*NB: Use letter head of your organization*

*Insert name of government body/institute/organization*

*Insert address line 1*

*Insert address line 2*

*Insert address line 3*

Insert date

Dear **<*insert name*>**

I write to you on behalf of a leading eye health organisations working to promote a world in which everyone, everywhere has access to the best possible eye care and where people living with vision impairment can achieve their full potential.

Improving eye health is a practical, cost-effective way to unlock human potential and is essential for achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Good vision has far-reaching benefits in the fields of health, wellbeing, education, work and will ultimately enrich the global economy.

Yet currently there are 1.1 billion people worldwide <insert national data> living with blindness and vision impairment because they do not have access to basic eye care services. The main causes of blindness and vision impairment are cataract and refractive error <*modify with your country context*> - <*…..N/% of total population*> are living with uncorrected refractive error and *<…N/% aged above 50 yrs*> have cataract. Associated conditions like Age related Macular Degenerations and Diabetic Retinopathy <*modify with the context*> are also increasing. Those left behind tend to be the poorest and most disadvantaged. The burden is disproportionate among women and girls, elderly, poor and vulnerable and people with disability.

The WHO World Report on Vision recommends making eye care an integral part of universal health coverage. We were pleased by the adoption of the World Health Assembly Resolution 73.4 in 2020 which requires all countries strengthen eye care within and across their health systems, and the adoption of two new global targets for eye care: increasing the effective refractive error coverage by 40 percentage point and the effective cataract surgical coverage by 30 percentage point by 2030.

If we continue with a business-as-usual approach, globally three times as many people will be blind in the year 2050 as now, and half the world will be living with short sightedness. This is not inevitable. Effective interventions are already available to address the entire range of needs associated with eye conditions and vision impairment across the life course. Some are among the most feasible and cost-effective of all health care interventions to implement.

Eye care needs to be mainstreamed into national health systems. Integrated People-centred Eye Care is the only way to meet the growing demand, the wider demographic and lifestyle changes, and the challenges ahead for eye health. Without it, the risk is that eye care becomes increasingly siloed, fragmented, and ineffective - and more people get left behind.

We would be very happy to discuss the implementation of Integrated People-centred Eye Care and the achievement of the two targets, including what support we might be able to provide, with you or a representative from your team.

Yours sincerely

<*add name*>

<*add title/position*>