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.

Fortunate Nyakanda, Zimbabwe

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?

   On which lever would you like to put the emphasis in your work for IFOAM – Organics International, and why? I would be interested in putting more emphasis on the supply lever. Having worked for over 20 years with producers in Africa, I am familiar with the producers’ struggle in their endeavor to produce good quality produce and maintain a consistent supply of required quantities. Being in World board I will be able to articulate the issues that these producers face, bring them to the table for discussion to work towards a lasting solution.

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

   Researchers are very key in contributing innovations to enhance the supply side. However their research would not be complete without the research being packaged for application by different end users to improve productivity, quality and efficiency in organic production. National governments also play a major role in supporting all actors at national level with enabling environment for a viable organic value chain. On the other hand contribution of the private sector would be very important in connecting the supply and demand levers.

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?**

   In order to get a real transformation in organic agriculture, I propose that there be a value chain approach to the development of agriculture. There are issues that affect development of agriculture at different levels (producers, input suppliers/ service providers, the enabling environment and policies), and these should be systematically addressed so that all facets of the sector will move as an entire entity. Solving issues on one facet leaving the others will delay or retard the transformation.

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?**

   The gene editing can lead to loss of genetic resources thereby reducing biodiversity which is the basis for organic agriculture or it could bring in unwanted or problematic resultant genetic resources.

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?

First and foremost I see the need for a total mindset shift that will translate into my way of life, the choices that I make and how these affect my life, the life of those I relate to or live with, the environment that I live and the whole ecosystem as a whole.

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?

In my experience, for as long as there are services that speak to the needs of prospective members, they are always willing to pay membership fees. In this regard with my experience working with producers I know where they need support. I therefore see myself making contributions to development of support packages relevant to producers that will see the relevance in being paid up members.