



Secretary-General António Guterres
United Nations
UN Headquarters, S-3800
New York, NY 10017

January 30, 2023

Your Excellency,

Appointment of a Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Vision

We write as leaders of 153 civil society and private sector organizations, professional bodies, academic and research institutions, eye hospitals and the medical community, to call for the appointment of a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Vision.

The universal adoption of General Assembly Resolution 75/310 *'Vision for Everyone: accelerating action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals'* was a landmark moment for eye health. We were heartened to see this widespread global recognition of eye health and its potential to advance the Sustainable Development Agenda. While the passing of the resolution is significant, it marks the beginning of our journey, not the end. Now we turn to implementation and ensuring its promise is fulfilled.

At least 1.1 billion people experience sight loss because they do not have access to the eye health services they need. Vision impairment remains shaped by geographic, social, and economic circumstance. 90% of avoidable sight loss is experienced by people living in low- and middle-income countries and it remains the case that the poorest and most marginalised groups in countries of all income levels – including women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples, local communities, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants, are at greatest risk of losing their sight and being denied a sustainable, prosperous and equitable future. Resolution 75/310 made clear that no one should have to live with avoidable sight loss when solutions to address the problem exist.

Opportunities to spark generational-level change are rare. It requires the right global commitment, strong government and community support, a clear pathway forward, and the right leadership to guide the way. For vision, that moment has arrived. We strongly encourage you to appoint a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Vision to be the global champion and to support your office and the World Health Organization in achieving vision for everyone.

The Special Envoy on Vision will have the full support of the eye health sector behind them. With that support, they will help mobilise national action and political commitment, particularly in low- and middle-

income countries where the need is greatest; promote cross-sector partnerships; and help raise much-needed public awareness of vision and eye health, tackling issues such as the stigma that is often associated with sight loss.

Unaddressed vision impairment impedes a states' ability to eradicate poverty and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind, undermining the potential for individual and shared progress. However, avoidable sight loss is a global issue that is realistically within our grasp to solve by 2030. With a Special Envoy on Vision guiding our efforts, the eye health sector stands ready to support member states to accelerate national progress on eye health and fulfill their central, transformative commitment of the 2030 Agenda to "leave no one behind."

We would like to conclude by extending our profound gratitude for your leadership on vision and eye health and your steadfast recognition of its potential to advance the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Yours sincerely,

1. **International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness**, Peter Holland, CEO
2. **Fred Hollows Foundation**, Ian Wishart, CEO
3. **Sightsavers**, Caroline Harper, CEO
4. **HCP Cure Blindness**, K-T Overbey, CEO
5. **VisionSpring**, Ella Gudwin, CEO
6. **RestoringVision**, Pelin Munis, Ph.D., CEO
7. **Seva**, Kate Moynihan, CEO
8. **The Vision Council**, Ashley Mills, CEO
9. **CBM**, Peter Schießl and Rainer Brockhaus, CEO
10. **OneSight Essilor Luxottica Foundation**, Anurag Hans, Head of Mission, EssilorLuxottica & President, OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation
11. **World Blind Union**, Martine Abel-Williamson, President & Marc Workman, CEO
12. **World Council of Optometry**, Peter Hendicott, President
13. **Orbis International**, **Derek Hodkey**, President & CEO
14. **Light for the World**, Marion Lieser, CEO
15. **National Vision, Inc. – Duluth, GA**, Reade Fahs, CEO
16. **Novartis**, Christopher Junge, Global Business Associate Director, Avoidable Blindness
17. **Roche AG**, Nilesh Mehta, Franchise Head, Ophthalmology & Iris Van den Brande, Principal Global Patient Partnership Director Ophthalmology
18. **Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.**, Yoko Saiki, Global Head of Corporate Strategy
19. **Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists**, Mark Carmichael, CEO
20. **Champalimaud Foundation**, Leonor Belezza, President
21. **Agenzia Internazionale per la Prevenzione della Cecità – IAPB Italia**, Mario Barbuto, President
22. **Lions Clubs International Foundation**, KaSondra Byrd, Global Grants
23. **L'OCCITANE Foundation**, Clémence Fraudeau, Philanthropy Projects Leader
24. **International Federation on Aging**, Jane Barratt, Secretary-General
25. **Abesamis Eye Care and Contact Lens Center**, Carmen Abesamis-Dichoso, Optometrist
26. **Adaptica Srl**, Anna Moretti, Marketing Specialist
27. **Affiliated Eye Hospital of Nanchang University**, Baixiang Xiao, Doctor
28. **African Ophthalmology Council**, Dr. Ciku Mathenge, President

29. **Anglia Ruskin University**, Shahina Pardhan, Director
30. **Appasamy Associates Private Limited**, Arun Kumar Galli Lakshmi Narayanan, Executive Director
31. **AREWA LGA**, Hassan usman Jantullu, Ntd Coordinator
32. **Aspire Coronation Trust Foundation**, Osayi Alile, Chief Executive Officer
33. **Associação de Profissionais Licenciados de Optometria**, Raúl Sousa, President
34. **Asociacion Civil Divino Niño Jesus**, Alberto Lazo Legua, Executive Director
35. **Association of Nigerian Dispensing Opticians**, Daujir Mallim, Optician
36. **Association of Ophthalmic Nurses and Technicians (UK) Ltd**, Lynne Hadley, President AONT
37. **Aurolab**, Antony Renny, Manager of International Marketing
38. **Australian Ophthalmic Nurses Association**, Joanna McCulloch, President
39. **Beliz Council for the Visually Impaired**, Carla Ayres-Musa, Executive Director
40. **Bhadreswar Netradarpan Welfare Foundation**, Kanchan Chatterjee, Chairman
41. **Birsa Eye Hospital & Research Centre**, Priyanka Sinha, Chairman
42. **Bohemian Foundation**, Jacqueline Kozak Thiel, Global Programs Director
43. **B.P. Eye Foundation**, Sanjib Upadhyay, General Secretary
44. **Blantyre Institute for Community Outreach**, Khumbo Kalua, Director
45. **Canadian Association of Optometrists**, Dr. Harry Bohnsack, President & François Couillard, Chief Executive Officer
46. **Cartier Philanthropy**, Muriel Guigue, Head of Philanthropy
47. **CBM Global Disability Inclusion**, Danny Haddad, Inclusive Eye Health & NTDs Director
48. **Coach Carinna Consulting**, Sweden & Global, Carinna Krantz, Therapeutic Counsellor & Coach
49. **College of Ophthalmology of Eastern Central & Southern Africa**, Josiah Onyango, CEO
50. **Cooper Coleman LLC**, Johnny Cooper, Principal
51. **Council for the Blind Zimbabwe**, Aplos Nyathi, Director
52. **Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital**, Umang Mathur, Executive Director
53. **Dr. K. Zaman BNSB Eye Hospital**, Parag Sharifuzzaman,
54. **EHA Clinics**, Zayyad Farouq, Ophthalmologist
55. **European Eye Bank Association**, Philip Maier, President
56. **Eversight**, Collin Ross, Vice President Global Development
57. **Eye Bank Association of America**, Kevin Corcoran, CEO
58. **Eye Bank Association of Australia and New Zealand**, Luke Weinel, Chair
59. **Eye Care Foundation**, Anil Gorkhaly, Nepal Country Director
60. **Eye Health Aotearoa**, John Mulka, Chair
61. **EYElliance**, Liz Smith, Co-founder & CEO
62. **Eye Samaritans International**, Alan Richards, Chief Executive Officer
63. **Federal Medical Center Abuja**, Sewuese Bitto, Consultant Ophthalmologist
64. **Fundació Ulls del Món**, Anna Barba Giro, CEO
65. **Fundación Visión**, Rainald Duerksen, Founder
66. **German Society for Tissue Transplantation**, Martin Börgel, CEO
67. **Ghana Ophthalmic Nurses Society**, Mark Adjei-Gyamfi, Ophthalmic Nursing
68. **Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations**, Heather Machin, Chair
69. **Global Vision 2020**, J. Kevin White, Executive Director
70. **Good-Lite Company**, Donovan Livingston, Business Development Specialist
71. **Helen Keller International**, Kathy Spahn, President and CEO

72. **HelpMeSee Inc.**, Saro Jahani, President and CEO
73. **International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment**, Frances Gentle, President and Bhushan Punani, Vice President
74. **India Vision Institute**, Vinod Daniel, Chief Executive Officer
75. **Indian Institute of Public Health Hyderabad**, Venkata S Murthy Gudlavalleti, Director
76. **Indonesian Ophthalmologist Association West Java Indonesia**, Syumarti, Ophthalmologist
77. **Instituto Mexicano De Oftalmologia**, Laura Ramirez, MBA
78. **International Centre for Eye Health, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine**, Matthew Burton, Director
79. **International Eye Foundation**, John M Barrows, President and CEO
80. **International Ophthalmic Nurses Association**, Heather Machin, Global Lead
81. **Iris World Eye Hospital**, Braj Mohan Kumar, Director
82. **Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute & Hospital**, AKM Akhtaruzzaman, CEO
83. **John A. Moran Eye Center**, University of Utah, Lynn Ward, Executive Director, External Relations
84. **Kalam Institute of Health Technology**, Dr Jitendra Sharma, Executive Director and Ravi Vital Kandisa, COO
85. **KALGO LGA**, Muhtar Bande, LNTDS
86. **Kebbi State Ministry of Health**, State NTDs Team
87. **Keeler**, Andy Harbidge, Managing Director
88. **Khosla Surgical Industries**, Neeru Tarneja, Partner
89. **Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology**, Robert Geneau, Executive Director
90. **KJAER & KJAER A/S**, Bo Moeller Linnebjerg, Global Key Account Manager
91. **L V Prasad Eye Institute**, Rohit Khanna, Network Director
92. **LAICO – Aravind Eye Care System**, Thulasiraj Ravilla, Executive Director
93. **Latter-day Saint Charities**, Annie Curtis, Program Officer
94. **Layton Rahmatulla Benevolent Trust**, Najmus Saquib Hameed, Chairman
95. **Laxman Eye Hospital**, Thakur Dharmendra Singh, Director
96. **Lions Aid Zambia**, Nicholas Mutale, Executive Director
97. **Lions Eye Bank of Western Australia**, Lisa Buckland, Eye Bank Manager
98. **Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin**, Stacey Troha, Chief Executive Officer
99. **Lions Eye Donation Service**, Graeme Pollock, Director
100. **Lions Seva Hospital**, Pradip Kumar Roy, Chairman
101. **Live Well**, Lukundo Sinyangwe, Hub Manager
102. **Magrabi Foundation**, Mohammad Shalaby, Executive Director
103. **McDougall Communications**, Michael McDougall, President
104. **Mettapracharak Eye Hospital, MoPH, Thailand**, Dr. Warapat Wongsawad, Ophthalmologist
105. **Mission for Vision**, Elizabeth Kurian, CEO
106. **Moran Global Outreach**, Lori McCoy, Director
107. **NABP Eye Health Care Project Lesotho**, Moazziz Ali Khan, Project Director
108. **Nadi Al Bassar**, Ahmed Trabelsi, President Emeritus
109. **Nearsighted Globe**, Carol Marie Webster, Creative Director
110. **Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh**, Dr. Sailesh kumar Mishra, Executive Director
111. **Nepalese Association of Optometrists**, Dipak Kumar Sah, General Secretary
112. **NIDEK CO., LTD**, Yosuke Ozawa, Director and General Manager of International Div.

113. **Nigerian Ophthalmic Nurses Association**, Ibrahim Wambai Usman, National Chairman
114. **Nigerian Optometric Association**, Obinna Awiaka, President
115. **Noor Dubai**, Manal Taryam, CEO
116. **Norwegian Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted (NABP)**, Terje Iversen, Director International Development Cooperation
117. **Novartis Pharma AG**, Yatendra Sharma, Associate Director – Global Health Program
118. **Oertli Instrumente AG**, Thomas Huggler, GVL NGO
119. **Operation Eyesight Universal**, Kashinath Bhoosnurmath, President & CEO
120. **Ophthalmology Foundation**, David Pyott, President
121. **Optomed Plc**, Arto Peura, Key Account Manager
122. **Optometry Council of India**, Lakshmi Shinde, CEO
123. **Optometry Giving Sight**, Lois Schoenbrun, Executive Director
124. **Organisation pour la prévention de la cécité**, Serge Resnikoff, President & Céline Nogues, Executive Director
125. **Peek Vision**, Andrew Bastawrous, Founder & CEO
126. **PlenOptika, Inc.**, Shivang Dave, CEO & Co-Founder
127. **Precht TechSolutions**, Jakob Precht, Owner
128. **Prevent Blindness**, Jeff Todd, President & CEO
129. **RCOPT**, Navapol Kanchanaranya, Ophthalmologist
130. **REACH; EHA Clinics**, Tobi Amokeodo
131. **Rishti Suraksha Kendra**, Lalan Singh Mahto, Co-founder
132. **Sanjeev Netralaya**, Prasenjit Sarkar, Administrator
133. **School of Optometry- Université de Montréal**, Langis Michaud, Dean
134. **Sight For All**, James Muecke, Chair
135. **SightLife**, Josie Noah, Chief Global Officer
136. **Singapore National Eye Centre**, Tin Aung, CEO
137. **Sri Sai Lions Netralaya**, Nitesh Kumar Tiwari, Senior Manager
138. **The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology**, Iris M. Rush, Executive Director
139. **The Hong Kong Society for the Blind**, Maureen Tam, Chief Executive
140. **The Royal college of Ophthalmology of Thailand**, Manchima Makornwattana, Associate Professor in Ophthalmology and Wanicha Chuenkongkaew, Professor
141. **University Tübingen ZEISS Vision Science Lab**, Siegfried Wahl, Director
142. **Urjavya Foundation**, Kaushik Bhakat, Founder
143. **Vasovi Eye Clinic**, Ezhie Eyime
144. **VISION 2020 Sri Lanka**, Dr. Champa Banagala, Consultant Ophthalmologist
145. **VISION 2020 USA**, Mitchell Brinks, President of the Board of Directors, MD, MPH
146. **VISION 2020: The Right to Sight-INDIA** Phanindra Nukella, CEO
147. **Vision Aid Overseas**, Nicola Chevis, CEO
148. **Vision Theatre Eye Clinic, Benin City, Nigeria**, Osamudiamen Ogiemudia
149. **Warby Parker**, Neil Blumenthal & Dave Gilboa, Co-Founder and Co-CEO
150. **World Union of Tissue Banking Associations Inc.**, Martin Börgel, General Secretary
151. **WSPOS**, Danielle Maher & Maria Crowley, Managers
152. **Yonsei University College of Medicine**, Sangchul Yoon, Professor
153. **ZURU LGA**, Bamaiyi Danbauchi & Adamu Abdullahi, NTDs

