

STATEMENT BY MUSTAPHA BARAT ABC, candidate for Imago president

Dear fellow cinematographers, I am presently director-treasurer of ABC, the Brazilian Association of Cinematographers and due to become its next president for the next biennial 2022-24, starting in July. I was first elected to the Imago Board at the June 2021 IAGA and nominated hereafter Imago Interim Chair until the following IEGA, when I was elected Imago Treasurer, function which I assumed January 2022, and for this I thank the trust deposited in me by the memberships. For this reason, some might ask why then I am presenting my candidacy as president before the end of the term: I have decided to do so because I believe Imago needs a renewal according to its present statutes and an option to end its ongoing internal conflicts, to enable it to move forward.

During my still on-going career, I have worked in North and Latin America, as well as Europe. Having lived mainly in Brazil, the US, but also in France, Italy, Morocco, and Algeria where I was born. To have lived in different countries, combined with a diverse ethnical and cultural background, has not only permitted me to be fluent in several languages, but also to have an ample perspective on the world, which has been of value working Imago.

As Imago president, I would work towards:

- Cinematography: Imago's main activity should be more about cinematography, so that Imago can be a platform where cinematographers feel better represented, share information, and exchange ideas and experiences. In that respect resuming the activities of the Master Class committee seems an important goal.
- Membership: Expanding the full memberships of Imago, to bring back the European societies that have left, to include more Latin American, African, and Asian societies, furthering the transition from a European Federation to an International one without neglecting the European foundation it was built on. This would strengthen the position of all cinematographers, giving them a stronger voice through Imago and its committees, such as authorship, working conditions, education, diversity, and inclusion, amongst others, to speak on their behalf to governmental entities, and other organization.
- Communication & Information. We need better two-way communication between the Imago and its memberships, in that regard, although not originally my idea, I would work towards implementing the Imago phone App, since sites are no longer the main form of information and communication used by many of us.
- New Statutes. Working to elaborate and implement new ones democratically, through extensive consultation of all memberships, to permit a necessary update, more in tune with a changing reality and the will and necessities of memberships, as well as to proportionate new ideas, and renewal.
- Representation. I believe some changes and improvements are necessary. Some related to New Statutes, since most board members are working cinematographers, and when on set, seldom available, especially considering the schedules and long hours involved. I would suggest we should consider permitting board members to have an alternate member present in case they cannot attend, too many board meetings are not fully attended, hindering the work at hand.

Finally, and not the least, as president I would work towards creating an atmosphere more conducive to understanding, tolerance and hopefully friendship and camaraderie, since despite all our diverse backgrounds and differences, we all have in common the love and dedication to cinematography. Thank you.