

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed  
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

10. October 2023

Dear Ms. Mohammed,

Since you are currently in Iceland, I wanted to use this opportunity to thank you personally for having inspired courage within me and shown my vision respect when you personally responded to the two letters that I sent to Ban Ki-moon in 2014. At the time, I was trying to have spinal injuries and the nervous system included in the developmental goals. Unfortunately, that did not work. However, the Icelandic standing committee in New York managed to include the concept of neurological disorders in the UN goals of 2015.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and my association, the Icelandic Institute of Spinal Cord Injury, have continuously followed up on matters with the World Health Organization and, in 2022, WHO started the Global Action Plan On Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders 2022-2031, as I am sure you are aware of. In our work, we have placed great emphasis on trying to have words such as spinal injury, cure, unification of scientific knowledge, and artificial intelligence included in the WHO Action Plan on the subject, we succeeded and attached are my letters to WHO regarding this matter.

Dear Ms. Mohammed,

It is necessary to deliver the message to the world in earnest that it is time for the countries of the world to join forces and find a cure for spinal cord injuries paralyses and other paralyses, and no international institution is better suited to encourage global effort than WHO. As the attached letters show, I have asked Tetros Ghebreyesus to address the world for this purpose. It is my opinion and many others' that those who have been paralysed are left out when it comes to cures. It was not a UN Goal to leave someone behind when the Developmental Goals were set.

Since the road to a cure is both long and bumpy, I sincerely ask you, Ms. Mohammed, to raise global awareness of the need for a cure for paralysis, and also to draw attention to WHO's decade of work regarding the nervous system.

I hope you are enjoying yourself in Iceland, and may your trip be successful.

Best regards,

Auður Guðjónsdóttir

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