

# Nominee Statement: Ryan Toews

**Position: IAPB Group C Trustee**

## Nominee Job Title

CEO

## Nominee Organisation

Fundación Visión

## Nominating IAPB member organisation

APEC

## Nominated by

Dr. Valeria Sanchez

## Nominating Statement

To IAPB Secretariat,

On behalf of APEC-México, an IAPB member, I am pleased to re-nominate Ryan Toews, CEO of Fundación Visión, for the position of Group C Elected Trustee.

Our collaboration with Ryan began several years ago at IAPB events, where we recognized our shared vision of supporting blindness prevention in Latin America. This partnership has led to successful collaborations advancing IAPB's objectives in training, research, and advocacy.

This year, Ryan co-chaired the Latin American region with Frank Hida from Brazil and myself. This role allowed us to witness his strong leadership, underpinned by ethical standards, integrity, and professional experience. His dedication to advancing eye health, both in Latin America and globally through Fundación Visión's efforts in Africa, is commendable.

Ryan's experience as Co-Chair and his leadership at Fundación Visión have equipped him with the skills to contribute significantly to the IAPB Board. His commitment to a people-centered approach to universal eye health, as outlined in the WHO World Vision Report, and his advocacy for the Integrated People-Centered Eye Care (IPEC) framework reflect his holistic vision.



Ryan's collaborative nature and leadership make him an ideal candidate for the IAPB Board. His ability to prioritize community voices and foster communication across sectors strengthens his qualifications for this role. Thank you for considering this re-nomination. We are confident Ryan will continue to make a lasting impact on IAPB and global blindness prevention.

Sincerely,

Dr. Valeria Sanchez  
CEO  
APEC

### **Seconded IAPB member organisation**

CBM Christian Blind Mission

### **Seconding by**

Dr. Rainer Brockhaus

### **Seconding Statement**

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

We know that 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, CEO of Fundacion Vision, 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 FV. He started as Fundacion Vision 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 outstanding management skills combined with virtues that we consider important for any IAPB Board Member. We have also seen his ability to support FV's expansion to Bolivia and Democratic Republic 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 appreciate his contribution as IAPB's 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 will bring the best possible set of values to the Board of IAPB and to the role of Trustee. We believe he will fully fulfill the functions and objectives of the Board.

### **Nominee Statement**

My name is Ryan Toews, and I serve as the Executive Director of Fundación Visión Paraguay and CEO of Fundación Visión's international operations. With a bachelor's and master's degree in business, I have dedicated nearly 15 years to the field of eye health and blindness prevention. My professional journey began with international trade, but over the years, my focus shifted to addressing eye health and blindness prevention. I have also worked with several Christian organizations, serving on their boards.

I have long admired the work of the IAPB, especially through Dr. Rainald Duerksen, who served as the Latin American Chair for many years. His leadership inspired me to understand the true privilege of serving through professional expertise. Since 2020, as Director of Fundación Visión, I have had the opportunity to work closely with IAPB, gaining deeper insight into the organization through Peter Holland and Drew Keys, whose inspiring leadership has been invaluable. I have also collaborated with numerous international colleagues on both global and regional strategic initiatives. I feel deeply aligned with IAPB's mission and values, and I am excited to now serve as Co-Chair of the IAPB Latin America Region, alongside Valeria Sánchez from Mexico and Frank Hida from Brazil.

My work with IAPB and Fundación Visión in Bolivia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been instrumental in broadening my understanding of collective advocacy and partnership building—skills that are fundamental to the Board Member role.



I am a strong advocate for the Global Summit, and I am proud to be part of the team leading efforts to organize this event, working with IAPB members, governments, and other stakeholders. I believe communication and sector engagement must be at the core of these efforts.

Taking on the Group C position on the IAPB Board would be a challenging but exciting opportunity, one I would approach with enthusiasm. I am committed to supporting the organization's ongoing work, driving new initiatives to promote IAPB's growth, and helping achieve its objectives—all while adhering to ethical values, respect, integrity, and a pursuit of excellence in all our endeavors.

With your support I would be honored to serve the IAPB.