

Letter of Intent : Mrs Faiza CHABCHOUB (CHAKER).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to present my candidacy for the presidency of the UNESCO-NGO Liaison Committee. This candidacy comes at a critical time, when global instability is unprecedented and humanity faces numerous challenges.

At this moment, I am reminded of the words of UN Secretary-General António Guterres at the Civil Society Conference in Nairobi: “You (the NGOs) are my hope for the future.” This statement is both a call to action and recognition of civil society’s vital role. Despite international tensions, it affirms the value of our tireless work for global well-being.

Under the banner of the UNESCO-NGO Liaison Committee, we form a family united by shared values: gender equality, climate education, intercultural dialogue, ocean protection, and the fight against discrimination. These principles are core to UNESCO’s mission, and I am committed to upholding them.

As a Tunisian, a mother, and a committed activist, I will work tirelessly to strengthen our connections. Family solidarity is central to my approach. While UNESCO’s Constitution requires two forums per year, it is the President’s duty, with the Liaison Committee’s support, to foster continuous engagement. Every NGO, regardless of size, will have an equal voice. I will ensure that the Committee remains open and accessible to all.

At the Summit of the Future in New York, I was struck by the uniqueness of the Liaison Committee. It is a powerful tool within the UN system, unparalleled in its capacity to engage civil society. I commend the work of past presidents, particularly Nick Newland. Over the decades, the Committee has gained visibility and influence through its Forums.

However, we must go further. As the Pact of the Future suggests, we need greater ambition. I believe the Liaison Committee can become a global model for civil society governance within the UN. To this end, I will establish a think-tank where innovative ideas can be developed to raise funds and increase visibility.

I represent ICAEP, an NGO that places dialogue between civilizations at the core of its mission. Today, with peace under threat, such dialogue must be a priority. Inspired by René Maheu and the Senghorian concept of universal civilization, I envision a future guided by humanism in development.

Youth and gender equality are also central. As a mother, I am deeply concerned about the future of the next generation. Climate change and artificial intelligence present significant challenges. We must prepare youth by pooling NGO resources to create a “Greening School” platform that nurtures young talent.

It is also time for women to assume leadership roles. After two male presidencies, I support the campaign led by Global Women Leaders Voices and the Secretary-General to ensure women’s access to leadership.

As a Tunisian woman, I hope to represent the voice of the global South and all universalists committed to change. Together, we can build a more inclusive and impactful Liaison Committee.

Thank you for your trust.

Faiza CHABCHOUB (CHAKER)