



June 13, 2019

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I have known Dr Stuckelberger since the mid-90s when she represented the Swiss Society of Gerontology and Geriatrics to the World Council of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG). Since 2007, she stands as our Secretary-General for the European Region and was unanimously re-elected by national members in 2010 where she was praised for her efficiency and astuteness and appreciated for both her scientific and human qualities by all our national societies.

Since I know Dr Stuckelberger, she has steadily evolved in her career to become a world known expert in ageing and its multiple perspectives. She not only has represented IAGG to the United Nations since more than a decade, but has contributed to the global agenda on ageing by representing the scientific and academic voice in important events such as the United Nations World Assembly on Ageing in 2002, the UNECE Ministerial conference in Leòn (Spain) where she organized a Scientific Forum and co-edited the proceedings, unto last year's Ministerial conference for Europe in Vienna or her contribution to the UN Social Forum in Geneva with the Geneva International Network on Ageing (GINA). She is a fine coordinator, organisor and manager with strong executive power.

Dr Stuckelberger, who also chairs the NGO committee on ageing at the United Nations, is recognized for having made significant advances to the United Nations towards integrating the rights of older persons in Human Rights Council agenda of the OHCHR, for example by her remarkable official statements. To mention her work on the rights of older women contributed to establish a special recommendation (no 27) on older women in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). She was awarded a special recognition by Secretary-General Kofi Annan for the work accomplished on ageing before and during the International Year of Older Persons. She excels in advocacy and in translating science into policy, a rare competence.

Dr Stuckelberger has many qualities but I would like to underline in particular her capacity to integrate the multidisciplinary approach to the complex issue of ageing and non-communicable disease required for this position. She is knowledgeable on the multiple aspects in all three of our sections (biogerontology, clinical and socio-behavioral) demonstrating an exceptional skill of comprehending established science with cutting edge science ahead of time.

Therefore I can only highly recommend her to the position that will benefit so much talent and am convinced that her vision, expertise and knowledge would contribute to bring ageing and non-communicable disease at the forefront of the global agenda and benefit collaboration and partnership with our expert and academic networks in the region and in the world.

We are looking forward to continue our excellent collaboration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Khavinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a checkmark-like flourish at the beginning.

Prof. Vladimir Khavinson, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, Institute of Bioregulation and Gerontology

President, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, European Region

Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences