Dear Fellow IADS Delegates and Members Worldwide,

With this letter, I am presenting to you top reasons how IADS will grow and develop under my leadership as President.

Over the past three years, I’ve been working for IADS from different seats within the Executive Committee. This journey made me thoroughly aware of the finest details of IADS and enabled me to contribute to a cascade of achievements that significantly improved -and are still improving- the face of our organization. Hereby, I would like to share with you the "IADS of Tomorrow".

Next year, I will focus on three basic pillars which are

a) **Capacity Building and Workforce Investment**, 
b) **Internal Development and Thematic Strategy**, 
c) **External Agenda and Political Priorities**.

**I. CAPACITY BUILDING AND WORKFORCE INVESTMENT**

I strongly believe that the most valuable resource we have is the human resource, the dental students themselves. Therefore, I will continue the movement that I have started three years ago in IADS.

**THIS IS MY PRIORITIES LIST:**

- Improving the internal **structure** of task forces functionally.
- Offering required trainings and quality **guidance** to workforce members.
- Creating a competitive environment for leadership and workforce members and allocating the required resources for that purpose.
- Enhancing communication among task force members and leadership officers.
- Ensuring that workforce members contribute to the decision-making process.
- Developing tracking tools and evaluation mechanisms for leadership and workforce performance.

**II. INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT AND THEMATIC STRATEGY**

After acquiring the legal registration of IADS under Swiss federal law, some issues became crucial for our organization.

**THIS IS MY PRIORITIES LIST:**

- Refining the IADS **bylaws** with the help of a constitutional committee.
- Developing a concrete **fundraising** plan **based** on potential opportunities in our sphere and targeting new funding pathways, like grants and scholarships. This will be beside the classical means of sponsorship through dental and pharmaceutical companies.
- Regarding the scientific activities; building a new platform for the IADS Webinar, launching the Dental Student Research Journal (DSRJ), establishing a new framework for research exchanges (IDRP), and offering new low-budget scientific internships for our students like Z-Experience will be my main objectives to be achieved with the future ISO.

- Regarding the exchange activities; increasing the number of available exchanges in our portal is the fruit of huge efforts that should target improving the awareness and commitment of IADS NEOs, improving technical capacity of the portal itself and improving the governing regulations of ICEP.

- Regarding the voluntary activities; increasing the number of low-budget and accessible IVPs requires more partner organizations to be approached, and more national member organizations to be oriented of the values of community outreach.

- Regarding the training activities; providing new perspectives of organizational skills trainings will remain as a top priority for me. I believe that needs-based trainings are a perfect model for returning investment.

- Increasing the number of IADS member organizations to reach the global average for international students NGOs.

- By the end of my office term, I promise to offer the IADS General Assembly a three-year thematic strategy 2020-2023 which will be created by all concerned parties within our organization.

III. EXTERNAL AGENDA AND POLITICAL PRIORITIES

I believe that IADS should have its own agenda through which it can advocate for interests and rights of its members worldwide. This multi-level agenda should rely primarily on the educational and social interests of dental students as future healthcare providers.

THIS IS MY PRIORITIES LIST:

- Developing the first policy document of IADS to be adopted in MYM’2020 on “Meaningful Youth Engagement”.

- Dedicating required space within General Assembly agendas for discussing of the educational issues of dental students in different countries in order to help in writing at least one policy statement every 6 months -by the end of our General Assembly- on emerging educational issues.
- Enhancing relationships with IFMSA and IPSF, to secure more places for dental students in the largest health policy event in the world, the World Health Assembly (WHA). This in turn will help us to endorse more statements with our partner student organizations on emerging health issues.
- Using our meetings (MYM and AC) to promote global health issues like climate change, universal health coverage, NCDs and healthy behaviors, etc.
- Engaging with global human rights and health campaigns, and expressing IADS standpoints.

Seeking the guidance of FENSA to develop the three-year thematic strategy of IADS in accordance to WHO vision. This will boost our chances to achieve the biggest milestone in our future advocacy work by acquiring the Non-State Actor status.

In order to make it brief, I would like to share with you a few examples of these success stories that I have experienced in IADS during the past years, and the values that I’m standing for in my work for IADS.

**I. EDITORIAL BOARD FORMATION**

This was the first objective of my candidacy manifesto for Editor position in 2016, and the idea behind it was simple yet challenging considering the available resources we had at that time. I dreamed to build up a functional team composed of talented students with a large set of IT, artistic and writing skills to fulfill the editorial needs of IADS. The team achieved a tremendous impact in a very short period of time on many levels: the frequency of publishing the IADS Magazine was increased from 1 copy per year to 4 regular copies annually, the number of social media followers had been increased by 200% with a publishing frequency of 0.5 posts/day, the certificates of IADS started to be produced by a new digital system “IADS Certificate” in order to reduce the ecological burden of printed papers and to archive our vital documents. Many online campaigns were launched to increase the visibility and engagement of IADS with local students worldwide.

**FROM THIS EXPERIENCE, I LEARNED PRACTICALLY THE FOLLOWING VALUES AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE IN OUR WORK:**

- The value of ‘team-work’, as it was not possible to lead this big group of skilled students from various backgrounds to produce something meaningful for the worldwide community of dental students without spreading the team-work spirit and constantly enhancing it.
- The value of ‘lifelong learning’, as we are healthcare students, we need to acknowledge the fact that our curricula are unable to provide us with the competencies needed for civil society work. Therefore, it’s the duty of each one of us to equip ourselves with the skills needed for building up the organization. This is exactly what I did when I learnt the basics of HR management in order to interview, recruit, support and evaluate my team members.

- The value of ‘sustainable development’, any successful experience can end up dramatically if no plan is adopted for its sustainable development. Sustainability is only guaranteed when the young generation is oriented according to visionary motives by which the project is governed. Therefore, I invested time and effort to transfer this knowledge to my team members who managed to continue in developing the work after me.

II. WORKFORCE (COMMITTEES & REGIONAL OFFICES) FORMATION
After the phenomenal success of the Editorial Board experience, I managed to convince my Executive Committee colleagues of the potential benefits from creating a task force for each standing committee in order to transform the pattern of IADS workflow from individualization to institutionalization. Thanks to this strategy, the size of our workforce capacity jumped from 17 to 94 members in the first year after forming the IADS committees. The movement towards institutionalization continued and we built the Regional Offices of IADS this year in order to enhance the transnational collaboration among IADS members within the same region and boost IADS visibility among dental students.

FROM THIS EXPERIENCE, I LEARNED PRACTICALLY THE FOLLOWING VALUES AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE IN OUR WORK:
- The value of ‘strategic planning’, the change needs to be smartly programmed in order to be effective and engaging. I learnt how to set realistic long-term and short-term objectives for IADS progress based on our capacities and priorities.
- The value of ‘self-criticism’, it’s very crucial for youth leaders to be able to functionally criticize their own performance – because this is the only way to improve it. One can learn better from her/his failures.

III. GUIDANCE AND EVALUATION OF LEADERSHIP
Since the first day of my office term as General Secretary, I was burdened by this question; How to functionally guide, support, and evaluate my leadership colleagues?
First I wrote them guidelines for ‘Action Plan’ development, and provided them with a template to be used while writing their own action plans for this term. This helped to clarify their ideas equally, and enabled to track their progress in achieving these plans throughout the year. Few weeks later, I provided my colleagues with another template for reporting their work during the previous two months. I tracked the attendance behavior of leadership members during meetings, beside my classic secretary work of moderating the meetings.

FROM THIS EXPERIENCE, I LEARNED PRACTICALLY THE FOLLOWING VALUES AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE IN OUR WORK:

- The value of ‘statistics’, data is the key for every successful project planning. For example, it was not possible to objectively select the winners of IADS Leadership Scholarship without these back-end efforts that I have invested in gathering, organizing and analyzing data about leadership performance and commitment throughout the year.

- The value of ‘standardization’, working through standard formats can potentially change the results of your team members. This is actually what made the leadership of this year has comparatively better outcomes than previous years with stable performance in many areas.

I CAN’T WAIT TO SEE ALL OF YOU IN TUNISIA!

Abanob YOSRY
IADS President Candidate 2019/2020
IADS General Secretary 2018/2019
IADS Editor 2017/2018 & 2016/2017