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.

Julia Lernoud, Argentina

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?

All three action pillars are key and interconnected. I see Demand as a challenging field to work on as we are not usually in contact with consumers, but challenges are motivating and inspiring. I believe there’s a lot of unexplored power and impact in cooperating with consumers in all levels. We all consume. However, consumption, and especially organic consumption, is very unevenly distributed and this shows the unfairness of today’s systems. I see it as crucial to promote fair access to nutritious organic food to all, and help build the needed channels to reach this goal, this will require to work on Policy and Supply.

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

Each of us has a role, producers inspiring other into following better practices, traders showing the huge potential the organic market has, NGOs engaging with outsiders and creating awareness, researchers helping all of us to better understand our impact and improve our practices. IFOAM – Organics International and its whole network has a crucial role in bringing all these voices and knowledge together and inviting them to join campaigns, projects and actions. Our world is very diverse, IFOAM – Organics International needs to stay in touch with the different realities and learn from them.

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?

As a young women from the global south, I see as one of my roles to keep bringing to the table the voices of sometime unheard communities and actors. The organic movement has strong tools to truly transform our agricultural and food systems. I would like to keep working to bring transparency and equal participation of all actors across the globe.

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?
I believe we need to bring awareness that GMs haven’t delivered what they promised and that blind faith should no longer be put on them. The organic sector needs to communicate this failure and at the same time show how organic practices have had an actual beneficial impact across the world. Show how organic has regenerated destroyed landscapes and built fair and economically sustainable value chains. Show that the path is true sustainability and not technological shortcuts with unknown negative impacts.

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?

I see the SDGs as a very useful tool for governments, companies, NGOs, etc. They connect the actions needed to build a sustainable future. However, for my daily life, I see our four principles as an important guide. In each action you take, each decision you make, you can reflect fairness, care, health, and ecology.

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?

I have been working and investing a lot of energy in the membership reform to try to expand our reach and increase our membership and representation, which will increase our income.