Honorable IADS members, Distinguished Delegates.

As human beings we are attached by stories that shape our lives, stories that we believe it will lead us for better future, and I’m honored to share with you mine. Three years ago in a country filled with conflict and rage, I believed that every dental student has the ability to be a healthcare advocate and a community leader, going beyond the limits of extracting and filling teeth. That leads me to co-founding the Iraqi Dental Students Association that inspired three generations of dental students to have partnerships with United Nations agencies and partnerships with international and local organizations to design a new school of thought by informal education in order to cope with dental unemployment crisis and inspired many dental students to start their own independent businesses.

My vision, and concern at the same time is: how we can activate the ART beside science in dentistry? how can we give dental students around the world the privilege to lead in their local communities and raise their voice about their local oral health problems as International organization? Art in dentistry is not just about carving the prefect tooth, it is a concept that we should hold by making dental students think about their lives after graduation by designing dental-related projects to enhance their future careers and prepare them for the real world packed with remarkable experience, widen their spectrum to think about their mental health and social responsibility during dental practice.

Two years ago as IADS Governance Bureau Director in the Secretariat Office, I designed the first evaluation system for the workforce to monitor their progress and provide them with the resources they need to enhance their abilities and encourage them to be more attached to our International family of future dentists. Our workforce deserves the attention of IADS leadership because they represent the core value of our reputation around the world and they are the future leaders of our organization. I will work as the IADS President with the Executive Board to present strong evaluation and capacity building strategy for the workforce to be used effectively in the upcoming years, to regulate this internal power and provide the IADS Leadership members with guidelines on how to deal with their workforce.
IADS needs to contribute to the international community more than ever, I’m planning to regulate our association financial relationship with FDI by working closely with my Vice-President of Finances to gain our financial independency and freedom from FDI authority. And build new strategy to empower the General Assembly Delegates in the constitutional and internal leadership to improve the decision-making process in the GA meetings. Also, I will put IADS scientific and research projects on my top priorities to prepare future dentists for the fast development in evidence-based dentistry, digital dentistry and dental implant technologies.

The current pandemic (COVID19) strikes all of our lives in a harsh way, reminding all of us about the importance of global solidarity and the necessity of dialogue no matter what our profession was. As IADS President I will make sure to listen to all the country members delegates and bring them to the discussion table bi-monthly on virtual meetings to provide them with the opportunity to shape the organization policy, urging IADS Leadership to hold similar meetings with their counterparts on the national level to activate the International governance that we miss for a long time.

In the last term, I was elected as IADS External Relations Chairman. I learned through my work the importance of partnerships by representing IADS in all International events, podiums and conferences available for our association and make the voice of dental students worldwide heard across all partner organizations (WHO, IFMSA, IPSF, IVSA, GHWN Youth Hub, WHSS…etc.). Our communication as International youth player with World Health Organization reaches the peak by inviting us to speak and present statements at their webinars and as IADS President I’m willing to use my network to improve our partnerships in collaboration with our long lasting partners IFMSA, and IPSF and continue to represent IADS on the International scale.

Interprofessional Education between young healthcare student organizations takes my interest in the previous term, through my connections as External Relations Chairman IADS endorsed and conducted many joint projects with partner organizations, and As President of this association I want to support our regional ambassadors to design regional scientific and capacity building projects in collaboration with other youth organizations in the regional level. We started to do that from this term and we can make it more regulative and possible together in the next term.
Gladly, I want to take you outside my IADS world for a bit. I hold three years’ experience in consulting, supervising, and leading youth startups and business ideas on the national and regional level with United Nations Developmental Programme -UNDP-, German Development Agency -GIZ-. I worked with IFMSA National Association in 2016 as Local Public Health Officer. Elected to study Leadership and Civic Engagement in U.S. (Montana State University) in 2017 with full funded internship. Selected as Keynote Speaker/Panelist in all top-level worldwide health organizations in the past two years (WHO, IADS, IFMSA, IPSF).

I’m applying to be the next IADS President based on the sense of International social responsibility to build the best strategy for dental students in all continents without any exception. I want you to join me to design the perfect internal-external complex that we can acquire. In order to have stronger and more resilient organization that can defend itself from manipulation by well-respected internal strategy, and represent the hopes and aspirations of dental students externally. I’m confident about my leadership skills, because I raised them in a conflict zone fill with challenges, and I want to send this message for future generations: if you have the required diplomatic experience and the mindset of strategic planning you can lead in the International community. Would you join me to deliver this message?

Cordially Yours,

Ali A. Theyab
IADS External Relations Chairman