The 2017 General Assembly of IFOAM - Organics International passed a recommendation to ask all candidates running for the World Board the same questions regarding our strategy, policies and positions, for the voting members to know more about the people they vote for.

Bernward Geier, Germany

1. **The strategic plan of IFOAM - Organics International 2025 refers to 3 key levers to promote the principles of organic agriculture: supply, demand and policy. On which lever would you like to put the emphasis in your work for IFOAM – Organics International, and why?**

The three levers are not only related, but closely interconnected. I work since decades intensively in all levers and consider them equally important. The 100 % organic Indian federal state of Sikkim or the world leading organic market development in Denmark proof that connecting these dots strategically smart takes organic agriculture to highest levels. We have to continue to grow “organically” driven by consumer and market demand and this hand in hand with politics „demanding” respectively supporting via legislation organic growth. I see a specific role of the WB uniting and supporting the organic farmers even more to achieve utmost expansion of the supply lever as well.

2. **Please share your thoughts on which actors in our movement could contribute to which parts to make our common vision come true.**

A great success of the organic movement and our worldwide federation has been the fact that the actors in the different sectors work united and in solidarity together. While each of the actors in supply, demand and policy has its specific potential, role and task, I would especially engage in helping even more the organic farming sector to mobilize consumers and to influence policies and supporting consumers (least represented in IFOAM !) for example to engage more in mobilizing for the consequent conversion to organic farming. Best example are the rapidly growing community supported agriculture initiatives with the most impressive example being Hansalim in Korea.

3. **What do you propose in order to get a real transformation in agriculture, in general, and more specifically, in your role as a WB member?**

Organic agriculture is actually since a century real transformation. What we need now rapidly and consequently is a massive transformation to organic. For this we need to have a very ambitious vision. Mine is a 100 % pesticide free and ultimately organic world until 2050. In the WB I would put a lot of energies towards this visionary and utmost ambitious goal. This includes foremost my networking experience along the line of IFOAM’s strategy Organic 2.0. We need to form much bigger alliances and coalitions of like minded environmental and social movements and substantially more co-operations in the political field.

4. **Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques such as Crispr CAS: where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?**
Crispr CAS is doubtlessly a GMO breeding technique resulting in more genetically manipulated organisms and thus threatening organic agriculture. Propaganda to promote and lobby attempts to push this new technologies need to be further dismantled and thus the integrity of organic agriculture defended. Harnessing or better stopping this new environmental threat is important and needs the continued support from IFOAM and its (regional) structures. Yet we need to focus and invest more in supporting the development of further alternative plant and animal breeding, which delivers to the needs of agriculture in general and specifically organic farming.

5. The SDGs of the United Nations are aiming at sustainability in all areas of life and development. How do you make the SDGs a reality in your own life?

We have in our organic movement and beyond a broad understanding respectively consensus that organic agriculture in all its shades and variations contributes significantly to more or less all SDG goals. In my efforts to „walk the talk” in my daily life I am strongly motivated by the fact that engaging in farming and my organic and environmentally conscious lifestyle, helps respectively contributes daily to the SDG. Major obstacles to reach the SDG are economic injustice and mass (over) consumption. Our holistic concept, our principle of fairness and conquering mainstream markets minimize these obstacles.

6. The work of IFOAM–Organics International is partly financed by membership fee, and for a greater deal by donors and foundations. What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

As IFOAM -Organic International Director I had successfully broadened the financial base of IFOAM starting from an almost zero income budget. I do not have only substantial fundraising experience with and for IFOAM and since 15 years for COLABORA, but also a potential network in this context. I would like to help starting a strategic win-win fundraising campaign to get significantly more support from the organic business and certification sector. The prospering businesses benefit enormously from IFOAM’s work and needs to be informed and motivated accordingly to contribute substantially more to guarantee that IFOAM – Organics International can deliver more with regard to its potential.