Statement of Intent for the position of IRPA Vice-President for the 2024-2028 Term

Ana María Bomben (Argentine Radiation Protection Society – SAR)

Dear colleagues,

I'm very honored to have been nominated by the IRPA Executive Council for the position of IRPA Vice-President for the 2024-2028 term, and I respectfully request your support to continue serving IRPA in this role.

My 40+ years in radiation protection has covered several different areas. I began my career at the National Atomic Energy Commission of Argentina as a researcher on biochemical damage from ionizing radiation. I was then given responsibility for environmental assessment of natural radionuclides. Since 1995, I have been working at the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of Argentina (ARN) on licensing and inspection of nuclear medicine facilities, management systems, and radiation safety culture. I'm currently a regulatory standards consultant at ARN.

I believe that education and training are essential to create, maintain and improve knowledge, which is why I am passionate about my work as an invited professor and lecturer in postgraduate courses on radiation protection. This provides me with the opportunity to share my knowledge and the importance of radiation protection with a new generation of professionals, with a particular focus on encouraging young women to develop their professional careers in STEM fields.

I have been President of the Argentine Radiation Protection Society (SAR) and am currently a member of the SAR Executive Council. At the regional level, I have served as member of the Executive Council of the Latin American and Caribbean Federation of Radiation Protection Associations (FRALC), collaborating with colleagues in the region to improve radiation protection and with the creation of new Radiation Protection Societies.

All of these experiences provided me with the foundation to serve as a member of IRPA Executive Council (EC) from 2012-2021, and for the last 3 years I've served as the IRPA Executive Officer. Working as part of the IRPA EC, and particularly as the Executive Officer, required close collaborations with the IRPA Associate Societies, an experience which is very relevant for the role of IRPA Vice-President.

As stated in the IRPA Rules of Administrative Procedure, the Vice-President is the Chairperson of the IRPA Societies Admissions and Development Committee. My goal will be to engage experts in countries where there is no Radiation Protection Society and encourage them to launch one by highlighting the benefits of a Society for both the country and radiation professionals. Ideally this will lead the new Society to become an Associate Society of IRPA.

The Vice-President is also the Chairperson of the Sievert Award Committee and in this role I am committed to working to honor the memory of the leader and pioneer in radiation protection, Professor Rolf Sievert.

As IRPA Vice-President, I confirm my willingness to assist and collaborate with the IRPA President in any required tasks and committing my knowledge, work and effort to help meet the objectives of IRPA.

Sincerely,

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Ana María Bomben - IRPA Executive Officer (2021-2024)