

Dana, Jordan

15th July, 2020

Re: Letter of motivation to undertake the role of MENA Representative to the HIC Board (2020-2024)

Dear HIC-MENA community and members of the Electoral Committee,

I am honoured and delighted to be nomination as a candidate to represent the MENA region on the HIC Board for the 2020 to 2024 terms.

I have been involved in land rights for more than thirty years, and am deeply committed to this work. The involvement for me is personal as well as professional, and began in 1989 when a process started to found a nature reserve on part of my community's customary land. The Dana Nature Reserve was established in 1993, and is managed externally. My community has been marginalised since 1989, and so established the Dana and Qadisiyah Local Community Cooperative (DQLCC) in 1994, in response. I am a founding member of the DQLCC.

The DQLCC works to claim the land rights to its customary land by empowering members to adopt a more active social-political role, and by educating a wider international audience to the community's loss of land rights. The work has a strong emphasis on empowering young people and women. DQLCC joined HIC-MENA in September 2005, and I have been the representative since DQLCC joined.

Over the years, I have developed national and international networks and connections that provide me with many perspectives and resources which I use to inform my actions so that I can best benefit my community and our common cause. I believe passionately that it is vital to share such knowledge and experience to benefit the wider national and international community too. We all experience similar issues, and have much to learn from each other.

My work is at grassroots level, and has always been as a volunteer. I have developed practical experience based on the traditional knowledge of the community related to livestock, mobility, nature and the interaction between man and ecosystem (Traditional Ecosystems Management). I have amassed a large amount of experience through my work in defending the community's pastoral traditional land; my membership and participation in HIC-MENA; the World Alliance for Mobile Indigenous People, International Land Coalition and other networks; and my participation in national and international workshops related to ecosystems, pastoralism and land. Often there is a gap in representing and defending the traditional practices that served and saved nature for centuries. With my experience in both traditional and modern science, I believe that I help bridge that gap.

I am ready to apply my experience, capacities, and commitment to the HIC-MENA Representative role in order to strengthen both HIC-MENA and the Habitat International Coalition overall.

With all best wishes



Khalid Khawaldeh