

October 3, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I hereby state the reasons why I wish to be part of the World Federation of Science Journalists' Board of Directors.

I must say that I am convinced that professional science journalism is necessary and relevant to any society. And I am confident that the WFSJ is a vehicle to join common efforts and organize initiatives that benefit science journalists from all over the world, specially those who live in developing countries.

I am very aware of the challenges faced by my colleagues in Mexico and Latin America, especially the early-career ones trying to make their way in this profession: precarious jobs that demand a lot of work for low salaries and exhausting schedules; bosses and editors with no interest in science topics; not time for training or to undertake collaborative investigative journalism projects; poor working conditions that make them abandon journalism, definitively or temporarily, for jobs in government, business or universities.

At the same time, I see the emergence of global problems (climate change, energy transition, epidemics, or infectious diseases) that require more journalists trained to explain the scientific complexities of these phenomena; to critically tell how science works and how tensions among the scientific communities can impact in their perception of science. We also need professionals able to explore in depth the links between people and the ecosystems they inhabit, from a perspective that prioritizes human rights, gender and interculturality.

The challenge we face is not an easy one: at the same time that more science journalists are needed to help us understand reality, reality itself is undermining the possibilities for these journalists to survive doing journalism.

This is why organizations like the Mexican Network of Science Journalists (RedMPC) -of which I am a member- and all the associations of journalists that make up the WFSJ, are needed to establish joint initiatives that strengthen journalists. These organizations can provide them with the tools they need for their coverage, support them in times of unemployment, insecurity or mental health problems, offer them training and collaboration opportunities, and allow

them to tell stories that are diverse and, in my case, representative of the Latin American reality.

I want to be part of the Board because I want to collaborate to make all that possible. And I am sure I can do it because, in the 7 years that I have been part of the RedMPC, first as vice president, then as president, and now as training coordinator, I have contributed with initiatives that have impacted positively on the life and work of many of my fellow journalists. I have organized dozens of free workshops for RedMPC members to respond to their most pressing needs; I have opened spaces for reflection and discussion about science journalism and coordinated international forums such as the [ForoHPC](#) to exchange experiences, learn from others and strengthen collaborative networks. I have won funds to carry out journalism projects that serve as training spaces for younger members; I have contributed to strengthen the identity, support and even affection among my colleagues, who make this association nourished by the voluntary work of dozens of people. I have collaborated to decentralize science journalism and make all internal processes more efficient, from communication to administration. I also have worked as a volunteer for different activities of the WFSJ.

I believe that we do not need more science journalists enraptured with their own individual success. We need journalists that really understand the reality that our colleagues in our countries and regions are going through. We need people who are willing to team up to solve them. We need directors that are sensitive to differences, open to dialogue and collaboration. At RedMPC, we have a phrase that we keep repeating to ourselves: Competir menos, compartir más (which means: less competing, more sharing). And that is exactly what I think can lead us to build a common ground.

As part of the Board, I will work to strengthen and open the room to more voices and stories from developing countries. I believe we need regional initiatives, both events and journalistic projects, that show how climate change and especially the rampant exploitation of our resources is affecting the most vulnerable populations. I also believe that it is necessary to offer training so that our colleagues have access to technologies to provide better coverage. We need to talk about business models and offer economic alternatives for colleagues who work in local media. I believe, above all, that we need to know each other, know our capabilities, learn from each other and think of solutions that allow us to make a living from critical and independent science journalism.