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Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Development, Economic & Social Issues Branch  
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CH-1211 Geneva 10

By Email: [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org)

Vienna, 4th of September 2008

**Letter of June 4<sup>th</sup>, requesting views in accordance with OP 16,  
Human Rights Council Resolution 7/9, “Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities”**

Dear Mr. Wani,

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD gratefully acknowledges the opportunity to share its views on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is a development organization based in Austria committed to the inclusion and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in developing countries. It provides assistance to enable persons with disabilities to be meaningfully included in their local communities, using a rights as well as inclusion based approach to development. Support at the individual level with habilitation, education and skill development is strongly connected with encouraging empowerment processes and addressing the social, cultural and economical environment of mainstream society to be inclusive and safeguard access of persons with disabilities to all human rights.

Whilst LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has its headquarters in Vienna, Austria, we strongly feel that it is up to the Austrian DPOs to report on legislation and subsequent implementation in Austria. That said, we believe that it is within our mandate as a development organization to report to you on the monitoring body, which was established by amendment of the Federal Disabilities Act (Official Gazette BGBl I/109.) LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is not in a position to comment on the conformity of the provision with the CRPD.

The Monitoring Board (*Monitoringausschuss*) is to report to the Federal Disabilities Advisory Board (*Bundesbehindertenbeirat*), to request statements from administrative bodies, and to make recommendations and suggestions regarding the rights of persons with disabilities (§ 13 (2) *Bundesbehindertengesetz*). The Board is to consist of, *inter alia*, four representatives of DPOs, one

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**LIGHT FOR THE WORLD - Christoffel Development Cooperation**

Board (honorary): Peter Rettinger • Hanna Jovanovic • Dr. Karin Krobath • Dr. Siegfried Priglinger  
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representative of a recognized human rights NGO, one representative of a recognized development NGO as well as an academic expert (§ 13 (1) *Bundesbehindertengesetz*).

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD welcomes the **inclusion of development expertise** in Austria's monitoring efforts and would like to seize this opportunity to encourage the OHCHR to highlight this as one part of **best practice** in implementing inclusive development.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is currently engaged in assessing the implementation efforts in a number of its 14 partner countries and looks forward to providing expertise and support to these processes. Parallel thereto, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD, through its liaison office in Brussels, is also involved in ensuring the compliance of the European Union's development efforts with the CRPD.

Should the OHCHR have questions with regard to any aspect of this submission, we shall gladly receive those and respond swiftly. Please be so kind and direct any queries to Mr. Johannes Trimmel, head of our programme department, at [j.trimmel@light-for-the-world.org](mailto:j.trimmel@light-for-the-world.org).

Sincerely Yours,



Rupert Roniger  
Managing Director