

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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26<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**To Whom It May Concern at the Croatian Government,**

In my capacity as United Nations Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development, I will be visiting Croatia at the invitation of the Disability Ombudsman Office.

The Special Rapporteur reports yearly to the Commission for Social Development on the promotion and monitoring of the Standard Rules on the equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Disability is derived from the Standard Rules. The current mandate of the Special Rapporteur also includes the encouragement of International Cooperation and a focus on vulnerable groups among disabled persons, such as women and children with disabilities and people with psychosocial disabilities. In addition the Special Rapporteur encourages inclusive disability related policy and practices within government and the involvement of organisations of people with disabilities in the monitoring of policy implementation.

In carrying out the functions, the Special Rapporteur establishes a direct dialogue with Member States and with local non-governmental organizations, particularly organisations of persons with disabilities, and experts, seeking their views and experiences.

The Rapporteur's visit to your country is to learn to know the realities of persons with disabilities in your country and to promote their development. The Rapporteur does not have investigatory powers, but merely encourages the mainstreaming of disability throughout government.

Thank you very much in advance for your time and efforts in meeting me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Chalklen', written in a cursive style.

**Shuaib Chalklen**  
**UN Special Rapporteur on Disability**