

## IAPB Board Nomination: Nominee Statement

**Nominee:** Elizabeth Kurian

**Organisation:** Mission for Vision

**Designation:** Chief Executive Officer



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I am writing to seek your kind support for my nomination to serve on the IAPB Board for the 2025-2029 term. Below is a summary of my professional experience and contributions to advancing eye health for your kind reference.

With over three decades of professional experience - including more than 25 years dedicated to eye health and disability rights and inclusion - I have been deeply committed to strengthening eye care systems, advocating for inclusive policies, and driving impactful partnerships.

I began my career with The Nielsen Company before joining Sightsavers as a Programme Officer. During my 14 years at Sightsavers, I had the privilege of leading its India operations for over five years as CEO, overseeing programmes across 17 states, reaching over 3 million people annually through 100+ partnerships. I also lead the registration of “Sightsavers India” and the establishment of fundraising in-country. Later, as Sightsavers’ Global Director of Advocacy, I played a key role in influencing global eye health and disability rights policies, including accessible banking for visually impaired persons in India, the amendment of the Copyright Act (WIPO Treaty), and disability inclusion within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Since 2014, I have served as CEO of Mission for Vision (MFV), where we have expanded our reach from 400,000 to over 21 million individuals from extremely vulnerable communities, across 22 states of India, in collaboration with 44 leading institutions. Under my leadership, MFV has prioritized comprehensive eye health systems, human resource development, technology, research, and innovation, aligned with national and global priorities. We developed PRISM, an IT-enabled tool measuring the impact of cataract surgery on the quality of life and tripled our funding base. Our contributions have been recognized through prestigious awards.

MFV has actively partnered with IAPB for over 10 years, investing in strategic initiatives such as the Bhutan School Sight programme, Southeast Asia strategy planning and the Vision Atlas. Additionally, I am a member of IAPB’s Gender Equity Work Group.

I was recently appointed to the World Health Organization’s Strategic and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) for the SPECS 2030 initiative.

My contributions to eradicating needless blindness have been recognized through several awards, including the IAPB Vision Excellence Award. I also serve on boards and advisory committees of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India, the Optometry Confederation of India, the Community Eye Health Journal (South Asia edition) and various other leading organisations. As Secretary and Treasurer of VISION 2020 India, I helped steer national guidelines for cataract, diabetic retinopathy, and tertiary eye care, and have also led its Knowledge Hub.

Beyond India, I provide strategic support to the Tulsi Chanrai Foundation, MFV's "sister" organization, that impacts millions in Nigeria through eye health, safe drinking water, and primary healthcare.

Academically, I hold a master's degree in nutrition (university first rank) and have done a Post Graduate Executive Programme in Business Management from the prestigious Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, along with leadership and strategy certifications from Harvard Business School and other premier institutions.

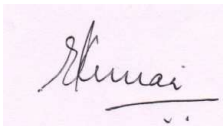
I have been fortunate to work with some of the most remote, desert, indigenous, nomadic and transgender communities, contributing significantly, along with partners, to reducing blindness in India to 0.36% and elsewhere. My work aligns with the Global Action Plan, SDGs, WHO targets, and IAPB priorities.

Inspired by my mother and by those who overcome immense challenges, I strive to make a meaningful difference. I am deeply motivated by Helen Keller's words: *"I am only one, but still, I am one; I cannot do everything, but still, I can do something; I will not refuse to do something I can do."*

If given the opportunity to serve on the IAPB Board, I will recommit to investing my best efforts to furthering its mission and strategic priorities towards a world free from needless blindness and visual impairment.

Thank you for your time and support.

Best regards,



Elizabeth Kurian  
February 3, 2025