

Nominee Statement: Dr Abdulaziz AIRajhi

Position: IAPB Eastern Mediterranean Regional Chair

Nominee Job Title

CEO

Nominee Organisation

King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital and Research Centre

Nominating IAPB member organisation

CBM Christian Blind Mission

Nominated by

Rainer Brockhaus

Nominating Statement

Joint Statement: Dr Rainer Brockhaus and Dr Adel Al Rushood.

We are delighted to nominate Dr Abdulaziz AIRajhi for a second term as Chair of IAPB Eastern Mediterranean Region in the upcoming election.

In his current term, Dr AIRajhi has served with excellence as Chair of the IAPB's EMR region, showing exceptional leadership, commitment, and expertise to further advance eye health in the region. He is fully committed to implement IAPB's vision 2030 in sight.

In 2003, Dr AIRajhi was the co-chair of IAPB and worked closely with HRH Prince Abdulaziz Ahmad Abdulaziz AISaud, Chair of Eastern Mediterranean Region. His contributions at IAPB are long-lasting and include organizing the 7th General Assembly held in Dubai in 2004, one of the most successful events in IAPB's history. Between 2006 and 2009 Dr AIRajhi was actively involved in passing the WHO Resolution "Prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment".

In 2007, Dr AIRajhi was elected President of the Middle East Africa Council of Ophthalmology (MEACO), was a board member of the International Council of Ophthalmology and served as Vice President for one term. Currently, Dr AIRajhi holds the role of Chief Executive Officer at King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital (KKESH).

During his term as Chair, he has spearheaded initiatives to improve eye care services in Saudi Arabia and led the EMR Alliance to drive progress towards trachoma elimination in the region. With a deep understanding of eye health challenges in the EMR, he has the expertise to guide regional strategies and advocate for effective interventions.

As part of his advocacy efforts, Dr AlRajhi has engaged with governments and international organizations to promote eye care as a priority. His robust experience, strong commitment and passion towards the Prevention of Blindness on a global dimension, are key assets that will enable him to continue excelling in his role as Chair of IAPB EMR Region and guiding the region towards achieving the 2030 In-Sight goals.

We are confident in nominating Dr AlRajhi for another term as chair of East Mediterranean region, as we believe his continued leadership is crucial for the EMR's journey towards eliminating avoidable blindness.

Seconded IAPB member organisation

Al Basar International Foundation

Seconding by

Dr Adel Al Rushood

Seconding Statement

Joint Statement: Dr Rainer Brockhaus and Dr Adel Al Rushood.

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Nominee Statement

I am honoured to have been nominated for the position of Chair of IAPB's Eastern Mediterranean Region for a second term. My dedication to eye health in the EMR, coupled with my extensive experience in activities targeting prevention of blindness regionally and internationally, makes me a suitable candidate for this role. I am committed to preventing blindness and improving the lives of people who are blind and visually impaired and would be delighted if I was given the opportunity to further continue this work within this role.

I am passionate about advocating for universal eye health and committed to representing and communicating IAPB's vision in the region and internationally. My varied past positions have allowed me to create strong networks at local, regional, national, and international levels, and in the medical, disability, and NGO sectors which will put me in an excellent position to raise the profile of IAPB and universal eye health with different audiences in the region.

For over a decade, I have been actively involved with IAPB, contributing to various initiatives and committees. This includes serving on the IAPB Executive Committee during my previous Board membership.

Additionally, my involvement in IAPB from its inception and my role as Regional Chair for IAPB in the EMR over the last few years, has given me



a deep understanding of the organisation's approach and structure which will help me to ensure the organisation achieves its strategy and targets not only in the EMR but internationally.

My long-standing engagement in eye health has fostered a deep understanding of the diverse challenges and opportunities across the EMR. I am passionate about continuing to collaborate with IAPB members, governments, and stakeholders to address avoidable blindness.

If elected, my strategic priorities for the next four years will include:

- **Global Summit on Eye Health:** Actively contributing to the development and success of the Summit.
- **Health System Strengthening:** Advocating for the integration of eye health into national health systems and strengthening primary eye care services.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Facilitating knowledge sharing and collaboration among EMR countries to accelerate progress towards Vision 2030 InSight.

I am confident that my experience, dedication, and collaborative approach will enable me to effectively serve as IAPB EMR Regional Chair. I am committed to working tirelessly with all stakeholders to advance eye health in the region.

Dr Abdulaziz AlRajhi, CEO, King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital