



THE
WORLD
REPORT
ON VISION

IAPB BRIEFING PACK – WHA RESOLUTION 2020

Purpose

This briefing pack provides IAPB member country teams with advice on how to engage their national Ministry of Health to support the upcoming **eye health resolution** at the World Health Assembly (WHA), 17-21 May 2020.

To date 47 countries have co-sponsored the resolution.

Right up until the May meeting, advocacy efforts can continue at the country and global level to encourage Member States to:

1. co-sponsor the resolution
2. make a statement at the WHA meeting in support of the resolution (if they have co-sponsored or not)

This pack includes two things:

1. background information on the WHA resolution and outlines the steps you can take
2. a letter for you to send to your Ministry of Health (two template versions)

Any queries to be directed to IAPB:

Jessica Crofts-Lawrence
Head of Policy and Advocacy
T:+44 (0)7889554755
Skype: jessica.crofts1
Email: JCrofts-Lawrence@iapb.org

Why is there a new resolution ?

Since 1998 there have been five World Health Assembly resolutions supporting eye health under the ambition of Vision 2020: Right to Sight, mobilising action at the global and country level.

With the current period under the Global Action Plan ending in 2019 and this year marking the end of the era of the past two decades under Vision 2020, a new global plan for eye health is needed.

WHA resolutions, **agreed by all Member States**, are the mechanism to set that agenda. They commit Member States to actions and place obligations on the WHO to provide technical support.



What does the resolution commit Members States and the WHO to deliver?

The resolution *Integrated people-centred eye care*, including *preventable blindness* and *impaired vision* sets the global agenda for eye health for the next decade until 2030.

It commits Member States to implement the recommendations of the World Report on Vision, specifically to:

- make eye care an integral part of Universal Health Coverage, embedding eye health in mainstream health plans, strategies and budgets
- implement ‘integrated people-centred eye care’ within health systems, including
 - ▶ across the full spectrum of services from health, prevention, treatment through to vision rehabilitation
 - ▶ integration across all six levels of the health system, from leadership and governance to service delivery, from medical products and devices to information systems and from financing to workforce

It directs the WHO to:

- provide guidance and technical support to Member States, including:
 - ▶ guidance on evidence-based and cost-effective eye care
- interventions
 - ▶ deliver a research agenda for health systems and policy
 - ▶ implement technological innovations
 - ▶ improve data collection, monitoring and reporting

- work with Member States to develop feasible global targets to 2030 and present these back to the WHA in 2021 (including the coverage and quality of cataract surgery and correction of refractive error)
- report progress to the 77th WHA in 2025

How has this resolution come about?

- IAPB has led a coalition of members including The Fred Hollows Foundation, CBM, Light for the World and Sightsavers to spearhead global advocacy efforts since 2017.
- This has resulted in:
 - ▶ completion and launch of the World Report on Vision in October 2019
 - ▶ drafting of a new resolution in 2019
 - ▶ approval by the WHO Executive Board and subsequent inclusion on the agenda of the WHA in May in February 2020
 - ▶ sponsorship of the resolution by the Governments of Australia and Indonesia and co-sponsorship by 47 countries to date

What further action is required?

As a sector we have an opportunity to step into the post Vision 2020 era with overwhelming support from Member States towards this new agenda. So, to ensure the resolution is resoundingly passed at the WHA meeting in May, the IAPB is seeking your support to secure as many countries as possible to:

1. co-sponsor the resolution. This means your country's Ministry of Health sends an email to the Australian Government confirming their support for the resolution (see wording below). There is no financial commitment required.
2. make a statement in support of the resolution at the WHA (whether or not they have co-sponsored the resolution). This means your government representative at the WHA makes a short verbal statement in support of the resolution and highlights achievements, opportunities and any commitments to delivering against the resolution.

What can I do in my country to ensure the resolution is adopted in May?

You can:

- **Step 1** – refer to the list of countries which have already co-sponsored the resolution on www.iapb.org.
- **Step 2** – talk with other IAPB country members and/or your PBL committee and consider joint action
- **Step 3** – contact your Ministry of Health key focal point to seek support
- **Step 4** – write to your Minister of Health

a) if your country has co-sponsored the resolution, please write to your Minister of Health using template letter 1 – thanking them for their support and encouraging them to make a statement during the WHA meeting in May

b) if your country has not yet co-sponsored the resolution, please write to your Minister of Health using template letter 2 – encouraging them to co-sponsor and make a statement during the WHA in May

■ **Step 5** - advise IAPB of your actions and any subsequent contact from the Ministry of Health

Thank you

The IAPB sincerely thanks you for your support of the eye health resolution. By working together to seek support from countries around the world we can make a positive difference at the global and country policy level for the next decade of global eye health.

Template Letters

Dear Minister of Health

Re: 73rd World Health Assembly Resolution on ‘Integrated people-centred eye care’

Template 1 – use if your country has already co-sponsored the resolution

We sincerely congratulate the Government of (add country name) on your leadership in co-sponsoring the resolution - *Integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable blindness and impaired vision*, which will set the agenda for eye health over the coming decade to 2030 globally and in (add country name).

In (add country name) the eye health sector has been working together to improve the eye health of citizens, particularly for people living in vulnerable communities.

To further support the resolution and showcase the work that has been achieved in (add country name) we kindly request that the Government of (add country name) makes a statement at the WHA meeting in May.

If we can be of any assistance, please contact (add country/PBL representative).

We look forward to the WHA meeting in May and continuing our work with your Department.

(Include names and logos of participating organisations)

Template 2 – use if your country hasn't co-sponsored the resolution

We sincerely request that the Government of (add Country name) considers co-sponsoring the resolution - *Integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable blindness and impaired vision*, which will set the agenda for eye health over the coming decade to 2030 globally and in (add country name).

We have been advised that to co-sponsor the resolution, an authorised government official will need to send a communication via email to the Australian Government directly, stating:

On behalf of the Government of (add country name), I hereby confirm (add country name) wishes to cosponsor the resolution on 'integrated people-centred eye care, including people with preventable vision impairment and blindness', on the agenda for the 73rd World Health Assembly being held 17-21 May in Geneva Switzerland.

Notifications to be sent via email to:

**Ms Madeleine HEYWARD, Australian Permanent Mission
Geneva Madeleine.Heyward@health.gov.au**

**Ms Leila Jordan, Australian Commonwealth Department of
Health Canberra - Leila.Jordan@health.gov.au**

To further support the resolution and to showcase the work that has been achieved in (add country name) we also kindly request that a statement is made at the WHA meeting in May.

If we can be of any assistance, please contact (add country/PBL representative).

We look forward to the WHA meeting in May and continuing our work with your Department.

(Include names and logos of participating organisations)



Universal Eye Health
www.iapb.org/

Find us on     

Cover photo by Andras D. Hajdu and Page 3 photo by Bruce Redman

IAPB Registered Charity No.: 110559. Company Limited by Guarantee no: 4620869. Registered in England and Wales • Designed by divacreative.com