

Statement of Suitability for WPA Zonal Representative – North Africa

Prof. Gihan ELNahas—Nominee of the Egyptian Psychiatric Association, 2026

As the nominee of the Egyptian Psychiatric Association for the position of Zonal Representative for North Africa at the World Psychiatric Association (WPA), I present this statement outlining how my professional background, leadership experience, and longstanding engagement with the WPA align closely with the defined duties and expectations of this role.

As Professor of Psychiatry and Senior Consultant in Women’s Mental Health at the Neuropsychiatry Department, Ain Shams Medical School, my academic and clinical career spans more than thirty years. Over these decades, I have contributed extensively to clinical service, academic training, research, and public mental health advancement, with a focused specialization in Women’s and Perinatal Mental Health. At the national level, I championed the official inauguration of the Women’s Mental Health Interdisciplinary Program (2014) and have served as advisor to multiple national programs, including the Safe Women National Program of the National Council of Women and contributed to the development of the National Medical Internship Program. These roles demonstrate my commitment to system-level development, capacity building, and translating clinical expertise into sustainable institutional progress and community service.

My engagement with WPA activities has been consistent and substantive. I have participated actively in multiple WPA World Congresses, delivered pre-congress courses, chaired and co-chaired scientific sessions. I also contributed to key WPA Publications (Guideline on Mobile Health, AI, and Digital Technologies 2026, in press), co-authored an article on “Advancing women’s mental health: priorities, progress and future directions of the WPA Section”. These contributions and collaboration across different WPA Sections, directly align with the WPA’s expectation that Zonal Representatives encourage participation in WPA scientific and educational activities and facilitate dissemination of WPA resources across societies within their zone.

A key duty of Zonal Representatives is to coordinate activities within their geographical zone, fostering collaboration, communication, and participation in WPA initiatives. My leadership regional roles reflect longstanding relationships with colleagues across Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Tunisia, collaborate activities with UNWomen-Arab States and EMRO of the WHO. All in addition to my service as Chair of the Women Mental Health Chapter of the Arab Federation of Psychiatrists. These

networks will enable me to effectively enhance inter-society cooperation, support shared educational activities and promote cross-regional professional collaboration.

Internationally, my established record demonstrates my leadership role, my ability to engage in policy dialogue, manage multi-country programs, and understand the diverse challenges and capacities across countries in the region and world-wide. These competencies are essential for assessing the needs of WPA Member Societies and advising on how best to address them. These experiences position me strongly to serve as an effective liaison between WPA leadership and psychiatric societies within the North African region.

Given my established record of service, collaborative leadership style, and deep commitment to advancing mental health in the region, I am confident in my ability to represent the North Africa Zone with integrity, responsiveness, and strategic vision.

I look forward to contributing actively to the WPA Board and supporting the strengthening of psychiatry across North Africa.
