Obituary

It is with great sorrow that that we extend our condolences on the sad demise of Dr Mohammad Haytham Al-Khayat. Born in 1937, Dr Al-Khayat joined the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1983 and became the Deputy Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region from 1991 to 1999, and remained the Regional Director's Senior Adviser until 2012. He was also a member of several institutions and bodies where he generously contributed to promoting the public health agenda and raising a variety of health issues in many forums.

Dr Al-Khayat worked tirelessly to serve the Region and its people, with particular attention to those in war and emergency situations. He spared no effort to achieve WHO's goals established by its early founders and assumed a prominent scientific position regionally and globally.

A speaker of five languages, Dr Al-Khayat authored many books in both Arabic and English. His publications – particularly the Unified Medical Dictionary and the series The Right Path to Health issued by WHO – have been an asset to many public health scholars and students across the Region.

Dr Al-Khayat was a member of most (if not all) Arabic Language Academies in the Region, where he provided valuable services in the fields of language and terminology. He was also a member of several scientific councils, and his life is noted for its dedicated service to public

health in the Region and the importance of equality of access to health for all.

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