Nominee Statement: Wolfgang Gindorfer

# Position: IAPB Europe Regional Chair

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| **Nomination For the position:**  |
| Regional Chair  |
| **Region**  |
| Europe  |
| **Nominee Name**  |
| Wolfgang Gindorfer  |
| **Nominee Job Title**  |
| Director Uncorrected Refractive Errors & Child Eye Health  |
| **Nominee Organisation**  |
| LIGHT FOR THE WORLD International  |
| **Nominating IAPB member organisation**  |
| LIGHT FOR THE WORLD International  |
| **Represented by:**  |
| Wolfgang Gindorfer  |
| **Seconded by:**  |
| Dr Raimund Balmes  |
| **Seconding IAPB member organisation:**  |
| Deutsches Komitee zur Verhütung von Blindheit e.V.  |
| **Seconding Statement**  |
| [Click here to view the seconding statement](https://www.iapb.org/index.php?gf-download=2021%2F03%2FSeconding-Statement_IAPB-Chair-Europe_2021_W.-Gindorfer.pdf&form-id=36&field-id=22&hash=80329718a97c309bafe53e5e255a40efc2270f1cfccb9e70a73c97d5106fcf06" \t "_blank)**Nominee Statement** My name is Wolfgang Gindorfer. I am working with LIGHT FOR THE WORLD International, a dedicated long-time member of IAPB, in the role of “Director Uncorrected Refractive Errors (URE) & Child Eye Health”. I am very delighted to share that Light for the World has nominated me to apply for the position of the IAPB Chair for Europe for the upcoming 4-year term. My entire career as a community oriented eye care provider, advisor and advocate has been dedicated to make quality glasses available for those who need them the most. Over 30 years ago, this vision led me to the Republic of Uganda. In 2008, together with Light for the World and the International Council of Ophthalmology, I set up the National Intervention on Uncorrected Refractive Errors in Uganda (NIURE). The components embraced training and human resource development, equipment, provision of supplies and the whole logistics around it. We supported a degree programme for optometrists and a public private partnership for optical services was initiated. The journey has not yet ended! However, the programme was successfully handed over to the Uganda government and its Ministry of Health by the end of 2018. 40-50 % of the population now have access to adequate refractive services, as compared to 20 % when the programme started. My aim was and still is to never compromise on quality. I will continue to support the establishment of services for Uncorrected Refractive Errors and Child Eye Health in other Sub-Saharan African countries.I have also been highly involved with the core of Vision 2020 to implement according to the Global Action Plan – to rid the world of avoidable blindness and visual impairment – in a sustainable and cost-effective way. In 2020 I felt deeply honored and humbled by receiving the IAPB Vision Excellence Award. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD International Together with persons with disabilities, Light for the World is working towards a fairer world for everybody. It promotes equal rights and chances for all – the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all facets of society. Light for the World has, especially, built an international reputation in the field of Eye Health. The organisation enables cataract surgeries, builds eye clinics, supports the training of ophthalmologists and opticians. In addition, it is taking part in the worldwide effort to eliminate blinding trachoma. My Goals and Intentions as IAPB Chair for Europe Besides giving my utmost to fulfil each one of my responsibilities in this role, I will, especially, dedicate myself to developing a strategic vision for IAPB’s role in Europe and, particularly, how to optimally support IAPB’s action on a global scale. |