

RAFAEL LABARCA
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Dear Professor Mumford:

I am very happy that the Nominating Committee of the International Mathematical Union had agreed in presenting my name for the position of member-at-large for Latin America on the Committee for Developing Countries.

I am convinced that we share the same interest for the outreach and development of Mathematics, in particular and in my case, in the developing countries.

I am convinced that in our countries there is too many talent that is being wasted and I have been involved in diverse activities seeking to find it and guide it.

The underdevelopment is related to the objective conditions of life of the great majorities and a part of it consists of the maintenance of élites that rule and procreate themselves in time, leaving, in this way, many postponed ability. To change this fundamental feature of underdevelopment, it is my priority and that is why I have been involved, for example, in the organization of the Campeonato Escolar de Matemáticas (Mathematics School Championship) and in the EMALCAS. These are different levels of the same concern.

Regarding my curricular background, I can say briefly, that:

1.- By education, I am School Teacher and I have post-graduate courses in Mathematics (Master and Doctorate).

2.- I have 31 years of professional practice in diverse countries (mainly in Chile, Brazil, Argentina and Spain).

3.- I have been in charge of and participated in several researching projects in various countries and I have done diverse original publications of specialty, study texts of under and post-graduate courses and, opinion texts in mass media in my country.

4.- I have served through different ways to the scientific community both national and international, seeking for the mathematical development.

5.- I have organized and developed diverse extension activities for the community, seeking the outreach of Mathematics. The most important of them is the Campeonato Escolar de Matemáticas, which I develop in Chile since eight years ago.

6.- I have performed university administrative positions (up to the Dean of Faculty level).

7.- I participated in the creation of UMALCA in 1995 and have participated in diverse managing positions of it since 2002.