

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

30 January, 2023

Excellency,

**RE: Call for the Appointment of a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Vision**

We write as 63 Member States of the United Nations in the hope that you will recognize, like us, the benefit of an appointment of a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Vision to serve as a global champion for vision and eye health and provide a focal point for multi-sector cooperation.

More than 2.2 billion people, almost one-third of humanity, are living with vision impairment. At least 1.1 billion people suffer the consequences of sight loss which is easily preventable; they simply don't have access to basic eye care services. This costs the global economy \$411bn in lost productivity each year. 90% of avoidable sight loss is experienced by people in low- and middle-income countries and those left behind tend to be the poorest and most marginalized 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.

Improving the world's eye health will have far reaching benefits in the fields of health, wellbeing, education, work and ultimately the global economy. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 75/310 '*Vision for Everyone: accelerating action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*' recognized the importance of vision as a foundation for sustainable development. The international community is now committed to reaching the 1.1 billion people who do not have access to the eye health services that they need by 2030. The United Nations resolved that its development system take the necessary steps to coordinate the implementation of the resolution.

The appointment of a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Vision will support your office and the World Health Organization in mobilizing national action and political commitment on vision and eye health, particularly in low- and middle-income countries where the need is most prevalent. He or she would promote cross-sector partnerships; building synergies with other development priorities and working with the relevant UN entities as well as with academia, research institutions, the scientific community, civil society and the private sector, in order to improve access to eye care services for all. In addition, the Special Envoy would help raise public awareness of eye health, tackling issues such as the stigma associated with eye health.

This is an opportunity to ensure all people around the world have equitable access to eye health and to tackle a development issue which **can be solved this decade**. We strongly believe that the appointment of a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Vision would accelerate the international community's implementation of resolution 75/310 once and for all.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal with you and your staff at your earliest convenience.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda  
to the United Nations



Bangladesh

H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Muhith  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to  
the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Fergal Tomas Mythen  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of the  
Principality of Andorra  
to the United Nations

H.E. Mrs. Elisenda Vives Balmaña Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Principality of Andorra to the  
United Nations



Permanent Mission of the  
**Argentine Republic**  
United Nations

H.E. Ms. María del Carmen Squeff  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations



**Australian Government**

H.E. Mr. Mitch Fifield  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations



Permanent Mission  
of Austria to the  
United Nations in New York

H.E. Mr. Alexander Marschik  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Stan Oduma Smith  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of the  
Bahamas to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Jamal Fares Alrowaiei  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. François Jackman  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Carlos Fuller  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Ronaldo Costa Filho  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Júlio César Freire De Moraes  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cabo Verde to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Zhang Jun  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Ivan Šimonović  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Mohamed Siad Doualeh  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic  
to the United Nations New York

H.E. Mr. José Alfonso Blanco Conde  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the  
United Nations



Permanent Mission  
of Ecuador to the  
United Nations

H.E. Mr. Hernán Pérez Loose  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Osama Mahmoud Abdelkhalek Mahmoud  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to  
the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Satyendra Prasad  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Fiji to the  
United Nations



H.E. Mr. David Bakradze  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations



Permanent Mission  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the United Nations  
New York

H.E. Ms. Antje Leendertse  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of Ghana to  
the United Nations  
New York

H.E. Mr. Harold Adlai Agyeman  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations



H.E. Mrs. Maria Theofili  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations



H.E. Mrs. Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Co-operative Republic of  
Guyana to the United Nations



H.E. Mrs. Ruchira Kamboj  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

H.E. Mr. Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to  
the United Nations



Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - New York

H.E. Mr. Maurizio Massari  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Brian Christopher Manley Wallace  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations



H.E. Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the  
United Nations



Permanent Mission of Mongolia  
to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Enkhbold Vorshilov  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations





H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the  
United Nations



H.E. Mr. Pedro Comissário Afonso  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to  
the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations



H.E. Ms. Carolyn Schwalger  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Jaime Hermida Castillo  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad Bande  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations



**Mohamed Al Hassan**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the  
United Nations



H.E. Mr. Munir Akram  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations



Permanent Mission  
of the Republic of Poland  
to the United Nations  
in New York

H.E. Mr. Krzysztof Maria Szczerski  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the  
United Nations



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal  
to the United Nations*

H.E. Ms. Ana Paula Baptista Grade Zacarias  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Cornel Feruță  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Romania to the United  
Nations



H.E. Mr. Vassily A. Nebenzia  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the  
United Nations



H.E. Ms. Nerys Nakia Dockery  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis to the  
United Nations



H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the  
Grenadines to the United Nations



H.E. Ms. Menissa Rambally  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Pa'olelei Luteru  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Independent State of Samoa  
to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Senegal to the  
United Nations



H.E. Mr. Ian Dereck Joseph Madeleine  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Seychelles to  
the United Nations



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE  
UNITED NATIONS | NEW YORK

H.E. Mr. Burhan Gafoor  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Singapore to the  
United Nations



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
**PERMANENT MISSION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

H.E. Mr. Boštjan Malovrh  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the  
United Nations



H.E. Mr. Peter Mohan Maithri Pieris  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Democratic Socialist  
Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations



H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa  
to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Sunil Algram Sitaldin  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Suriname to  
the United Nations



**Permanent Mission of Sweden  
to the United Nations, New York**

H.E. Ms. Anna Karin Eneström  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations





H.E. Mr. Suriya Chindawongse  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations



MISSION PERMANENTE DU TOGO

H.E. Mr. Koffi Akakpo  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Viliami Va'inga Tōnē  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Feridun Hadi Sinirlioğlu  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations



United Kingdom  
Mission to the  
United Nations

H.E. Dame Barbara Woodward, DCMG, OBE  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Dang Hoang Giang  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations