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It is a great honor to confirm my desire to stand for election of the chair of the ILAE's Commission on East Mediterranean affairs (CEMA) 2017-2021. It has been an enormous privilege to serve as Secretary General (2007-2009) and as a member (2009-2013) in this commission. During these two terms, I had to work with colleagues from different countries in our region and I was confronted with the needs for education and research in our region in addition to the huge lack of Programs for the management of patients with epilepsy.

Our mission in this commission is to ensure that all individuals from our region will have the educational and research resources that are essential in understanding, diagnosing and treating persons with epilepsy.

CEMA has contributed significantly to the dissemination of knowledge on the social and medical care of patients with epilepsy in our region through training courses and regional congresses. Despite this huge effort, many things remain to do in some domains and I feel committed to contribute in the following objectives:

Education: Convinced of the importance of disseminating information and knowledge about epilepsy and improving the management of patients with epilepsy, education is a very important area for me to develop in our region. Through my experience in the CEMA office and as the president of the east affairs of IBE and especially as the head and founder of an e-learning master degree of epilepsy at Sfax medical school; I am aware that we must conduct educational actions in a format consistent with each region's needs and in the appropriate language by:

- 1-Setting up a list of experts in epileptology of our region with their field of interest so that they are solicited in the national and regional courses and training a group of trainers for our region.
- 2-Setting up regional epilepsy courses once a year for young people
- 3- setting up an epilepsy education curriculum adapted to the needs for all regions
- 4- encouraging and supervising local and regional degree of epilepsy
- 5- adapting and using more IT technology (Free access to platforms for professionals, Wikipedia,...),

Research:

- 1- Enhancing better access to the research program by developing regional platforms for research methodology and research programs with implementation of methodology in relation to resources and the particularity of each region. Implementation of priority research topics according to the specificities of our region.
- 2-Conducting a multicentric study from our region.

Public Health:

1-Improving access of care by encouraging a national support epilepsy program in agreement with the WHO announcement.

2-Improve and encourage local and regional collaboration between committee of ILAE and IBE in action on epilepsy.