

**Position:**

Group B Trustee

Nominee Name

Biruktayit Kefyalew

Nominee Job Title

Eye Health Expert

Nominee Organisation

Light for the World International

Nominee Email

B.Kefyalew@light-for-the-world.org

Nominating IAPB member organisation

Light for the World International

Represented by:

Marion Lieser

Nominator Statement

Dear IAPB Board Members,

I am delighted to nominate Biruktayit Kefyalew for the position of Group B Elected Trustee on the IAPB Board.

Biruktayit brings a rare breadth of experience, spanning academia, clinical practice, research, and multi-country program leadership. This diversity of experience has given her a well-rounded and practical understanding of the sector's challenges and opportunities, from the frontlines of service delivery to the policy tables where national-level change is shaped. She has a demonstrated ability to influence policy at the national level and has contributed to governance and committee work, giving her a solid grounding in the responsibilities of Board-level stewardship.

What particularly distinguishes Biruktayit is her ability to build trusted partnerships with a wide range of eye health stakeholders and to represent diverse perspectives with fairness and clarity. She listens carefully, values different viewpoints, and builds consensus in a way that inspires confidence and trust across organizations, countries, and sectors. She navigates complex challenges with professionalism and sound judgment, and her exceptional commitment and drive are evident in every piece of work she undertakes.

I am confident that Biruktayit will be a thoughtful, forward-looking, and dedicated Trustee. She has the integrity, vision, and commitment needed to strengthen the Board and serve the interests of IAPB's diverse membership. I wholeheartedly support her nomination and strongly recommend her for election to the IAPB Board.

Warm regards,
Marion Lieser
CEO
Light for the World International

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Seconded by:

Kathleen Sherwin

Email

kathleen.sherwin@orbis.org

Seconding IAPB member organisation:

Orbis International

Seconding Statement

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing in my capacity as a current IAPB Board member to second the nomination of Biruktayit Kefyalew for a position on the IAPB Board of Trustees, as put forward by Light for the World. It is a pleasure to do so with genuine enthusiasm.

Biruktayit is an accomplished international eye health expert whose career spans clinical practice, academic contribution, and strategic program leadership across sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. In her current role at Light for the World, she provides technical and strategic leadership for eye health programs in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Uganda — working in close partnership with Ministries of Health, the WHO, and IAPB to strengthen health systems and advance equitable, high-quality, disability-inclusive eye care.

What distinguishes Biruktayit is not only her technical depth but her capacity to translate strategy into action at scale. She has played a meaningful role in shaping national eye health policies and has represented Light for the World at key global forums with credibility and impact. She brings a perspective that is rooted in the realities of low-resource health systems and shaped by a deep commitment to equity, inclusion, and innovation — exactly the kind of voice that strengthens the IAPB Board's deliberations.

The IAPB is committed to a Board that reflects the diversity of the communities we serve — geographically, professionally, and in lived experience. Biruktayit's nomination is a strong step in that direction, and I am confident she will be a highly engaged and constructive member of the Board.

I am pleased to offer Orbis's full support for this nomination and look forward to welcoming Biruktayit to the Board.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Sherwin
President & CEO
Orbis International

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- [LightfortheWorld_IAPBRecommendation_Aug2026.docx](#)

Nominee Statement

Dear IAPB Board Members,

I am honored to be nominated for the position of Group B Elected Trustee on the IAPB Board. As an optometrist and International Eye Health Expert at Light for the World, I have dedicated my career to advancing equitable, quality, and disability-inclusive eye health through clinical practice, academia, research, policy, and programmes.

I have worked across multiple levels of the eye health system, from clinical service delivery and university teaching to national policy development and international programme implementation. This breadth of experience has given me a deep understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing eye health systems and the importance of translating evidence into sustainable action.

In my current role, I provide strategic and technical leadership for eye health programmes in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Uganda. I work closely with Ministries of Health, WHO, IAPB, donors, and a wide range of partners to strengthen health systems and improve access to comprehensive eye care. I have supported the development of national eye health strategies, policy documents, advocacy initiatives, and national eye health surveys, and more recently I am working with countries to develop eye health commitments aligned with global priorities.

If elected, I will bring strategic thinking, a collaborative approach, and a strong commitment to inclusive governance. I believe the IAPB Board should reflect the diversity of its membership and ensure that the perspectives and experiences of members, particularly those working in low- and middle-income countries, help shape global priorities and decisions.

It would be a privilege to serve on the IAPB Board and contribute to its mission of advancing universal access to quality eye

health. I am committed to working collaboratively with fellow Trustees and IAPB members to strengthen partnerships, promote innovation, and support a future where everyone everywhere has access to eye care they need.

Warm regards,

Biruktayit Kefyalew
Eye Health Expert
Light for the World International

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Approval and Confirmation

Yes