

# Nominee Statement: Geoffrey Wabulembo

Position: IAPB Group B Trustee

## Nominee Job Title

Medical Director Eye health and Neglected Diseases

## Nominee Organisation

Light For the World

## Nominating IAPB member organisation

Light For the World

## Nominated by

Katri Bertram

## Nominating Statement

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Dr. Geoffrey Wabulembo to become an IAPB Trustee.

Dr. Geoffrey Wabulembo Has spearheaded shaping Light for the World's eye health and NTD programmes, as well as our partnership and integration approaches in the field of eye health. He has also throughout his extensive career working in Africa greatly contributed to human resource development. Convening and partnering with different stakeholders.

Dr Wabulembo has a strong professional background and focus on quality service delivery to improve cataract surgical outcomes. He represents Light for the World at the WHO-SPECS initiative, contributing to addressing uncorrected refractive errors on a global level.

The purpose of this letter is to confirm my own and Light for the World's full support for this important function for IAPB's work, be it in terms of allocation of time for Dr Geoffrey Wabulembo's Chair capacity, committing sufficient funds for required travels and meetings on advocacy and capacity development, attendance at global IAPB meetings such as InSight in Nepal in 2025, and support for a possible 2026 global eye health summit. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Marion Lieser  
CEO, Light for the World

### **Seconded IAPB member organisation**

College of Ophthalmologists of East Central and Southern Africa

### **Seconding by**

Mr Josiah Onyango

### **Seconding Statement**

Receive greetings for the new Year!

Light for the World International has brought to my attention that Dr Wabulembo has applied for the position of Trustee for the International Agency for Prevention of blindness.

I recall our previous collaborations with Dr Wabulembo from the times of the Ophthalmological Society of East Africa (OSEA) that evolved to become the current College of Ophthalmologists of East Central and Southern Africa (COECSA). He has always been an active member of COECSA and supported us with conducting COECSA fellowship exams as one of the examiners for paediatric ophthalmology for four years. This is viewed as a significant contribution towards human resource development for eye health.

His respect for colleagues in all our interactions has drawn great admiration from many and makes him a unifying figure amongst the great diverse eye health community the African region.

We have engaged in some projects for purposes of resource mobilization for COECSA and for the eye health sector in the region which convinces me about his leadership suitability for the position he is applying for. He is a strong advocate for governments taking ownership of intervention initiatives in eye health for their citizens.

I have no reservation endorsing him for the position of Trustee for IAPB.

### **Nominee Statement**

As a strong proponent of collaboration, direct contribution to the board of trustees at IAPB presents great opportunities not only for collaboration but also for working on the challenges of eye health in a collaborative manner.



Previous efforts to tackle blindness and visual impairment were not inclusive enough regarding participation of potential clients in planning and decision making. Current approaches that incorporate mechanisms and opportunities for people centeredness have awakened me to the tremendous benefits that listening to the voice of clients and potential clients brings to our work.

I would like to bring my experience of having served in leadership positions while working for CBM, Light for the World and the government of Uganda to the membership of the board of trustees on behalf of group B members. My clinical background will contribute to on hand support for decisions that require deep understanding of the pathologies that affect the eye and how they are best addressed. As employee at Light for the World with programmes in English, Portuguese and French speaking countries I bring IAPB complementary experiences working with different peoples and cultures where learnings from legacies of diverse colonial powers are useful in navigation towards achieving our 2030 goals.