

Dr. Wafa Al-Daily Candidate Statement

As a devoted urban planner and international development specialist, my career spans multiple sectors, including academia, government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector. I've been actively involved in urbanization, sustainable development, and advocating for underprivileged communities both domestically and internationally. My leadership roles as the Co-Founder and Executive Director of EHAAR International and Director of the International Metropolitan Fellowship Arabia Chapter attest to my capacity for strategic oversight and commitment to uplifting urban communities.

I am standing for election to the ISOCARP Board of Directors because I firmly believe in the Society's mission to promote sustainable urban development across the globe. My interdisciplinary background equips me with a unique lens to contribute effectively to ISOCARP's multifaceted objectives. I am passionate about turning sustainable urban development theories into on-ground realities, using innovative and participatory approaches.

My motivation for investing time and energy in this volunteer role stems from a belief in the transformative power of planning. ISOCARP is a pivotal platform that can shape the future of cities, making them more equitable, sustainable, and livable. As a volunteer, I consider it my professional and ethical responsibility to contribute to this vision, leveraging my experience and network to magnify our collective impact.

Three ISOCARP initiatives hold a special interest for me:

1. **Urban Planning Advisory Teams (UPATs):** UPATs have been vital in problem-solving. To advance its impact, I propose a 'Community Voices' framework within UPATs to ensure that local experiences are integral to our plans. Leveraging emerging technologies like AI and GIS can further enhance UPAT's effectiveness.
2. **Young Planning Professionals' Program (YPP):** The YPP is crucial for nurturing the next generation of planners. To expand its reach and impact globally, I suggest incorporating courses on sustainable design, smart cities, and AI while establishing a mentorship program connecting experienced professionals with young planners.
3. **ISOCARP Annual Congress:** The congress is a rich forum for intellectual discourse and its impact needs to be constrained regardless of the geographical limitations. I propose a hybrid model that includes virtual components, thereby widening its reach and making ISOCARP more inclusive.

Moreover, as we move into an era where women's leadership in planning becomes increasingly vital, I am interested in contributing to the new initiatives of 'ISOCARP Women in Planning Leadership' led by Elisabeth Belpaire.

Two new initiatives I would like to support if my nomination garner favorable consideration:

1. ISOCARP Virtual Planning Lab.

2. ISOCARP-Care Program to support planning and development of underprivileged areas as well as post-conflict and post-disaster zones.

I recognize several challenges ahead, notably the need to continuously adapt our strategies to stay relevant in a fast-paced world. My approach to these challenges is rooted in innovation and inclusivity. We must not only solve existing problems but anticipate future challenges, setting benchmarks for urban and regional planning worldwide.

I believe the collective wisdom of our membership and the Board can bring about transformative changes, and I am eager to contribute my share to this endeavor. My candidacy is not just an offer of service but a promise of dedication, innovation, and leadership. I hope to have the opportunity to serve you and contribute to writing the next groundbreaking chapter in ISOCARP's journey towards a sustainable and equitable future.

With hope and determination,

Dr. Wafa Al-Daily