

International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

Meeting:

152nd EB Individual Statements

Agenda Item:

5. Universal health Coverage

- Reorienting health systems to primary health care as a resilient foundation for UHC and preparations for a HLM of the UNGA on UHC (EB152/5)

Statement:

IAPB is an overarching alliance for global eye health, representing over 175 organisations worldwide.

In 2019, governments committed to strengthen efforts to address eye health conditions as part of universal health coverage.

Yet, 2.2 billion people, including 450 million children, are living with vision loss. Around 1.1 billion people suffer the consequences as they are beyond the access to basic eye care services. This number is expected to rise to 1.8 billion by 2050.

Good eye health is directly linked to good physical health, mental health, and well-being.

Through a new UN Political Declaration on universal health coverage, we call on member states to:

- Accelerate efforts to ensure eye care services are included in national health funding packages
- Ensure to provide accessible and affordable eye care services for everyone everywhere &
- Implement integrated people centred eye care in health systems

Supported by:

1. Sightsavers/ Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind
2. The Fred Hollows Foundations
3. L'Organisation pour la Prévention de la Cécité (OPC)
4. World Blind Union
5. World Council of Optometry