the community ICVA supports.

*Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for*

- **Chair –No**

## All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), India

Mr. Mihir Bhatt

### *Organisation Profile*

All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) is an active member of ICVA for decades.

The AIDMI is one of the first local non-governmental organisation based in Gujarat, India. It is a community-based action planning, research and advocacy organisation, working towards bridging the gap between policy, practice, research, and learning related to humanitarian crisis, disaster mitigation and resilience to climate change adaptation as laid out in National Disaster Management Plan of Government of India of 2019; Sendai Framework; and Paris Agreement.

AIDMI is committed to reducing the development, humanitarian, and climate forces that lead humanitarian crises.

AIDMI's local action is always strategic. In 2023 it utilised its unique Livelihood Relief Fund for flood affected female farmers of Punjab (500) and casual labour of Gujarat (1000). The fund so far has reached out to over 30000 families.

Similarly, AIDMI has made over 5000 schools safe with UNICEF, UNDP, Save the Children, and various state authorities.

AIDMI has built hundreds of water harvesting structures, piloted micro insurance programme, offer innovative trainings of local leadership, and supported upscaling innovative learning and evaluations of hundreds of organisations in India and beyond.

Established after the 1987-89 national humanitarian droughts crisis, AIDMI has worked over the decades to cover over 18 types of humanitarian crises in nineteen states of India and beyond to nine countries in Asia. AIDMI links local communities to national and international levels of risk reduction, relief and long-term recovery and climate resilience programmes and policies. As an action-learning organization, AIDMI promotes disaster risk mitigation and adaptation to climate change by supporting, capturing, processing and disseminating disaster related information, lessons and innovative ideas.

AIDMI routinely carries out stakeholder and affected people's round tables for national policy shaping; trainings of trainers for capacity building of local leaders; reviews, evaluations, and research studies for local learning; and pilot projects where the affected citizens are in the centre.

Interconnected networking with local to global diverse organisations is AIDMI's constant goal. Examples follow.

AIDMI has worked with ICVA as its member for now over decades, including being part of its consultation on loss and damage finance at Asia and global level; representing ICVA in several UN and RC initiatives; joining and promoting climate training by ICVA; zero carbon tool review and utilisation; and other issues at the regional and global level.

AIDMI represented ICVA to COP28 UAE in over 9 panels and has developed a three year follow up programme on loss and damage funding for affected population where AIDMI will work with ICVA members, if given a chance.

AIDMI is developing its plans for COP29 with focus on finance for resilience including insurance and credit and will work with ICVA members in the coming years.

AIDMI co-lead Disaster Emergency Committee's (DEC) two landmark evaluations of (1) the Gujarat earthquake of 2001 and (2) Tsunami Evaluation Coalition of six UN, eleven INGOs, and five countries in Asia.

AIDMI has co-chaired the revision of standards process with CHS Alliance management with success and will now devote time to work out the roll-out and utilisation of the revised standards in key regions and organisations.

For the last two years AIDMI has been working with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on finding opportunities for mainstreaming centrality of affected population, making environment part of recovery process, and promoting localisation in all humanitarian programmes.

AIDMI has worked with ALNAP over the years to advise several State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS) reports, including the latest of 2022; taken the findings to local organisation in India, Bangladesh, and South Asia for utilisation. AIDMI also, as a follow up, designed and developed the first-ever Strengthening the Humanitarian System in India report with World Food Programme (WFP) and Sphere India and is taking the findings for accelerated utilisation by local authorities and civil society.

AIDMI has shaped research and innovative needs in the humanitarian sector for over two decades and now it is doing so in Central and South Asia with Deakin University and ELHRA. Findings of this will be of use to ICVA members in coming years for programming in the areas of dynamic coordination, leverage finance, distressed migration, and transformative networking. Similarly, AIDMI is a founding member of International Humanitarian Studies Association (IHSA) where it has contributed to informing humanitarian studies with demands from the communities in the global south.

Currently AIDMI is busy with working on Asia (India and Bangladesh) and Central Africa global project, a unique lateral learning programme on and around heatwaves with universities, authorities, and donors. AIDMI focused on data and heatwave affected population in its learning.

AIDMI runs Southasiadisasters.net publication that is locally led bottom up publication of diverse stakeholders of humanitarian sector with over 200 published issues of global regional and mostly local humanitarian, disaster risk reduction, and resilience concerns.

AIDMI links affected people with policy and aims at making policies bear fruits for affected population in all its work.

### *Nominee Information*

#### **Mr. Mihir Bhatt**



**Gender: Male**

**Job title: Director**

#### **Video presentation**



Mihir is the Director of the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), one of the first local organisations active at local, national, and global levels.

He has been evaluating the humanitarian work of UN, international nongovernmental agencies, authorities, and local organisations on beneficiary feedback, rehabilitation activities, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation projects in Asia and the Pacific which he will bring to ICVA members for use.

Currently, he is involved in underlying accountability in core humanitarian standards, Environment Charter, and UN task forces on accountability to affected populations as well as follow up to loss and damage funding to local civil society. All of which is of use to ICVA members.

As an ICVA member he has already contributed to ICVA Strategy 2030, regional consultations, global events and made representation at UN events such as COP28 UAE in nine panels. Thus Mihir has now decades of working relations with ICVA at global, regional, and local level.

Mihir supports Humanitarian Finance related various initiatives: climate financing and linkages to humanitarian action; local loss and damage funding; health and well-being impact of heat on Forced Migration; impacts of climate change extreme events and vulnerable communities such as women, casual labour, and tribals. Mihir will bring this policy and research experience to ICVA policy and research work.

On Humanitarian Coordination, Mihir works on Accountability to Affected People (AAP), revised CHS and SPHERE standards at IASC and other key alliances and has spent findings ways to successfully being engaged with national and sub-national authorities in South and for Asia.

On Transformations, Mihir works with IASC Sub-group on Climate, COP28 UAE participation, planning for COP29, promoting Climate Charter, and a campaign on heatwave for urban small businesses and family-owned farms including L&D and CF and this work is expanding.

On Localisation, Mihir works with local communities on resilient food and nutrition production; mitigating and adapting to heatwaves in low income urban areas; and local NGOs and local authorities in Asia region.

Most recently Mihir has done work on resilience, humanitarian, climate inter-connections in terms: its concept, connections, contexts, and contributing to the Global Charter utilisation that he plans to take ahead in coming years.

Mihir aims to jointly transform ICVA into even more effective humanitarian action where the number and impact of humanitarian crises decrease and so do conditions that lead to such crises.

Mihir supports locally led transformation of humanitarian action that changes the fundamental condition of the crisis and power to response in favour of the affected and at risk populations, more directly, women, refugees, displaced communities, minorities, and tribals. Mihir aims to work with ICVA members to make humanitarian action an opportunity to build resilience worldwide.

Mihir aims to prominently engage local and global actions by ICVA members with each other towards synergy for effective humanitarian action.

Mihir is familiar with and has skills for ICVA's all six ways of working including research and data analysis, convene diverse group of stakeholders, connect excluded and marginal groups to mainstream, advocate for the missing and missed voices of the poor women, minorities, migrant labour, and tribals, support organisations of affected population, and collaborate with all stakeholders at local, national, and global levels.

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- *Chair -No*

## Amity Foundation, China

### Ms. Ling Chunxiang

#### *Organisation profile*

Amity Foundation is an independent Chinese NGO founded in 1985 on the initiative of Chinese Christians led by Bishop K.H. Ting and joined by people from all walks of society, works to promote education, public health, poverty alleviation, social welfare, community development, environmental protection, climate change, disaster relief and other philanthropic undertakings in China and other parts of the world. Amity projects have benefited more than ten million people at home and abroad.

Aspired to grow into an international organization with a global reach, Amity identified and placed internationalization at the core of its organizational strategy since 2009 and has continuously invested in international programs and organizational capacity to operate globally. Its global footprint include Amity Hong Kong Office established in 1986, an international office in Geneva established in 2016 (the first Chinese NGO to set up an office in Geneva), African Office in Ethiopia in 2015 and Kenya Office in 2019. Plus, Amity Foundation is member of key international humanitarian NGO networks such as ACT Alliance since 1996/2010 and ICVA in 2020 as its first member from China. Amity acquired the UN ECOSOC special consultative status in 2014, and has forged partnership or in dialogue with several UN agencies such as UNHCR and UNICEF mainly in the areas of humanitarian action and refugees work.

Amity is primarily operational with humanitarian work as one of its key program areas. Amity responded to the fire hit the forest in northeastern China back in 1987 and has responded to all the major natural disasters that hit across China ever since. Amity has been one of the few top foundations in China in Disaster Relief area. From early 2010s, Amity began to respond to disasters affected other countries, namely the cyclone hit Philippines in 2013 and later years, the earthquake hit Nepal in 2015, the earthquake that hit Ecuador in 2016, the flood hit Sri Lanka in 2017, the drought that hit Ethiopia in 2017, the flood hit Pakistan in 2022, and more recently the earthquake hit the Turkey in 2023. Now its humanitarian work has reached over twenty countries spreading from south-east and south Asia, Africa to Latin America. Amity consciously applied and localized the international standards and principles such as Sphere and CHS in those humanitarian responses.

In recent years, Amity also steps up its efforts on humanitarian advocacy. In 2014, Amity initiated and cooperated with several other organizations hosting the Asia Disaster Relief Conference in China. In 2016, Amity and other organizations initiated the Disaster Relief Committee within the China Charity Alliance and acted as the chairing member till now. Amity is also a key member of China NGO Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction (CNCDRR). In 2018, Amity led to set up the Benevolence Group and was granted Sphere's Focal Point, the first and the only one so far from mainland China. The Benevolence Group contributed to the global consultation of SPHERE handbook revision and jointly launched the localized Chinese version of Sphere handbook with Oxfam HK in Beijing in December 2019. Amity has trained Chinese humanitarian actors and policy makers on Sphere and accountability, localized key policy documents such as the UN and ISAC Collective Outcomes Light Guidance, ICVA's brief on the Grand Bargain, to advance Chinese humanitarian NGOs' capability in understanding and applying international standards.

Amity also attended key global and regional humanitarian conferences, notably OCHA's HNPW, RHPW (Asia Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week), Civil Society 20 Summit in the past few years to share our practice and experience from global south. With ICVA's support, Amity also organized seminars and webinars on localization to amplify the voices from China's civil society.

## Nominee Information

### Ms. Ling Chunxiang



### Video presentation



**Gender:** Female

**Job title:** General Secretary

Ms. Ling Chunxiang, General Secretary of Amity Foundation. She joined the organization in 1999 and has been working with Amity for twenty-five years, successively taking the roles of Deputy General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, Director of Administration and Management team and Rural Development Project Manager prior to be appointed as General Secretary in September 2018. Under her leadership, Amity has become one of the leading foundations in China with an annual income of over 60 million USD in 2023 with more than 430 staff members for different philanthropic work. It's also widely recognized as one of the top humanitarian NGOs in China, responding to disasters both in China and beyond.

She's the key decision-maker in Amity's contact with ICVA and membership application. In October 2019, she attended a conference that was jointly organized by Amity and ICVA where she met with ICVA leadership which paved the way for Amity's membership to ICVA. She's also a strong supporter to ICVA-Amity strategic partnership, under which we localized ICVA's Grand Bargain brief and UN-ISAC light guidance document to Chinese audience and jointly organized a webinar in May 2022 to introduce the humanitarian coordination mechanism at global, regional and country levels to Chinese audience.

In May 2021, Ling was successfully elected into ICVA board. In her past 3-year tenure, she actively attended the board meetings, bringing in a good knowledge about Chinese NGO sector and rich experiences in humanitarian responses. She also serves in the Membership Committee. ICVA is much better connected with Chinese humanitarian sector and enrolled more members from China. The fact that she's a senior female leader of a leading NGO from China in the global south will bring more diversity to ICVA's new board.

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- ***Chair – No***

## Asylum Access, USA

### Ms. Deepa Nambiar

#### *Organisation Profile*

Asylum Access supports forcibly displaced individuals and communities as they reclaim their rights, agency and power. We aim to create a world where refugees everywhere can live safely, move freely, work, attend school and rebuild their lives. We advocate for a response to forced displacement that honors refugees' freedom, dignity and autonomy, while also strengthening the communities that welcome them.

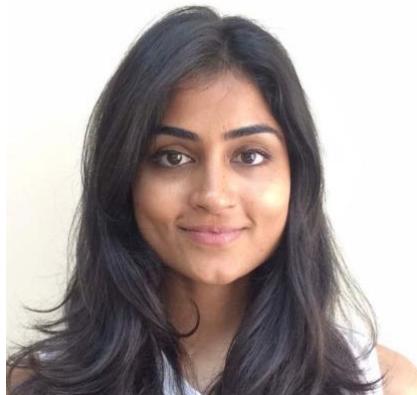
Asylum Access promotes refugees' rights in two main ways:

- Our three national NGOs in Thailand, Malaysia, and Mexico hold their governments accountable through the strategic combination of legal empowerment and inclusive policy advocacy. Asylum Access organisations are registered independently in their respective countries, and staffed and led by members of host and refugee communities.
- At the global level, our Global Systems Change and Partnerships teams work to transform the overall system of refugee protection to prioritize access to human rights and shift power to local communities through equitable partnerships and advocacy to localize protection. We do this through effective and inclusive advocacy with locally embedded CSO partners targeting institutions of power, while strengthening the capacity of local CSOs. These efforts require the full participation and leadership of communities most affected: refugees themselves and their host communities.

Asylum Access is both an international refugee-led NGO (registered as a global organization in the United States), and a family of national organizations run by host and refugee community leaders in Malaysia, Mexico, and Thailand in collaboration with communities. Asylum Access also houses the Resourcing Refugee Leadership Initiative (RRLI) (a refugee-led grantmaking and advocacy organization supporting refugee-led organizations around the world) and sits on its Coalition as a member of the governance body.

#### *Nominee Information*

### Ms. Deepa Nambiar



**Gender: Female**

**Job title: Director of Partnerships**

Deepa has been working in the forced displacement field for over 15 years, ranging from providing direct legal services for refugees undergoing status determination processes, to convening partnerships with RLOs and NGOs across the globe, to advocacy with national and global institutions. In terms of leadership experience, she previously founded and led Asylum Access Malaysia and was on their Board until 2023, was the Chair of the Southeast Asia Working Group and Steering Committee of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN). She was also the Asia Regional Coordinator for the International Detention Coalition, and previously worked with UNHCR. She is currently the Co-Chair of the Pledge for Change Equitable

Partnerships Working Group where she works with other INGOs to move towards greater equity in our partnerships with local actors.

In her current role as Director of Partnerships of Asylum Access, she engages with institutions, local partners and INGO partners to shift power, resources and opportunities to those who are most proximate to the experience of forced displacement through [equitable partnerships](#) and [localized protection](#). In all these roles, she champions and prioritized refugee human rights, local and refugee leadership in responses and partnerships, builds collaborative partnerships with INGOs and other NGOs in the sector as well as and strategically advocates with decision-makers and influential actors.

Being in the senior leadership of an organization that has multiple identities (refugee-led INGO, family of national human rights organizations and convenor of a global refugee-led coalition ([RRLI](#)), and having previously founded and led Asylum Access Malaysia, she can bring a unique vantage point to the Board of multiple perspectives of critical actors within the humanitarian and forced displacement sector.

In addition to committing to fulfil the main responsibilities as a Board member, if selected, she hopes to contribute to monitoring progress towards ICVA's 2030 mission, especially by offering support/advice around strategies to increase meaningful participation and leadership of local, national (and in particular, refugee-led organizations) in global policies and decision-making spaces; contribute ideas for a more representative, diverse, inclusive and accountable network (both within the organization and across the membership); support improvements in equitable and localized ways of working with existing and new partners who are closest to humanitarian crises, and on inclusive and effective approaches to advocacy, influencing and joint fundraising with members.

*Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for*

- **Chair – No**

## Bondeko Refugee Livelihoods Center, Uganda

### Mr. Paul Bahati Bebin Kithima

#### *Organisation Profile*

Bondeko Refugee Livelihoods Center was established in 1997 by a group of refugees under the leadership of Reverend Father Michel Lingisi, a Congolese refugee, in response to crises in the African Great Lakes region. Bondeko Center supports impoverished, often traumatized refugees, especially women and children, who reach Kampala the capital city of Uganda without connections or aid. In 2023 more than 1000 refugees participated in our programs. The organisation is officially registered and is headquartered in the capital city of Kampala, in Uganda. It is a well-structured organisation comprising a Management Team and a Board of Directors.

**Vision:** We envision a future where the skills and capabilities of refugees to support and assist each other are recognized, and human rights, community acceptance, and economic independence are promoted for forcibly displaced people.

**Mission:** "We want refugees to be self-reliant and enjoy human rights in the communities where they live".

#### *Nominee Information*

### Mr. Paul Bahati Bebin Kithima



### Video presentation



**Gender: Male**

**Job title: CEO**

My name is Paul Kithima, and I am the CEO of Bondeko Refugee Livelihoods Center in Kampala, Uganda. My work at Bondeko is entirely focused on humanitarian action, as Bondeko's remit in Uganda is to support and empower refugees and asylum seekers to become self-reliant and enjoy human rights where they live. Uganda is host to 1.6 million refugees who have fled mainly from neighbouring African countries. Hundreds of refugees each year find their way to Bondeko, seeking to participate in the skills training and educational programs that Bondeko offers, as well as for emergency support. I lead all aspects of Bondeko's humanitarian response, from strategy through implementation. As the CEO, I oversee all people management, program identification and implementation, operations, budget and finances, and proposal writing. I represent Bondeko with the local authorities but also at international conferences and with partner organizations and other external stakeholders. I'm accountable to Bondeko's Board of Directors.

In 2012, I survived persecution and torture in the Democratic Republic of Congo due to my political opinions (as a youth politician at that time) and fled to Uganda for asylum.

A year later, after my recovery, I started working as an outreach volunteer with national and international organizations providing emergency relief and outreach programs for refugees, asylum seekers and survivors of torture and sexual violence in both Kampala and refugee camps.

From 2013 to 2018, I participated in numerous field missions, such as supporting those trying to find missing relatives, distributing clothing through Relief programs, implementing protocols for documentation and investigation of sexual violence, identifying and verifying refugees and asylum seekers, etc.

In 2018, I was chosen by community members to lead Bondeko (an RLO founded in 1997) as my predecessor was about to move to Canada for resettlement.

For the past five years, in addition to being the CEO of Bondeko, I have been responsible for the strategic leadership and operational management of several other organizations, including as Chairperson of Bright Future initiative for the Protection of Children with Disabilities and the CEO of GLOs, The Grassroots Consortium.

I also champion the Localization of humanitarian responses at a global level. In 2022, I was a panelist in the main session on Localization during the UNHCR Global Consultations with NGOs in Geneva and a Speaker during the HC Dialogue on Protection Challenges in December. I was also a panelist in the session on Localization during the 11<sup>th</sup> African Union Symposium in Nairobi in November 2023 and a panelist during the linked event organized by the World Bank in Geneva during the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva in December 2023. Additionally, I participated in the Reference Group, which developed a Joint Multi-Stakeholder Pledge on Advancing Localization in Displacement and Statelessness responses announced at the GRF in December 2023.

I have a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from UNIGOM in the DRC, but it is through my lived experience in a protracted refugee situation and my expertise from the field as a community leader that I have deeper insights in areas such as forced migration, humanitarian aid, advocacy and coordination which can help ICVA make informed decisions and better serve its members and the broader humanitarian community.

As a Board member, I will contribute to ICVA's mission and vision by actively participating in regular board meetings, reviewing and approving strategic plans and providing guidance on the ICVA 2030 strategy.

I will assist in fundraising efforts and make sure ICVA has the necessary resources to carry out its activities effectively.

I will also support mechanisms put in place for monitoring and evaluating ICVA's programs and initiatives to ensure they are achieving their intended impact, and I will always provide feedback on areas for improvement.

Further, I will always raise my voice to champion principled humanitarian action and advocate for addressing the impact of climate change on humanitarian efforts.

I will also advocate for inclusive and community-led approaches to humanitarian action and promote ICVA's efforts to engage in agile collaborative partnerships.

Lastly, I will always make sure my contribution aligns with ICVA's goal of being globally distributed and locally rooted.

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- ***Chair –No***

## Christian Aid, United Kingdom

### Ms. Jane Backhurst

#### *Organisation Profile*

Christian Aid has worked with partners in up to 37 countries for over 70 years through humanitarian response, development and advocacy. We have provided practical support to meet the social and economic needs of the most vulnerable and marginalised; responded to the emergency needs of people and communities displaced by conflict and disasters; exposed and challenged the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised; and supported the building of local agency. We have done so standing in solidarity with others across the world, alleviating suffering, saving lives and restoring dignity, and building a movement for justice for all.

We are a member of ACT Alliance, an alliance of 150 organisations working together in over 100 countries.

Christian Aid has a long history of working before, during and after emergencies. We have been committed to locally led response since our formation. This way of working has been recognised across the sector as critical in responding effectively to humanitarian crises. We have played a leading role in the Charter for Change movement, and in working within the Grand Bargain Localisation Workstream, as well as the Grand Bargain Participation and Cash Workstreams. We have been at the forefront in developing innovative ways of working in emergencies, pioneering practical models of implementing localisation commitments through Accelerating Localisation through Partnerships, Survivor and Community Led Response, and assisting communities by improving their emergency preparedness and resilience. We have played a leading role in the development of accountability to affected populations over the past 10 years; this is central to our belief in putting the agency of people at the centre of our work. We were one of the first organisations to be certified by the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership and, in line with the Core Humanitarian Standard.

#### *Nominee Information*

### Ms. Jane Backhurst



**Gender:** Female

**Job title:** Senior Adviser

It has been a privilege to serve the ICVA network within ICVA's Board these past six years, helping to set a reinvigorated direction through the 2030 Strategy and lead the strategy through the first three of its nine years, completing a process of change, consolidation and focus. In the last three years as Chair, Jane has worked with the Board and Executive Director to lead the organisation through multiple responses, set a vision for diversity, equity and inclusion, represent ICVA on the UN IASC Principles, support leadership transition, including the design and launch of our recruitment process for a new Executive Director prior to maternity leave, pursue localisation, and promote collective action and commitments to tackle escalating hunger and climate change. As a Board we adjusted to Covid, and Christian Aid seconded dedicated staff to ICVA to support localisation during the Covid response. Prior to this Jane served as Vice-Chair of ICVA,

supporting the Chair, and serving on the IASC Deputies Group. In her first term on the ICVA Board, as Chair of the ICVA Board's Programmes, Policy and Advocacy Committee Jane worked with the Board and staff to help strengthen mutually reinforcing action across ICVA's work, and optimise the collective and timely response across members to crises by developing a Proactive Positioning Model to support local and national NGOs to collectively raise the alert. At that time Jane also represented ICVA on the GP20 Steering Group comprised of State and NGO representatives leading the global campaign on internal displacement.

As the 2030 Strategy sets out, ICVA members will need to continue to operate within restrictive spaces: tackling impediments to humanitarian access; issues of over-assertive sovereignty and shrinking civic space; the politicization of aid; the lack of impunity; and the impacts of climate change.

However, three years into the 2030 Strategy, in Palestine, Syria, Ukraine and South Sudan, and elsewhere, we are yet again witnessing an escalation in extreme impunity, further politicisation and disrespect for international law, and attacks which question our basic humanity.

Alongside this, the humanitarian community has not made adequate progress on commitments to address systemic gaps in humanitarian financing, resilience, climate resilience, and anticipatory action.

Working with the rest of ICVA's Board, we would serve the interests of all ICVA members to:

increase ICVA's global reach and influence to help collectively and robustly tackle the fundamental challenge to humanity and humanitarian principles which we all face; reinvigorate our joint efforts for joint, ambitious and proactive responses to address vital practical issues during responses, including continued global action to tackle impunity and uphold international law, hunger, and pursue mechanisms and funding for climate resilience, anticipatory and early action; promote the critical role and value of an eco-system of diverse NGOs in humanitarian action rather than a trend of resources favouring large agencies;

the leadership of humanitarian response by national and local NGOs, including principled faith-based actors, and the agency of affected populations in the driving seat of response; the value of cash-based responses, and approaches that take advantage of an appropriate nexus of humanitarian and development aid.

We would do this by:

Continuing to pursue proactive and robust collective action in response to attacks on civilians, and our common humanity; Continuing to promote and pursue robust good governance and ICVA's values; Reinvigorating our Board's vision and action plan for diversity, equity and inclusion; A renewed focus on our collective 2030 Strategy as we approach the half way point; Supporting stability as we come out of a transition for the secretariat.

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- ***Chair – No***

## CHS Alliance, Switzerland

### Mr. Steven Parkinson

#### *Organisation Profile*

The CHS Alliance is a global alliance with more than 200 humanitarian and development organisations across the globe, committed to demanding greater accountability to people in crisis by applying the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS). We share ICVA's passion for principled humanitarian action, by working collectively.

#### *Nominee Information*

##### Mr. Steven Parkinson

##### Video presentation



**Gender:** Male

**Job title:** Chief Operating Officer

#### Motivation

Thank you for considering my nomination. At a period in history where uncertainty and the fallout from geopolitical volatility is at its highest level in decades, the role of the humanitarian sector is more important than ever. The mission of ICVA in promoting principled and effective humanitarian action is therefore more critical than ever.

As someone dedicated to transforming humanitarian impact, ICVA's mission and strategy are hugely motivating. It aligns with my motivation in my current position as Chief Operating Officer (COO) of ICVA member the CHS Alliance – another membership organization dedicated to supporting the work of humanitarian organizations globally. As part of the Board member role I see a great opportunity to identify and make the connections in the effectiveness and efficiency between the member networks, strategic initiatives and expertise of ICVA and the CHS Alliance - driving greater member engagement and furthering the mission of both organizations.

#### Skills & expertise

As COO of another global member organization I would seek to bring to the Board (including as Vice Chair and/or HR Focal Point if useful) significant relevant experience in global strategy and planning, operations, governance, finance, risk management and HR. I also have strong expertise in strategic partnerships, communications, technology and resource mobilization. In each of these areas I can provide pragmatic advice at both the strategic and operational levels to support ICVA's staff and priority initiatives.

My COO role at the CHS Alliance leverages each of the above skills, and as an ICVA Board member I would seek to maximise opportunities to link the global policy, practice and advocacy initiatives of both organizations, bringing additional resources, insights and collaboration opportunities to ICVA's member base.

I also oversee support to CHS Alliance's governance processes, including Board values and working practices (leveraging best practices of CHS Alliance's [Governing Well research](#)), Secretariat policy-making, Board meetings and elections, Committee meetings (including Secretariat responsibility for its Finance & Risk and its People &

Culture Committees) and General Assembly. I would aim to share and apply this expertise to the benefit of ICVA.

Prior to the CHS Alliance I spent 7 years at The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria in Geneva, building innovative partnerships across Africa, Asia, Europe and the US to leverage the skills and resources of the private sector in fighting these epidemics. My experience also includes building a \$350 million resource mobilization plan for UNICEF India (based in New Delhi) and developing a Knowledge Management framework for the International Trade Centre (a UN/WTO agency) to help it better serve its global stakeholders. In each of these roles I have collaborated with a wide range of humanitarian sector stakeholders, understanding their perspectives and developing solutions to support their missions.

Aside from my humanitarian sector experience, I would seek to bring an alternative perspective plus transferable skills from the private sector. In 7 years as COO of global talent consultancy TMA World (Madrid and Barcelona) – an organization similar in size to ICVA – I drove improvement initiatives in strategy, governance, organizational development, HR and performance management, finance and technology. And in senior marketing roles for professional services and banks such as PricewaterhouseCoopers, Barclays and Allen & Overy (Paris, New York, Hong Kong) I have built skills in marketing and branding strategy, communications, partnerships and research.

I am based in Geneva but spend significant time in Amman, which would offer the opportunity to engage with ICVA's MENA Regional Hub. I am also fluent in French and Spanish.

I hope that ICVA finds my application of interest. I would be delighted to provide further information as required, including recommendations from referees working at ICVA member organizations.

*Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for*

- **Chair –No**

## Community World Service Asia (CWSA), Pakistan

### Mr. Marvin Parvez

#### Organisation Profile

Community World Service Asia is a humanitarian, development & advocacy organization, registered in Pakistan, head-quartered in Karachi and implementing initiatives in South & South East Asia. We aim to address factors that divide people by promoting inclusiveness, shared values, diversity, and interdependence. Marginalized communities are assisted irrespective of race, faith, color, age, sex, economic status, or political opinion. Respecting the right to choose how to live, we work with marginalized communities to overcome the impacts of inequalities and lead peaceful, dignified and resilient lives.

Community World Service Asia has been serving communities in the region for the last six decades and continues to partner with a growing number of Governments, Multi-lateral Organizations, International Professional Networks and a host of National, Local and International NGOs. Our organization is comprised of a committed governing board and a diverse team who work through a robust accountability framework while maintaining strong relationships with communities and partners.

Our focus areas include: Emergencies, Climate Action and Risk Reduction, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene and Quality and Accountability. We engage in the self-implementation of projects, cooperation through partners, and the provision of capacity building training and resources at the national, regional and global levels.

#### Nominee Information

##### Mr. Marvin Parvez



##### Video presentation



**Gender:** Male

**Job title:** Regional Director

**Focus Area 1 - Forced Migration** ICVA will support members in their work to improve protection, assistance and durable solutions for refugees, IDPs, stateless persons and migrants in vulnerable situations:

As the team leader for CWSA, Marvin Parvez's direct involvement with ICVA started in 2008 at the time of Cyclone Nargis in Burma. Where he was the ACT Coordinator and managing emergency relief operations for large population of displaced communities by the Cyclone Nargis. During this response, he was tasked to put together a joint unit for coordination and quality & accountability (and raised funding for the unit & the ACT Appeal). During Cyclone Nargis, he was the Coordinator for ACT Alliance Response and also focal person for HAP & Sphere work.

Marvin has also managed Afghan Refugee Programs in Pakistan & Iran.

Marvin has worked with displaced populations in Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Burma & Thailand.

Currently he is managing refugee services for CWSA in Pakistan and implementing programs for Afghan returnees, expelled from Pakistan.

**Focus Area 2 - Coordination** ICVA will work to strengthen the collective ability of NGOs to actively engage in, influence or lead humanitarian coordination mechanisms to ensure they are inclusive, contextualised and accountable.

Marvin has vast experience of coordination/collaboration during large and complex emergencies in the region. He has led well-coordinated programs during some of the largest disasters in the region (Afghan Civil War, the 2004 Tsunami, Pakistan 2005 earthquake, Tohoku Earthquake & Tsunami and other major responses). CWSA was the Chair of Pakistan Humanitarian Forum during the Pakistan 2005 Earthquake and the lead agency for ACT Alliance. Marvin has now developed a network in Asia & Pacific on Shrinking Space Challenges (covering countries from Iran to Fiji). Marvin will be starting in the coming months HELP CLINICS for I/NGO Networks on FATF & Financial Regulation (covering Asia – Pacific). Marvin has a long history of active work & collaboration with ICVA & its members.

**Focus Area 3 - Financing** ICVA will work to ensure financing of humanitarian action meets the needs of populations affected by crises while ensuring adequate NGO access to principled, quality funding. Marvin has been serving communities in Central Asia, South Asia and East Asia for 34 years & understands the system & stake holders. In Asia & Pacific, Marvin has been an advocate for just and empowering partnerships between all stakeholders (currently serves on the board of Alliance for Empowering Partnerships). He has managed large multicultural teams and back-donor grants in highly stressful environments (Afghanistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, Iran & the Philippines).

He is an active advocate of quality & accountability (Vice Chair of HAP Certification Board), signed Regional Partnership Agreement with Sphere and continue to implement programs as one of the most active regional partners.

CWSA also leads the ADRRN ACCOUNTABILITY HUB in Asia Pacific (in the last 20 years CWSA has trained over 12,000 aid workers in Q&A in Asia, Pacific, Middle East & Africa). In partnership with ICVA, ADRRN & OCHA, CWSA has been organizing one of the largest gathering of Practitioners & Academics in Asia – Pacific for networking & learning.

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- ***Chair – Yes***

***If yes, what qualities would you bring to the position of Chair?***

1. The commitment to put communities first above all else is the quality he will bring to the board. Marvin's experience of working with diverse communities, environments, partners & programs have both humbled him and fuelled his pursuit for larger humanitarian impact.
2. Marvin's relationships & credibility as an advocate across Asia & Pacific promoting localization, quality/accountability and dignified partnerships in the sector is another quality he will bring to the board
3. Marvin is not new to the governing structures, he has served on several boards of INGOs, Networks and National/Regional Organizations. He has also served on ICVA nomination Committee in the past.

## Finn Church Aid (FCA), Finland

Dr. Ikali Karvinen

### *Organisation Profile*

Finn Church Aid (FCA) is Finland's largest international aid organization with operations in 12 countries and more than 70 years of experience. FCA specializes in supporting local communities in three priority areas: Right to Education, Right to Livelihood, and Right to Peace. We work in the world's most fragile contexts and with the most vulnerable people, regardless of their religious beliefs, ethnic background or political convictions. Our objective is to promote sustainable development and equality by achieving changes in policies, attitudes and laws. FCA is a faith- and rights-based organisation and a member of ACT Alliance, a global network of church-affiliated aid organisations.

### *Nominee Information*

**Dr. Ikali Karvinen**



### **Video presentation**



**Gender: Male**

**Job title: Deputy Executive Director**

Ikali Karvinen works currently as a Deputy Executive Director of FCA, being in charge of the strategy and programme content. Earlier he has worked as a Country Director in Eritrea, Cambodia and Somalia. Dr. Karvinen's educational background includes studies from health, education and leadership, and he holds Doctorate in Health Sciences. Dr. Karvinen has especially contributed to evidence-based Education in Emergencies at Finn Church Aid. Over the past years he has led FCA's humanitarian and development work in challenging contexts, witnessing in practice the impact of climate change for the most vulnerable ones, changes in the funding architecture and need for understanding the overall systemic change in the humanitarian field. Dr. Karvinen has been strong advocate of development-humanitarian nexus, and his earlier work for policy influence aligns well with ICVA's mission. As one of the leaders of humanitarian I-NGO Karvinen is committed for supporting principled humanitarian action, where the beneficiaries are in the heart of everything and the sector is developed with strong value-basis. FCA has recently renewed its humanitarian strategy, and organization's addition of People and planet -thinking to strategy might benefit ICVA in the work if addressing climate change in the humanitarian action."

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- **Chair –No**

## Foundation for Rural Development (FRD), Pakistan

Mr. Azmat Khan

### *Organisation Profile*

Foundation for Rural Development is a local NGO, based in Pakistan, where it started its voluntary work since 2006. Registered in 2008 as a Proper NGO, has delivered significant humanitarian and development services in the most difficult and backward areas of Pakistan. FRD has got humanitarian work experience in Refugees, IDPs, Natural disaster affected population as well as work experience with indigenous people of Pakistan, who have not yet displaced, but who are facing severe challenges.

Foundation for Rural Development is a non-political, non-partisan organization that has been working with communities and partnering with different partners across the aid sector for improving the quality of life of people for whom we work. The Vision of FRD is a prosperous, peaceful, Productive and Socially inclusive society where every human being can realize their potential, and to contribute to this vision FRD has implemented more than 87 projects with Government, NGOs, UN agencies and donor agencies

### *Nominee Information*

**Mr. Azmat Khan**



### **Video presentation**



**Gender: Male**

**Job title: Chief Executive Officer**

Mr. Azmat Khan has been working as Chief Executive Officer of Foundation for Rural Development, and during his leadership he has developed FRD from a small CBO level organization to an Organization which is known Nationally, regionally and Globally. Mr. Khan has been actively involved with the networking and agile collaborations right from the start, and has been founding member of National Humanitarian network, where he got elected twice to the position of Provincial chairperson and twice to the central executive council (Board) of NHN Pakistan. Mr. Khan has also been elected as the founding member in the Leadership Council of NEAR Network and thus has a good understanding of the global south perspective of the aid system. (Words of Board member Mr. Sajid Iqbal)

Now I, Azmat Khan am going to present myself, as candidate for the Board Membership, I want to draw the attention of ICVA members to the fact that globally humanitarian needs are increasing while resources are shrinking, and as a network of well known humanitarian organizations, ICVA will have to advocate at different levels for filling this gap between the needs and the resources available, then in 2030 I CVA strategy we all have already committed to championing the principled humanitarian response, and I am bringing a work experience of working with refugees, conflict IDPs, Natural disaster IDPs, and work experience in complex emergencies, and have learnt first hand on how to maintain the principles of Humanitarian assistance despite difficult circumstances, and I will gladly bring that experience to the ICVA

Board. Similarly in our 2030 strategy we have committed to addressing the impacts of climate change, and at the FRD level we have incorporated climate change adaptation measures to multiple programs, and at the Network level both with NHN (Nationally), as well as GNDR (globally) I have contributed in a meaningful manner on how to approach the nexus of Humanitarian, Development and Climate and prepare a foundation for the resilience of communities worst impacted by climate change.

In our commitment on Global distribution and local roots, despite my engagement at National, Regional and Global levels, I am still connected with the Rural Areas from where FRD originated, and we are contributing to the uplift of those communities and increasing their resilience. On this same commitment, while localization is wrongly considered as a competition of the local actors with international actors, I personally consider the presence of both necessary for the Eco system, however I wish that instead of having an Eco system of Jungle where every one is trying to eat others, to influence the eco system and make it a rain forest eco system, where the existence of each one is dependent on the existence of others.

On Diversity and Inclusion, I am bringing a background of the indigenous communities of the tribal areas of Pakistan, my linguistic connection to Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, and Nepal in their first and second languages and communication in English language to other parts of the globe enables me to add more colour and diversity to the ICVA Board.

In terms of Agile collaborations and partnerships development, I foresee that my experience both at FRD, as well as other networks has broadened my horizon, and instead of tunnel vision I try to have a bigger picture understanding and put any institution where I am involved in the governance at such a position, where our existence will contribute to improved quality of services delivery to the affected population. During my experience at FRD I have developed partnership of FRD with UN agencies, Government Departments, International NGOs, Donors and Networks, and in the networks I have always been an advocate of complementarity and strengthening each other's system and positions for better serving the people affected by conflicts and disasters.

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- ***Chair -No***

## Good Neighbors, Republic of Korea

### Dr. Ha Eun (Marcellino) Seong

#### Organisation Profile

Good Neighbors is a humanitarian development NGO that supports and enables vulnerable communities in 51 Countries across the globe with the vision of "Empowering People, Transforming Communities" to "make the world a place without hunger, where people live together in harmony." Good Neighbors promotes and protects the human rights of people suffering from poverty, disaster, and oppression, strengthen their self-reliance and encourage them to rebuild hope for their future. GNI supports refugees, IDPs and host communities in Bangladesh, Chad, Ethiopia, Jordan, Niger, Romania, Rwanda, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, and Zambia through market-based solutions for sustainable livelihood and safe space for women and children.

#### Nominee Information

### Dr. Ha Eun (Marcellino) Seong



### Video presentation



**Gender: Male**

**Job title: Representative**

Dr. Seong Ha Eun Marcellino has 20 years career in international humanitarian, development, and human rights action with extensive experience in both international advocacy with UN and government actors as well as field level support through capacity building and partnership development for national partners.

In Good Neighbors he has contributed to the development of climate change policy, operationalization of triple nexus programs for forcibly displaced persons, and the mainstreaming of the human rights-based approach.

As one of the few Asian civil society representatives present in Geneva, Dr. Seong has put particular emphasis in expanding the humanitarian space in Northeast Asia and galvanizing collaboration among public and private stakeholders in the region.

As a board member, Dr. Seong will contribute to the delivery of ICVA's 2030 strategy in enlarging ICVA partnership in the Asia Pacific region, fostering localization, and promoting diversity and inclusivity.

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- **Chair –No**

## International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation (IBC), Turkey

### Mr. Muzaffer Baca

#### *Organisation Profile*

Since its establishment, International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation (IBC) has been committed to providing access to basic humanitarian needs, emergency relief, health care, education, and rehabilitation services to all those who have difficulty accessing them, regardless of nationality, religion, language, political opinion, gender, age, genetic or physical characteristics.

Founded in 1999, IBC, whose activities on both local and international platforms have gained momentum day by day, became a member of the ICVA-international Union of Voluntary Organizations headquartered in Geneva in 2003 and was elected to the board of directors of the union in 2006. On the other hand, it was granted special consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to develop economic and social policy recommendations worldwide.

IBC collaborates with local and national authorities, other non-governmental organizations, global donors, universities, and research centers in all projects it implements with its expert staff. It reflects the resources, technical expertise, and experience it has developed through these collaborations to its work. With all these working disciplines it has developed for nearly 25 years, IBC continues to carry out projects that make a difference in social integration, social cohesion, psychosocial support, access to education, access to health services, social development, women's empowerment, gender equality, and sustainable livelihood creation within the framework of basic rights and needs.

IBC is also a member of Sphere Standards, which aims to increase transparent and principled project management, especially in terms of quality and accountability, by setting standards for humanitarian action around the world.

IBC is guided by the principle of neutrality and believes that all human beings are created equal and have the right to live in dignity and to have access to housing, food, health, education, and decent living standards.

**Relief and Rehabilitation** In addition to meeting the urgent needs of victims of natural or people-made disasters such as nutrition, shelter, water, and sanitation, IBC also works to reduce the impact of traumas experienced by women and children.

**Shelter and Reconstruction** IBC provides reconstruction of social infrastructure units, including temporary and permanent shelter, education, and health services after the state of emergency in disaster-affected regions. In this process, it also carries out activities to improve the livelihoods and socio-economic lives of the victims.

**Civil Society and Social Development** IBC contributes to and supports civil society organizations, local organizations, and social groups in the field of civil society and social development to develop their financial and technical capacities, increase the effectiveness of their existing activities, create new activities, and achieve sustainable growth by organizing and networking.

**Training** IBC supports school and out-of-school education. In addition to increasing the capacity of educational units by providing them with the necessary equipment, it also supports programs such as vocational, cultural, and skills development programs carried out by official educational institutions.

**Health** In addition to increasing the existing capacity in the field of health, such as meeting and renewing the need for equipment and supplies, activities are also carried out to raise the awareness of the

community to utilize health units, take preventive measures against diseases, prevent infectious diseases and improve personal hygiene.

**Social Cohesion** IBC promotes the culture of coexistence with the support of academic staff, local government institutions, and stakeholders, especially to strengthen communication between refugees and host communities and contribute to peace-based social dialogue. In this context, the Social Cohesion Unit of the IBC develops projects and activities that bring communities together and break down existing and potential prejudices with the understanding that differences are richness.

**Protection** IBC carries out prevention of gender-based violence and early forced marriage, protection, legal support, and individual/group psychosocial support for children within the framework of its protection policy by international standards.

### *Nominee Information*

#### **Mr. Muzaffer Baca**



#### **Video presentation**



**Gender: Male**

**Job title: IBC Vice President**

Muzaffer Baca is one of the two founders of International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation in 1999 to serve humanity more with all this experience, especially after following the natural disasters and wars and other poverty issues for 25 years in Europe. Balkans, Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asia

Muzaffer Baca, who has been the Vice President of the International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation for more than 20 years, developing and implementing projects in the fields of emergency relief, capacity building, health, education and social cohesion regardless of religion, language, race and gender in Turkey the Middle East, the Balkans, the Caucasus and Africa.

While the Foundation gained Special Consultative Status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council with its significant achievements in a short time, Muzaffer Baca was selected as a board member of the ICVA-International Association of Voluntary Organizations between 2004-2008.

Between 2003 and 2010, he served as the Vice President of COPPEM that develops projects for the development of relations with the Mediterranean Countries Municipalities of the European Union, which is based in Palermo, and implementing programs for the use of EU resources for the development of South on behalf of International Blue Crescent Foundation, Muzaffer Baca focused on emergency relief, social cohesion, employment and fundraising projects for refugees after the beginning of the Syrian Crisis in 2011. He is a one of the founding members of Refugee Council of Turkey (TMK), which includes more than 20 NGOs, that develops and advocates better policies for both of refugees and the host community.

Muzaffer Baca, who always cares about following the spirit of the youth by sharing his experiences, has been working as the Member of the Board of Trustees of Istanbul Aydm University since 2003. Baca, who gives undergraduate courses regarding News Sociology & News Research-Application, is also the Secretary General of the Eurasian Universities Association (EURAS) a union of universities from EU, MENA and Eurasian region.

Muzaffer Baca has carried out prominent projects not only as the founder and acting president of an international non-governmental organisation, but also with the knowledge and experience he personally gained in hot zones and his command of the dynamics of disadvantaged areas around the world.

Muzaffer Baca, who manages the principled, democratic and inclusive humanitarian aid actions that ICVA has been implementing for years in line with its vision, mission and values, will make distinctive contributions to ICVA's 2030 strategy and focus areas with his continuous learning motivation and innovative approach.

Especially after the devastating earthquakes that devastated Turkey and Syria as of 2023, the sustainable projects he has developed and implemented both to meet the urgent needs of the region and for the redevelopment of the region constitute the most important basis of all these approaches.

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- ***Chair – Yes***

***If yes, what qualities would you bring to the position of Chair?***

**International Civil Society Leadership:** Leadership experience as founder and acting president of an international civil society organisation. A solid foundation and a broad network in civil society.

**Field Experience in Disaster and War Zones:** Long-term field experience in disaster and war zones. Practical knowledge and skills in emergency management, crisis coordination and coping with the effects of war.

**Principled Humanitarian Understanding:** Principled stance and commitment to ethical values in humanitarian aid projects. Going beyond humanitarian aid and seeking long-term sustainable solutions.

**Democratic Management Approach:** Strict adherence to democratic governance principles. Adopting the principles of justice, transparency, and accountability.

**Strategic Planning and Coordination Skills:** Ability to coordinate complex projects effectively.

**Innovative Humanitarian Approaches:** Adopting innovative approaches in humanitarian aid practices. Motivation for continuous learning and development.

**International Relations and Diplomacy:** Strong network in international relations. Diplomatic skills and the ability to communicate across cultures.

**Quick Reaction and Decisiveness:** Ability to react quickly and effectively in emergency situations. Ability to stand strong in times of crisis with determination and leadership qualities.

## IHH – The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief, Turkey

### Dr. Durmuş Aydin

#### *Organisation Profile*

IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation began its first humanitarian activities voluntarily in Bosnia at the time of the Bosnian War that erupted in 1992 and became institutionalized in 1995 and now working across the globe with the purpose to deliver aid to all people who are in need, who had a catastrophe, who are affected by conflicts, natural disaster, etc. or wounded, crippled, starved, left homeless and persecuted thereof, wherever they are. IHH operates in over a hundred countries, transcending regional, religious, linguistic, racial, and sectarian boundaries. IHH's headquarter is based in Istanbul, Türkiye and we have offices in 10 countries including Palestine/Gaza, Kuwait, Qatar, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Philippines/Moro, Somalia, Sudan, Niger and Sierra Leone. IHH is an advisory status member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC); a council member of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation Humanitarian Fund (OIC) and International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), and the Union of NGOs of the Islamic World (IDSB). IHH is committed to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Core Humanitarian Standards, and Sphere Standards, ensuring high-quality humanitarian efforts worldwide.

IHH's primary mission is to provide humanitarian aid to individuals affected by war, natural disasters, and social injustice, ensuring the protection of their fundamental rights and freedoms. Our organization operates with a commitment to impartiality, assisting people in need without discrimination and without expecting anything in return. We are implementing projects in the fields of aid and development. These projects include FSL (Food Security and Livelihoods), WFI (Water Quality Standards), shelter, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), protection, health, education, early recovery, nutrition, logistics and cultural facilities. Moreover, our search and rescue teams affiliated with the IHH Disaster Management Department save lives by fighting earthquakes, fires, floods, and other disasters around the world. We can respond rapidly to emergencies and get help to the affected people right away so that as little damage as possible is done due to our wide range of access. We help communities to protect themselves and build resilience against recurrent disasters. Furthermore, we develop projects and carry out advocacy activities to relieve individuals and communities from the vulnerability they have suffered, and we take initiatives to mobilize world public opinion and international legal authorities regarding violations in conflict and war zones. We engage in humanitarian diplomacy in crisis areas, protecting civilians, finding the missing, rescuing captives and enabling the necessary steps to end crises. In every endeavor, we uphold the belief that "Goodness anytime and anywhere." Through our unwavering commitment to humanitarian aid, global cooperation, and sustainable development, we strive to embody this motto, ensuring that the light of kindness shines in every corner of the world.

## Nominee Information

### Mr Durmuş Aydin



## Video presentation



**Gender:** Male

**Job title:** Secretary General

Durmuş Aydin is a versant professional with a broad background in social work and humanitarian aid. His undergraduate studies in the Social Work Department at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa, coupled with a master's degree in Labor Economics from Marmara University in Türkiye, and a Ph.D. in Social Works from Yalova University in 2022, have fortified his academic and professional expertise. Aydin has made contributions to academia, serving as a Lecturer in International Social Work and Theories and Approaches in Social Work at Yalova University and Health Sciences University. He actively contributes to academic initiatives in the civil society realm.

Aydin commenced his professional journey with the IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation in 2004, marking the beginning of his dedicated contributions to the humanitarian affairs. Starting as a volunteer, he transitioned into professional roles, eventually assuming various responsibilities, including managerial positions in external relations, public relations, and corporate relations. Since 2018, he has been serving as the Secretary General, showcasing his leadership skills. With over 19 years of experience in humanitarian aid and development, Aydin has a broad perspective, particularly in managing projects in Africa and Asia. He has actively participated in the planning and coordination of various high-profile initiatives. Notable among these endeavors are the Gaza Land Convoy, Gaza Freedom Flotilla, Open Road to Aleppo Convoy, and the UN World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. Aydin, serving as one of IHH's key representatives at the United Nations, has consistently showcased commitment to advancing humanitarian causes on the global stage, representing the organization in various international projects, meetings, and events with esteemed institutions such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Islamic Development Bank, and ICVA, among others.

Durmus Aydin's notable contributions to ICVA's 2030 strategy encompass active engagement in forced migration works, leveraging his prolonged involvement in crisis zones for capacity-building through collaborative efforts. Aydin's doctoral thesis, titled "Analysis of Social Services Provided to Syrian Asylum Seekers and Refugees: Cases of Germany and Turkey," reflects his commitment to understanding and addressing the challenges faced by displaced populations. His academic expertise, particularly in the realm of migration studies, further enhances his contributions to civil society. This emphasizes his dedication to improving the conditions of asylum seekers and refugees, adding a profound academic dimension to his role within ICVA. Benefiting from Türkiye's strategic geographical proximity, Durmuş Aydin will not only create valuable opportunities for both national and international collaboration but will also establish internal coherence within NGOs, fostering robust capacity development. Furthermore, Aydin's steadfast support in advocacy will play a crucial role in fortifying ICVA's strategic goals, emphasizing his pivotal contribution to advancing humanitarian initiatives within the organization.

**Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for**

- **Chair –yes**

***If yes, what qualities would you bring to the position of Chair?***

In the role of Chair, Durmuş Aydın would bring an effective leadership style marked by collaboration, as evidenced by his active engagement with ICVA members and diverse networks. His approach offers a perspective in tackling shared challenges, particularly those related to forced migration. On the international stage, Aydın's advocacy and representation ensure that the voices of NGOs, not only resonate but actively influence key discussions. His strategic networking approach would strengthen collaboration among multilateral partners, regional organizations, and civil society networks, resulting in a more comprehensive response to humanitarian-related concerns. In essence, Durmuş Aydın's distinct combination of academic and field experience, collaborative leadership, and advocacy positions him as a catalyst for positive change within ICVA, specifically in addressing the complex issues surrounding forced migration

## IMPACT Initiatives, Switzerland

### Mr. Luca Pupulin

#### Organisation Profile

Created in 2010, IMPACT is a Geneva-based NGO and the largest independent data provider in contexts of crisis. We aim to support a range of stakeholders in making better, more informed decisions in humanitarian, stabilisation, and development settings. We believe that a key pathway to better planning and decision-making is direct engagement with local communities and their leaders.

Through our team of assessment, data, geospatial, and thematic specialists, we promote the design of people-centred research and set standards for collecting and analysing rigorous, high-quality data in complex environments. IMPACT also aims to foster partnerships and build capacities with key stakeholders.

IMPACT takes an initiative-based approach to structuring our programming. Each initiative has a specific aim, operational model, and portfolio of solutions.

- REACH strengthens evidence-based humanitarian decision-making through efficient data collection, management, and analysis – before, during, and after an emergency.
- PANDA improves the impact of humanitarian and development interventions through programme design, assessments, and monitoring & evaluation.
- AGORA promotes localised and multi-sectoral aid action in support of the recovery and stabilisation of crisis-affected communities, in partnership with local stakeholders.

#### Nominee Information

### Mr. Luca Pupulin



**Gender:** Male

**Job title:** Chief Executive Officer

### Video presentation



Luca has a very broad humanitarian experience with NGOs, ranging from being a frontline responder in multiple crisis to a promoter of better humanitarian practices at a global level. He started working in Kosovo in 2000, then moved to Burundi and to the Thai/Myanmar border before joining Acted in Central Asia as Country Director. At Acted, Luca then was appointed as Regional Director for Asia (2006-2009), and most recently Global Director of Programs (until 2013). In 2010 Luca co-founded IMPACT initiatives and has been its Executive Director / CEO ever since.

The key reasons that led Luca and others to create IMPACT Initiatives was their belief that humanitarian response could be significantly improved by becoming more evidence-based and people-centred. IMPACT was built around this belief and is today, through its initiatives (including REACH, AGORA and PANDA), a key provider of community-driven evidence to inform and hold more accountable humanitarian decision-making. In this, Luca and IMPACT are aligned and actively contribute to the first objective of ICVA's 2030 strategy.

Globally, and across more than 30 countries where IMPACT operates, collaboration stands as a cornerstone of its approach. Luca, from the start, emphasized the need to collaborate closely with partners, promoting

change by working within and in collaboration with the system. In addition, as shown by its operational presence and number of field staff, IMPACT aims at engaging with local and national actors, anchoring its work in local territories and knowledge – a strategic alignment with Objective 4 of ICVA's strategy.

As for ICVA, climate change is also increasingly becoming an area of focus for our organisation, a global challenge increasing the needs for reliable, timely and quality information to find common solutions. Understanding the drivers of climate change and evaluating its impact in fragile contexts is critical to inform resilient sustainable development. Luca has been present in multiples climate-related crisis, even before joining IMPACT, as a Director of Programs and Regional Director for ACTED. He has thus seen their impacts first-hand, for example during the tsunami in Southeast Asia in 2004 or the drought in the Horn of Africa in 2012 and has since then made this thematic [a priority](#).

In conclusion, Luca Pupulin would bring to ICVA his deep knowledge of the current humanitarian landscape, his learning from witnessing the impacts of multiple acute crises, and his experience in creating and leading an organisation whom work is aligned with ICVA's 2030 strategy.

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- ***Chair –No***

## Islamic Relief Worldwide, United Kingdom

### Mr. Tufail Hussain

#### *Organisation Profile*

Islamic Relief is a faith-based humanitarian and development agency working to save and transform the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people. Established in 1984, we now work in over 45 countries assisting individuals, families and communities through emergency response and development projects which help over 10 million people every year, contributing directly to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We help communities to better protect themselves against recurrent challenges such as drought and floods, and we deliver lifesaving emergency aid when disaster strikes. We provide vital services such as healthcare, water, sanitation and hygiene. Our livelihoods and education projects empower people to escape poverty and build brighter futures.

To maximise our impact and build community resilience, Islamic Relief develops the capacity of local partners to work alongside us in delivering effective aid and development programmes. Through global advocacy we push for positive change particularly on climate change, gender justice and forced displacement, and we develop Islamic perspectives that combine spiritual and practical insights to provide distinctive, impactful approaches to some of the biggest challenges facing our world.

#### *Nominee Information*

### Mr. Tufail Hussain



### Video presentation



**Gender:** Male

**Job title:** Islamic Relief UK Director

With nearly two decades of dedicated service in the charity sector, I have honed a deep understanding and passion for driving change and fostering growth within non-profit organisations. My journey began 19 years ago, and over this period, I've been privileged to lead teams towards achieving remarkable milestones in service of communities in need.

Over the past 10 years, I have embraced organisational leadership roles, focusing on strategic planning, team development, and operational excellence. My leadership philosophy is grounded in building the right corporate culture—one that values inclusivity, resilience, and innovation, enabling our team to navigate challenges and embrace opportunities for growth.

Since 2019, I have had the honour of leading Islamic Relief UK, at the forefront of fundraising, external relations with key community and government stakeholders, UK domestic programmes, and advocacy efforts. Under my leadership, Islamic Relief UK has experienced three years of unprecedented growth, with a 150% increase in income during critical times such as the Covid pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. This

achievement is a testament to our team's agility, commitment, and the effectiveness of our change management strategies.

Change management has been a cornerstone of my approach, ensuring our organisation remains adaptable and forward-thinking in the face of evolving global challenges. I have successfully steered our team through significant transitions, always with a focus on maintaining morale and fostering an environment conducive to innovation and excellence.

My role has also extensively involved public speaking, media engagements, and nurturing external relations. I've represented Islamic Relief UK in various national and international forums, effectively communicating our mission, advocating for our causes, and building strong relationships with key stakeholders. These engagements have not only amplified our impact but have also been instrumental in forging partnerships that further our reach and resources.

I am deeply committed to the mission of the charity sector and believe in the power of collective action to make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve. My journey thus far has been incredibly rewarding, and I look forward to continuing to lead, inspire, and contribute to meaningful change in the world.

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- ***Chair –no***

## Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS), Mauritius

### Mr. Suraj Ray

#### *Organisation Profile*

The Mauritius Council of Social Service (hereinafter "MACOSS" or the "Council") was established in December 1970. As a not-for-profit independent charity institution recognized locally, regionally and internationally. MACOSS is the National Platform of Civil Society Organizations in Mauritius. MACOSS works with more than 100 grass root CSOs and community organizations in the country. As MACOSS is affiliated to several international organizations, such as the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), Africa Philanthropy Network (APN), FORUS International, Beijing NGO Association for International Exchange and SADC GNCO among others ([www.macoss.mu](http://www.macoss.mu)), it has been closely engaged with implementing SDGs and a number of humanitarian and disaster and crisis management issues. These works have been carried out in Mauritius with community organizations at grassroot level through its well-established outreach network/programme. MACOSS has 70 members who are registered not for profit CSOs and works with roughly 200+ NGOS including trade unions, trusts and charities. The Council's objects are "to promote an charitable purposes for the benefit for the community in Mauritius". The MACOSS works closely with various national institutions such as the Human Rights Commission of Mauritius where it organizes workshops and talks on rights of the citizen especially at the grass root community level. The MACOSS works very closely and / or partners with the academia (universities), the press (media trust), private sector and various institutions on the various facets of human rights, disaster /crisis management.

#### *Nominee Information*

##### Mr. Suraj Ray



##### Video presentation



**Gender: Male**

**Job Title: Chairman of the MACOSS**

Suraj Ray is the Chairperson of the Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS), the National Platform of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Mauritius, since 2018.

Suraj Ray is also President of AHEAD, a registered grassroot non-governmental organization (NGO), actively engaged in Human Rights, sustainable development, mainstreaming people, world of work, wellness, environment, education and living things; with gender and youth as cross cutting. AHEAD is also present in Rodrigues.

Suraj Ray is a rights activist and is fully engaged in defending the rights of people from Vulnerable and poor families, be it employment, property, or family issues.

Presently, Suraj Ray is conducting research under a PhD Programme (Social Work Practice). The findings and thesis will be published in 2026 (hopefully).

Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland, Suraj Ray is a governance and administration professional with expertise in corporate affairs, board administration, management of charities, associations and NPOs. Suraj Ray holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree in Innovation and Leadership, A bachelor of Laws (LBLB) degree and a Graduate Diploma in Law (UK).

Among his many attributes, Suraj Ray chairs the National Governance Committee (APRM) facilitating the implementation of the APRM process in Mauritius. He has also played a key role in the finalization of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report. Presently Suraj Ray is engaged with a number of key international stakeholders (institutions and organizations) on issues of national interests in line with Agenda 2030 such as inclusive education (children with learning difficulties), youth, gender, freedom of expression and democracy.

Suraj Ray has also been the representative of the trade union movement in Mauritius as the official national workers" representative at the International Labour Conference (ILO 2013-20215). He has sound experience in Human resources, industrial relations, Counselling and Redundancy) Suraj Ray is a member of the Redundancy Board.

Suraj Ray is a human rights activist, public speaker, counsellor, negotiator, philanthropist, social worker and researcher.

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- ***Chair –yes***

***If yes, what qualities would you bring to the position of Chair?***

A new team spirit inspired from a Small Island Developing States (SIDS) perspective. With a combination of long-term practical engagement as. Rights activist, with people at grass root level, coupled with a strong professional expertise in governance and employment laws, laws relating to CSOs, workers and human rights, Constitution and advocacy, it will be a mix of new and fresh vision of human needs. Furthermore, a good command of French and English, and communication skills will be an advantage.

## Medair, Switzerland

### Ms. Anne Reitsema

#### *Organisation Profile*

**Medair**, founded in 1989, is an international humanitarian organisation focusing on emergency response, with extensive experience and expertise in health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), emergency shelter and infrastructure. Currently, Medair runs humanitarian operations in 14 countries around the world, including Afghanistan, Ukraine, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, Chad, Madagascar, Yemen, Turkey, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The Global Emergency Response Team of Medair focuses on rapid onset emergencies and is ready to be deployed for disasters or humanitarian crisis swiftly.

In 2020, alongside the ongoing country programmes' emergency response and recovery work, Medair re-started operations in Sudan (left in 2011) during the COVID-19 pandemic, including initiating a response to the Tigrayan refugee crisis in east, as well as responding to the Beirut blast in Lebanon and Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Honduras. In 2021, Medair responded to the conflict in Tigray in northern Ethiopia, and responded in Amhara as the conflict spread in 2022. At the start of that year, Medair also launched a large scale response in Poland and Ukraine due to the conflict and continuously expanded and moved the response eastward towards the frontline. In 2023, Medair responded to the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, scaled up responses to the Sudan crisis in Sudan/South Sudan and initiated a response in Chad, as well as scaling up in DR Congo.

Aside from the emergency response capacity and frequent emergency responses in Medair's longer term country programmes, for example South Sudan, DR Congo, Somalia, Afghanistan and Madagascar, Medair's other notable emergency responses in previous years include the earthquake in Haiti (2010), Typhoon Haiyan in Philippines (2013), Yazidi displacement in Iraq (2014), Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone (2014), earthquake in Nepal (2015), Rohingya displacement in Bangladesh (2017), Ebola outbreak in DR Congo (2018), Typhoon Mangkut in Philippines (2018), earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia (2018) and Cyclone Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique (2019). Note: Medair has been continuously responding to the Syrian refugee crisis in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria since 2014.

Medair participates in ICVA and provides feedback through various platforms. Medair engages in different coordination mechanisms at both global and country levels.

At global level, Medair is involved in the global health cluster and is currently the co-chair of the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and is in the reproductive health and quality working groups; participates in the Global MAMI Network and the Global Cholera Task Force; and is part of IASC WHO MHPSS RG. Globally Medair advocated for equitable vaccine access for populations in humanitarian crisis with the Global Health Cluster and NetHope. Medair is also involved in the global WASH cluster and is a workstream co-lead of the global hygiene promotion in emergencies working group and co-lead of the WASH Road Map initiative 6. We have representatives in the ICVA Access Working Group and the Principled Humanitarian Action Steering Committee. Medair's Security Advisor currently chairs the Global Interagency Security Forum (GISF) steering group.

At country level, Medair has been engaging in various coordination bodies such as HCTs and SAGs of different clusters. In Yemen, Medair is on the INGO Forum steering committee and INGO rep to the HCT. In Sudan, Medair is on the INGOF Steering Committee. In Syria, the Medair country director is on the DINGO Steerco and the HCT and is a member of the SIRF Board. In Jordan, Medair is an active member in the Jordan INGO Forum (JIF) and Health, C4H, Protection, and MHPSS Working Groups along with being co-chairs of the Referral Coordination and Interagency Coordination Working Groups. In Lebanon, Medair's Country Director is a steering committee member of the Lebanon Humanitarian INGO Forum (LHIF) and is actively participating and contributing to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) coordination mechanism, including, but not limited to, Basic Assistance, Shelter, Health, Nutrition, MHPSS, WASH, Logistics, and other sectors and working groups. In South Sudan, Medair takes part in the Health SAG, SRH and MHPSS TWGs, Nutrition SAG and Scaling Up Nutrition in SS TWG; WASH SAG, Sanitation and Accountability and

Quality Assurance (AQA) TWGs. Medair is also on the South Sudan RRM group and Needs Analysis Working Group. In Afghanistan, Medair is on the Nutrition SAG and is a member of the IMAM, Assessment Information Management, MIYCN and capacity development technical working groups of the nutrition cluster.

### Nominee Information

#### Ms. Anne Reitsema



#### Video presentation



**Gender:** Female

**Job title:** CEO

Anne is an experienced humanitarian with 20 years' experience in emergency response and operations management, including 16 years at senior management and leadership level. She was Medair's International Programmes Director from January 2019 to December 2022 overseeing Medair's worldwide operations including the Global Emergency Response Team (G-ERT). Anne is now CEO of Medair since January 2023. When working as Country Director in Sudan and South Sudan, she was a member of the INGO Steering Committees and Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) and Security Management Teams for more than 8 years. She was the NGO representative on the CHF Advisory Board and UNHAS Steering Committee in South Sudan for 3 years and has presented on humanitarian issues to special envoys, donors, ambassadors, governments, the Under-Secretary-General/Emergency Relief Coordinator for the UN, the Emergency Directors Group (EDG) and UN Security Council. She represented Medair at the regional consultation and global World Humanitarian Summit. Anne was an ICVA representative on the EDG from April 2021- June 2023.

Over the years, Anne has participated in various humanitarian conferences and represented NGOs on different occasions. She is passionate about principled and effective humanitarian response. She was selected to facilitate a session with Humanitarian Coordinators (HC) and representative heads of agencies in the Southern African Regional Humanitarian Summit (2014) on the challenges with the humanitarian principle of neutrality. She presented case studies on climate change and disaster risk reduction on the Swiss NGO platform (2013), and participated in a 3 day round table think tank on Access Negotiations in Dubai with Frontline Negotiations (2017). In Sudan she presented on behalf of the entire humanitarian community, at the request of the HC, to the UN Security Council (2010). She was part of a Panel of experts on Conflict Sensitive Programming in the Humanitarian Network Partnership Week in Geneva 2020. Furthermore, she was one of two NGO representatives selected to represent at the HDPN for Health Expert Meeting with WHO, Cairo, in Feb 2020. She also participated in the Peer Review Mission to Afghanistan in May 2022. In July 2023 she participated in the Syria Day of Dialogue in Brussels.

Anne is fluent in English and competent in engaging in fast-paced online and in-person discussions, as evidenced by her longtime involvement in HCTs, the EDG and other engagements over the years. Anne would bring extensive humanitarian programming, high-level coordination and principled engagement experience to the board.

**Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for**

- **Chair -No**

## Norwegian Peoples Aid, Norway

Mr. Raymond Johansen

### *Organisation Profile*

Norwegian People's Aid is a politically independent membership-based organisation working in Norway and in more than 30 countries around the world. Founded in 1939 as the labor movement's humanitarian solidarity organisation, NPA aims to improve people's living conditions and to create a democratic, just and safe society. NPA's international work covers three core areas: Mine Action and disarmament, Development and Humanitarian relief aid.

Being a membership-based organization nationally, and an organization that works primarily with partner-organisations in our development and humanitarian work. NPA is actively trying to influence decisionmakers to move more power to local and national civil society organizations that have legitimacy and trust in their local communities.

Our partnership policy puts partners agenda in the front seat, and we strive to have equal partnerships that enable frank and open conversation about priorities and strategies. NPA adopts a principled approach to humanitarian action, while recognising that many of our partners have played a political role in their society prior to a crisis. NPA holds that the principles of humanity and impartiality are fundamental, ethical obligations which define the objective of humanitarian action; while the principles of neutrality and independence have to be negotiated and contextualized in every response we are involved. No humanitarian organization or institution is entirely neutral and independent.

Humanitarian crisis frequently occurs in countries in political crisis, countries with weak control systems and in many instances in countries that are under international sanctions or monitored due to their vulnerability to money laundering. NPA is actively engaged in the efforts to broaden and apply humanitarian exemptions in these contexts to aid humanitarian access and space also for local and national responders. On the same topic, we engage with banks, the Norwegian delegation to the FATF, and donors to contribute to a better understanding of how sanctions and anti-terror legislation hampers humanitarian response.

### *Nominee Information*

**Mr. Raymond Johansen**



### **Video presentation**



**Gender: Male**

**Job title: Secretary General**

Mr. Raymond Johansen is the Secretary General of NPA as of January 2024. He comes from the position as mayor of Oslo for the last 8 years and was before that the party Secretary for the Norwegian Labour Party. He served as state secretary for the Foreign Minister for two periods under the Stoltenberg-governments during the period 2000- 2015. He has also worked in the Norwegian Directorate for Development Assistance (Norad)

He therefore has a vast experience from conflict-settings, humanitarian and development portfolios, in addition to local politics where the interaction with civil society organisations and local institutions is key. We believe this combined experience can be useful for ICVAs board as it seeks to be globally distributed and locally rooted. Johansen has a deep understanding of the importance of local actors in response to crisis, and Norwegian Peoples Aid also aims to shed light on the potential, but also the challenges of a more locally led approach and civil society actors active participation in a humanitarian response.

Johansen will be an active participant of the ICVA-Board, supporting ICVA's efforts to play a key role in setting the agenda and being in the forefront of the humanitarian policy discussion, both in Geneva and globally. Our partner network will contribute to having first hand information from smaller and larger humanitarian crisis, giving the necessary context specific information that enables a frank and on-point conversation. His experience from the political scene will help frame the conversation in a way that also makes it relevant for the broader geopolitical questions of our time.

*Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for*

- **Chair – No**

## Plan International, United Kingdom

### Dr. Unni Krishnan

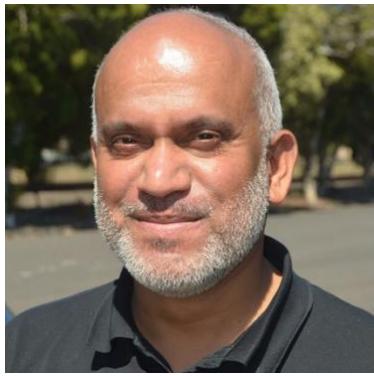
#### *Organisation Profile*

Founded in 1937, Plan International is a humanitarian and development organisation that works together with children, young people, supporters and partners to strive for a just world, where we are all equal.

We are an international NGO with presence in approximately 80 countries. Working with and through partner organisations, we are operational and implement programmes and advocate for children's rights and equality for girls.

#### *Nominee Information*

### Dr. Unni Krishnan



### Video presentation



**Gender: Male**

**Job title: Global Humanitarian Director**

For the past 25-plus years, I have worked in and on humanitarian, development, and health issues- on the frontlines where people encounter hostile forces- disasters, military, mobs, microbes, bad governance, human rights violation, ill-planned development, and extreme weather and so on.

I have worked in senior management, leadership, representational, governance/ board, and advisory positions for humanitarian, health, and development agencies (such as Oxfam, ActionAid, Plan International, Save The Children, War Child and the People's Health Movement), inter-agency and UN initiatives, academic and technical teams. I currently work as the Global Humanitarian Director, at Plan International. Currently, I am also on the board of humanitarian initiatives (e.g. CALP -Cash Learning Partnership).

I have demonstrated an unflinching commitment to the idea of humanity, humanitarian charter, safe guarding and accountability and promoted and advocated for human dignity and human rights at the local, national, and global levels. I have also championed principled and effective humanitarian action and promoted ICVA's mission to enable, support, and guide constituents of the humanitarian ecosystem. Most importantly, fostered collaboration within agencies in the 'global south' and between them and international agencies.

Practical experiences have strengthened my understanding of the ways of working of community-based local organisations, national and international agencies, and civil society- how things work and how to make things work. I can find a reasonable balance between passion and patience. As a board member in forums, I have demonstrated clarity in such roles in comparison with the day job (by often unlearning from the nature of the day job).

Good understanding of ICVA's values, principles, mission, and strategy – and to use it to relate with the evolving contexts in which we work and engage. Good listener. I have worked with and for ICVA and ICVA's board on previous occasions. E.g.

- Representing ICVA (ActionAid) as a Sphere board member (2006-2010)
- Representing ICVA and ActionAid on IASC Task Force
- I was elected as a board member and as Vice Chair of ICVA briefly in 2021 (had to give up the positions as I changed jobs at that moment). However, continued to support ICVA's mission.
- Worked directly with the Chair of the Board of ICVA and the Executive Director to promote collaboration between Sphere and ICVA (while I was working as the Chair of the Board of Sphere, when Sphere was hosted by ICVA).

I have several years of experience working on boards and as a chair and vice chair.

- Sphere board: Chair, member, and vice chair (between 2006-2016).
- CALP- Cash learning network: Board member
- Board member: Swayam Shikshan Prayog, a grassroots women's cooperative/ movement (India); Clowns Without Borders (UK).

Trained as a physician (Madras University). Studied Masters in Humanitarian Action (University of Geneva) and conflict management, mediation, and negotiation (Selly Oak colleges, UK). I believe I learned equally from ordinary people and children during my work, spread over 70 plus countries in 6 continents - many of them hostile settings.

Author, editor, and media commentator on humanitarian, public health, social movements, and human rights issues. I worked as the lead author for the 2018 edition of the Sphere Handbook (health chapter); co-author of 'Psychological First Aid' (WHO), a Task Force member to develop the (UN/) Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings and as the co-editor of 'India Disasters Report' series (Oxford University Press). Blogs: [www.universe.in](http://www.universe.in) .

Effective communicator. Able to demystify complex dynamics in the humanitarian ecosystem through easy-to-read blogs, OPEDs, memos and talks to fulfil ICVA's approach to the humanitarian sector- i.e. support humanitarian actors to understand, engage and influence the humanitarian ecosystem.

More about me:

1. A [profile story](#) that was published in the Australian Medical Journal.
2. Der Spiegel (German Magazine)'s "People Of The Year" feature [published this personal profile](#).

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- ***Chair –Yes***

***If yes, what qualities would you bring to the position of Chair?***

A genuine commitment to principled and effective humanitarian action. Ability to articulate a compelling vision, mobilise diverse actors, and nurture a collective approach. Ability to listen and facilitate an informed conversation, often by bringing diverse, different or polarised opinions together and by appreciating dissenting voices. While working as the chair of inter-agency initiatives (e.g. Sphere board), I also learned not to take more than 10-15% of the airtime during board meetings, to make sure that the Executive Director/ CEO and staff are given time and fellow board members are encouraged to listen, reflect and form ideas and consensus around complex issues.

Availability and time commitment not just during board meetings, but also to do the preparatory work before and after board meetings. My employer, Plan International, recognizes the responsibility that comes with the board chair position and is ready to make provisions to prioritise ICVA's work as and when needed. Be accountable and take the board matters seriously and prioritise.

Encourage all board members for input and foster collaboration between humanitarian actors and civil society across continents. Ability to mobilise all board members and thus optimise the full human capital of the board in its entirety. Facilitate a culture where board members are (and not just the chair) taking responsibility to represent ICVA in forums. Able to strengthen trust and collaboration, manage risks and generate specific, actionable, clearly formulated resolutions—and confirm every board member understands and supports such resolutions.

Good understanding of what I don't know and openness to seek support from subject matters experts.

Good understanding of ICVA's values, principles, mission, and strategy – and to use it to relate with the evolving contexts in which we work and engage. Active listener.

I have several years of experience working as chair, vice chair and on boards. E.g.

- Sphere board: Chair, member, and vice chair (between 2006-2016)
- CALP- Cash learning network: Board member
- ICVA - Elected as a board member and as Vice Chair (for a brief period in 2021).
- Board member: Swayam Shikshan Prayog, a grassroots women's cooperative/ movement (India); Clowns Without Borders (UK).

I have worked with and for ICVA and ICVA's board on previous occasions. E.g.

- Representing ICVA (ActionAid) as a Sphere board member (2006-2010)
- Representing ICVA and ActionAid on the IASC Task Force
- I was elected as a board member and as Vice Chair of ICVA briefly in 2021 (had to give up the positions as I changed jobs at that moment).
- Regular interactions and worked directly with the Chair of the Board of ICVA and the Executive Director to promote collaboration between Sphere and ICVA.

Able to spot early warnings of low engagement and take proactive remedial measures through active listening, effective communication, creative approaches to collaboration, and continuous engagement and improvement. I recognize the decisions that the board makes (for which the chair and the board are accountable for) may shape ICVA for decades. I recognise that while the quality of the outputs cannot be accurately measured in real-time and in specific metrics when decisions are made, the quality of the inputs and discourse matter. Constantly reminding the chair and the board to be accountable for the decisions.

Ability to understand that the Chair is not the Executive Director! Recognize that the task of the chair is to make sure the entire board is functioning well and provides the vision, goals, resources, rules, and accountability the executive director needs. Most importantly to motivate, advise, and mentor the board and ICVA team.

Effective communicator and time management. Able to excite people to participate, contribute, and make meetings useful and interesting events.

## Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (R-SEAT), Canada

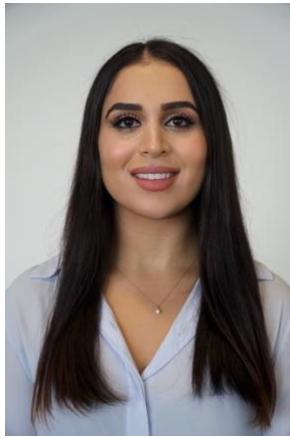
### Ms. Rez Gardi

#### *Organisation Profile*

Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (R-SEAT) is an international advocacy initiative working to enhance the effectiveness of global refugee responses, by co-designing mechanisms to amplify refugee leadership ecosystems and increase the participation of refugees at state levels in a meaningful, sustainable, and transformative way. R-SEAT is a non-profit organization led by refugees, working to empower refugees and to build participatory mechanisms for refugees around the world. Our organizational objectives focus on creating institutionalized forms of participatory mechanisms entrenched within state governments to create change in international policy settings. Coupling this, we have a vested interest in strengthening the advocacy potential of refugee leaders and refugee-led organizations through parallel initiatives like our training programs. These two elements converge within our work wherein we support refugee leadership ecosystems within states, and these ecosystems then support our work in building out participatory mechanisms for refugee leaders. This method is backed by robust academic research, takes a collective approach to influence policy, and ensures that refugee policies become more principled and effective by including the voices of refugees on issues which affect their lives.

#### *Nominee Information*

### Ms. Rez Gardi



### Video presentation



**Gender: Female**

**Job title: Co-Managing Director**

With many years of experience in the field of global refugee leadership, rooting my knowledge in lived experience as well as legal and humanitarian expertise, I will bring a grounded and human focussed approach to my tenure on the ICVA Board. As Co-Managing Director of R-SEAT, we have successfully scaled our work across over 10 countries of varying positionalities to the global system, and have furthered the emerging norm of meaningful refugee participation internationally. Including a direct line of communication to numerous refugee-led organizations is central to R-SEAT's mandate and would better connect the work of ICVA's member organizations to those on the ground.

Regarding ICVA's 2030 Strategy, R-SEAT is already working in policy spaces of forced migration, including working on the coordination of stakeholders and predictable financing. To coordinate between state powers, international organizations, and refugees themselves, R-SEAT's primary programming is focused on creating state specific participatory mechanisms for refugees. To custom build each of these mechanisms to the conditions of a specific state, R-SEAT undergoes extensive work to consult with the refugee leadership ecosystem of a given state. In doing so, we often become aware of funding needs that different RLOs are burdened with. The skills it takes to navigate these complex situations without becoming engrossed in the

political conditions on the ground are crucial to this work. As a third party, we offer practical solutions to perennial issues by creating tailor made solutions which local refugee leaders tangibly influence.

R-SEAT is unique to this space in how it heavily bases its own work within an academic framework. In connecting with academia both when strategizing on our target countries, and in said countries to locally root our work, R-SEAT is comfortable in analysing and learning from robust data, as well as collaborating with these types of actors. We are specifically interested in exploring how ICVA members may further benefit from these types of connections. Utilizing each of these skills allows for a balanced approach which centres neutral data in deciding on new agenda items, which is another skill I would bring to the ICVA Board under my tenure. Connecting stakeholders across levels, effectively collaborating to meet the needs of disparate parties, and making tangible solutions possible are within my realm of expertise.

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- ***Chair –No***

## Somali NGO Consortium (SNC), Somalia

Ms. Nimo Hassan

### Organisation Profile

Somali NGO Consortium (SNC) is a voluntary coordination mechanism of NGOs working in Somalia and Somaliland. It provides a coordination platform and a common voice for the hundreds of International and National non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in a highly insecure and complex operating environment. Effective coordination has significantly facilitated the successful delivery of humanitarian and development aid in Somalia and Somaliland. The SNC has grown throughout the years to become a platform for networking and coordination of NGOs to improve international aid coordination and raise the NGOs' presence and profile within the aid coordination structures for Somalia and Somaliland.

The Somali NGO Consortium plays a crucial role in promoting coordination, collaboration, and effectiveness among NGOs working in Somalia to address the diverse needs of the population and contribute to sustainable development and resilience-building efforts in the country.

### Nominee Information

**Ms. Nimo Hassan**



**Gender: Female**

**Job title: Director**

### Video presentation



Ms Hassan has over 15 years of experience in both the humanitarian and development programming and approaches. She has specialised in delivering programs that empower vulnerable persons and marginalized communities particularly, refugees, urban youth, women and young girls. Ms. Hassan brings significant expertise in managing and leading complex partnerships and multi-sectorial humanitarian and development programs. As director of a consortium, Nimo oversees the development and implementation of the Somali NGO consortium Strategic Plan which has a 6-year strategic plan focusing on advocacy, coordination, representation and communication. She has developed strong skills in building and maintaining strong partnerships with NGOs, governments, UN agencies, donors, and other stakeholders to enhance collaboration and coordination in humanitarian response. Nimo has demonstrated experience in providing leadership and governance oversight to non-profit organizations, including serving on boards or executive leadership teams having co-chaired the IASC Guidance on Strengthening Participation, Representation and Leadership of Local and National Actors in IASC Humanitarian Coordination Mechanisms. She is also an ICVA representative at the IASC Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG). Ms Hassan has an exceptional track record of effectively advocating for humanitarian issues including climate adaption at the recent COP28 late December 2023 and influencing policy decisions at national levels continuing lobbying for the Somalia NGO bill and sexual offences bill.

**Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for**

- **Chair –yes**

**If yes, what qualities would you bring to the position of Chair?**

As the position of chair, I would ensure inclusive decision-making processes within ICVA, valuing diverse perspectives, and empowering all stakeholders whilst fostering dialogue to contribute to the organization's success. In addition, from my experience as director from a coordination platform, I will be able communicate effectively with other board members stakeholders, including ICVA members, donors, governments, and other partners, articulating ideas clearly, and building trust and credibility. I would use my advocacy skills and networks to effectively represent ICVA's interests, influence policy decisions, and advocate for positive change in the humanitarian sector at global, regional, and national levels as demonstrated in my current role. I also have extensive experience in strategic planning, resource mobilization, and organizational development to achieve strategic objectives and drive organizational growth which is essential as chair of the ICVA board.

## Sphere India, India

### Mr. Vikrant Mahajan

#### *Organisation Profile*

Sphere India is a National Coalition of Humanitarian, Development, and Resilience Actors in India. The strategic outreach of 155 full members includes key nodal organizations from the UN, INGOs, National NGOs, CSR, Academic Institutions, Sector Networks, Expert Individuals, and State IAGs (Inter Agency Groups)/Networks. The local outreach comprises of 805 associate members through Sphere India Locally Empowered Organisations Network (LEON) and 1,80,000 community volunteers (CDRF -Community Disaster Response Force) mapped for varied capacities all over India. Sphere India facilitates Inter Agency Coordination (for Humanitarian, DRR and Climate Action), knowledge & capacity sharing, and collaborative advocacy for enhancing accountability to the affected and at-risk population in India.

#### *Nominee Information*

### Mr. Vikrant Mahajan



### Video presentation



**Gender: Male**

**Job title: CEO**

Vikrant is the CEO of Sphere India. He comes with 26 years of versatile professional experience having worked across sectors with Government, UN, NGOs, Corporates, Academia and Armed Forces. He is a passionate humanitarian and have been on the front line of most disasters in India and the region over nearly two decades. He also been very active on Global and national policy forums and represents on several inter agency forums and board of many organisations. He has been a Board Member of Sphere Association for 8 years, members of LEGS Steering Committee for 6 years and Trustee of LEGS for 3 years.

He comes with a multi-disciplinary background in Engineering, Public Administration, Organisation Behaviour and Law. He is a Certified Project Management Professional from PMI, Master Trainer on CHS, Sphere, other humanitarian standards, Hostile Environment Awareness Trainings and other trainings on various technical and management areas. He is an experienced facilitator for consensus building and is passionate about building multi stakeholder collaborations for larger impact.

#### **He can bring following skills and expertise to the Board**

##### **General/Governance related.**

1. Governance/Board Experience on various board functions, committees, statutory compliances etc.
2. Networking and building humanitarian, DRR, Development, Climate and Peace Nexus across local, sub national, national, regional and global level.
3. Voices from Global South and local organisations.
4. Resource Mobilisation

**Technical:**

5. Humanitarian Standards and other Quality and Accountability initiatives.
6. Inter-Agency Coordination from actual field operational to national / global policy development.
7. International Law (International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights Law and International Refugee Law)
8. Knowledge of latest global policy issues and agenda of humanitarian, DRR, Climate and Peace building.

**Contributions to ICVA Mission and Strategy:**

As CEO, Sphere India have been directly leading implementation of ICVA's mission and strategy in Indian context, most populous country, among highest in risk ranking with multiple layers of vulnerabilities but a rapidly growing dynamic country with increasing influence in global affairs. Sphere India's vision/ mission and strategy is almost similar to ICVA's mission and strategy contextualised to Indian Context.

Apart from implementation at India level, have been actively participating in ICVA's regional and global forums and meets on various focused areas especially on NGO Fora, Coordination and humanitarian financing.

*Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for*

- **Chair -No**

## Tamdeen Youth Foundation, Yemen

Mr. Jameel Abdo Hodish

### *Organisation Profile*

Tamdeen Youth Foundation (TYF) is a distinguished Yemeni non-profit and non-governmental organization focused on humanitarian aid, local development, climate action, peacebuilding, and empowering youth and women, with a strong emphasis on good governance. Established in 2013, TYF has grown from a voluntary youth group to a legally recognized entity with consultative status from the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). TYF's work spans a variety of areas including humanitarian response, socioeconomic and environmental development, peace and social cohesion, research, and promoting local humanitarian action. The foundation envisions societies where individuals have rights and contribute to sustainable development, with its mission centered on providing immediate responses and fostering growth and positive change. TYF values excellence, neutrality, transparency, participation, innovation, flexibility, inclusivity, and passion in all its endeavors.

Strategically, TYF has been involved in sector-specific humanitarian projects across Peace, WASH, FSAC, Shelter/NFIs, CCCM, Livelihoods, Health, Nutrition, Education, and Protection. In 2020, it embraced the Triple Nexus Approach, integrating humanitarian aid, development cooperation, and peacebuilding, to aid communities in recovering from war impacts. TYF prioritizes youth and the most vulnerable groups, including IDPs, returnees, refugees, and host communities, with a focus on gender equality. Its strategic directions include alleviating suffering from conflicts and disasters, enhancing youth and women's participation, and promoting socio-economic resilience. TYF is known for its accessibility, deep local context understanding, and equality in stakeholder engagement, employing approaches like Results-Based Management (RBM), gender mainstreaming, and protection mainstreaming to ensure responsive and inclusive programs. From 2013 to 2020, TYF expanded its emergency interventions across Yemen, actively participating in various clusters and contributing to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### *Nominee Information*

**Mr. Jameel Abdo Hodish**

**Video presentation**



**Gender: Male**

**Job title: CEO**

Jameel brings over 22 years of extensive expertise in program and project management within both humanitarian and non-humanitarian fields, including 15 years in management roles. With a Master's in Project Management and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, his leadership over seven years in humanitarian efforts, emergency response, economic recovery, peacebuilding, and local development is noteworthy. As the CEO of the Tamdeen Youth Foundation, Jameel leads the localization movement in Yemen and collaborates closely with ICVA, RSH, NEAR, and other platforms, holding positions in the NEAR Leadership Council and the Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG).

His key capabilities span project and construction management, strategic planning, program development, team leadership, partnership and fundraising, research, advocacy, crisis management, and a profound

knowledge of NEXUS challenges. His technical skills include proficiency in various software and bilingual fluency in Arabic and English.

In his roles, Jameel has demonstrated exceptional skills in overseeing operations, strategic planning, stakeholder relationship building, and promoting localization in programs to ensure they are locally led. His experience encompasses developing and implementing programs addressing the water-food-energy Nexus, climate-migration Nexus, and managing diverse teams to achieve successful project outcomes and organizational growth.

To ICVA's Board, Jameel would contribute his deep understanding of the humanitarian and social contexts in conflict-affected regions, particularly in Yemen. His substantial experience in strategic planning, program management, and advocacy aligns with ICVA's 2030 strategy, particularly in promoting effective humanitarian action and localization. His leadership in navigating complex humanitarian challenges and fostering partnerships across governmental, non-governmental, and private sectors would be instrumental in advancing ICVA's mission. Jameel's expertise, coupled with his commitment to innovation, compliance, and ethical standards, positions him as a valuable asset to the ICVA Board, contributing to shaping strategic directions and fostering collaborative efforts toward sustainable humanitarian solutions.

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- ***Chair -No***

## Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA), Yemen

Mr. Nabil Abdullah

### *Organisation Profile*

YFCA is a leading, Independent and neutral non- governmental organization that works to promote equitable and sustainable development, humanitarian response, and other relevant interventions for a better life and wellbeing of Yemeni communities and individuals. Since its establishment in 1976, YFCA has managed to emerge as major support for vulnerable group and work closely with the government, UN agencies, national and international NGOs partners, urban and rural Yemeni communities who share mutual missions in responding to the emerging humanitarian needs from the crisis and life-saving emergency needs through creating a viable framework, employing new tools and developing existing ones, complementing the efforts of the other actors, and committing to extend fruitful partnership models that enhances the impact on the genuine ground to the core humanitarian principles and standards.

### *Nominee Information*

**Mr. Nabil Abdullah**



### **Video presentation**



**Gender: Male**

**Job title: CEO**

Mr Nabil Abdullah is currently holding the position of CEO for the Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA).

He has 15 years of experience working with local, international non-governmental organizations, thinktanks and brain trusts, in the fields of humanitarian project management and development. Partnerships and Communications, Monitoring and Evaluation and humanitarian program management in both national and international roles.

He holds a master's degree in international development studies from IMD, Lausanne, Switzerland and another master in English language studies from Sana'a University, Yemen.

The contribution to ICVA's mission and strategy will cornerstone on fostering the paradigm shift of ICVA and work on the desired transformative agenda.

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- ***Chair – YES***

***If yes, what qualities would you bring to the position of Chair?***

I'll bring strong leadership to the position with active engagement to global humanitarian actions and development agenda. I'll push forward the transformative agenda of localization (national leadership of humanitarian action) and humanitarian-development nexus.