

Nominee Name

Ryan Toews

Nominee Job Title

CEO

Nominee Organisation

Fundación Visión

Nominee Email

ceo@fvglobal.org

Nominating IAPB member organisation

APEC - Asociación Para Evitar la Ceguera en México

Represented by:

Dra. Valeria Sanchez

Nominator Statement

On behalf of APEC - México, an IAPB member, I would like to nominate Ryan Toews, CEO of Fundación Visión, as a candidate to fill the vacancy for Group C Elected Trustee.

We met Ryan several years ago at IAPB events, where we were able to see that we share the same ideals of supporting initiatives and generating synergies that support blindness prevention efforts in the Latin American region, just as IAPB does.

In these years of knowing each other, we have been able to work closely together, which has fostered a feeling of harmony and friendship among the organizations in the region, which has resulted in several joint working alliances to support the achievement of the objectives of IAPB in the region, with training, exchanges, research, advocacy, etc., so, we were able to ELEVATE, INTEGRATE and ACTIVATE.

Since this year we have the pleasure of having him as Co-Chair of the Latin American region, a position that Frank Hida from Brazil and I share. This has allowed us to get to know him better and to see that he has an inspiring leadership, supported by high ethical and moral principles and solid professional skills. We have been able to appreciate his enthusiasm for fulfilling the strategic eye health agenda in the region and in other areas as he also extends his work supporting Fundación Visions' blindness prevention effort in Africa.

We believe that his experience as Co-Chair in the region and the work in different countries and regions of the world with Fundación Visión that he leads has helped him to acquire the expertise

and qualities to be on the IAPB Board.

In addition to those mentioned above, we nominated him for his awareness that, to make universal eye health a reality, it is necessary to have a people and community-centered approach, as indicated in the WHO World Vision Report, through the Integrated People-Centred Eye Care (IPEC), an attitude that makes us think that he is a person with the virtues to work as an active member of the Board considering all the parties involved, ensuring that communication and commitment of the sector are at the center of the activities focused to serve the people.

Dra. Valeria Sánchez-Huerta
CEO

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- [Ryan-nomination1.pdf](#)

Seconded by:

Rainer Brockhaus

Email

Rainer.Brockhaus@cbm.org

Seconding IAPB member organisation:

CBM International

Seconding Statement

CBM International is an organization that has worked with Fundacion Vision since its birth. We are aware of the history of this organization, which has played from the beginning a prominent role in its efforts to prevent blindness both in Paraguay, Latin America and now in Africa.

We know that the FV has always promoted positive leadership, based on the highest values with the aim of providing high-quality services available to everyone. This is why it seeks to work with people who are eminently identified with these values. Mr. Ryan Toews, current CEO of FV, is no exception in this regard. In the time that CBM worked with him, we met him as a person who promotes guidance and empowers leaders by sharing his knowledge and fostering teamwork.

Mr. Toews is a businessperson who at the same time has worked in Christian and volunteer organizations. This brings an ideal complement to his professional training as well as approach and has led to outstanding leadership at Fundacion Vision. He started as FV's CEO at a very challenging time (beginning pandemic) and has been able to motivate, empower and encourage the workforce; he also was able to generate new partnerships and kept the existing ones with highly encouraging results. We noticed his very good management skills combined with virtues that we consider important for an IAPB Board Member. We have also seen his ability to support Fundacion Vision's expansion to Bolivia and Dem. Rep. of Congo in Africa, and guide the organization's effort and articulate alliances that impact to proposed goals, in Latin American region, Africa as well in other countries from different regions.

We know that since this year he is IAPB Latin American Co-Chair and we have no doubts that is because his solid commitment with IAPB objectives, and his skills to generate an environment to promote the Integrated People-centred Eye Care (IPEC) endorsed in WHO World Vision Report, as a tool to get more specific results regarding blindness prevention.

For all these reasons, we second Mr. Ryan Toews' nomination. We think that he will bring a positive leadership –



being result-oriented but always guided by high principles of honesty and integrity. In other words, he has the best ethical-moral values to be part of the Board of IAPB and collaborate there as a Trustee. We believe he will fully fulfill the functions and objectives of the Board.

Nominee Statement

My name is Ryan Toews, CEO of Fundacion Vision Paraguay and its international operations. I have a Bachelor's and Master's degree in business and have been working in eye health and prevention of blindness for around 15 years. As an entrepreneur, during my professional career I have had the opportunity to work first on issues related to international trade and later with issues related to eye health and blindness prevention, as well as in Christian organizations, serving on the board of several of them.

I have known the IAPB work, especially through Dr. Rainald Duerksen who has been Latin American Chair for several years and who taught me with his example the importance and privilege of being able to serve through professional skills. Then, since 2020, when I started as Fundacion Vision Director, I have worked closely with IAPB and could understand the organization in greater depth through Peter Holland and Drew Keys, who have been an example with inspiring leadership, as well as many of our international colleagues in strategic initiatives, both global and regional. I feel identified with all that IAPB stands for and I am very happy that since this year, I am also working as Co-Chair of IAPB for Latin America Region, with Valeria Sanchez from Mexico and Frank Hida from Brazil.

This work close to IAPB and FV operations in Bolivia and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in Africa enriched my experience and heightened my understanding of collective advocacy and building partnerships – also fundamental to the Board Member role.

I strongly support driving the IPEC agenda and recommendations of the World Report on Vision in a structured and collective way with governments and other stakeholders – ensuring that communication and sector engagement are at the center of activities, with a particular focus on the global summit in 2026.

Assuming this commitment for the vacant Group C position on the IAPB Board, will be a challenge that I would take with great pleasure, supporting the work that is being done and helping to generate new initiatives to serve the growth of the IPAB, its members and mainly the achievement of its objectives, taking care that everything is carried out bearing in mind ethical values, respect, honesty and the pursuit for excellence in everything that is undertaken. With your support I would be honored to serve the IAPB.

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- [IAPB-Statement-RyanToews-20241.pdf](#)

The nominee has read the role description and is willing to stand for the position

Yes