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First Lady of Ecuador
Rocío González Navas

Iceland, August 2020

Greetings to you First Lady of Ecuador

The reason I am writing this letter to you is that I would like to ask you to be so kind as to use your influence to draw the attention of the Permanent Representative of Ecuador in Switzerland and that of those of your neighbouring nations in Switzerland to Paragraph F on page 12 in the report of Tetros Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), A73/5, that was published on 20th May 2020. The paragraph is as follows:

(f) fostering strategic approaches to research on neurological disorders increasing the attention given to brain health and neurological disorders in national and global research agendas; using artificial intelligence, precision medicine and other novel technologies to consolidate fragmented research results and identify new treatment options with potential to cure more neurological disorders.

With these words, the Director-General of the WHO is encouraging the world's nations to use every means available that could lead to finding a cure for neurological disorders, including a cure for paralysis/spinal cord injury.

As you are aware, progress in finding a cure for paralysis has been extremely slow. I have a paralysed daughter and have, therefore, spent many years trying to draw attention to the fact that it is vital to launch a special campaign to find a cure for spinal cord injury and other neurological disorders that cause paralysis. The effort involves collating research data bases in these fields with the assistance of AI and thereby merge research fragments, collect together underused knowledge and seek a shared pattern within the contents of the data bases that could signpost the way to finding possible research avenues that could lead to success. This vision and my work has finally begun to show some results, as can be seen from the words of the Director-General of the WHO here above.

In this work, I have enjoyed the assistance of the Icelandic authorities and in particular that of Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson, the Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs, his Ministry and the Icelandic embassies in Geneva and New York. A number of prominent women have assisted this cause during its long and difficult journey, such as Ms. Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, former President of Iceland, Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa, President of the United Nations General Assembly for the 73rd Session, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Zsuzsanna Jakab, Deputy Director-General of the WHO and Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Director-General of the WHO.

What has been described herein could possibly become the first steps to the breakthrough that is so needed as regards a cure for paralysis. I therefore entreat you, esteemed First Lady, to provide your support to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Auður Guðjónsdóttir RNOR, chairman

Attached: A copy of the letter from Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson, the Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs, to María Fernanda Espinosa and her response (2019).