

## Towards Universal Eye Health: a Global Action Plan 2014-2019 Why it Matters and What Next?

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013, 09:00-10:30**

**Ambassador Room, Hilton Metropole – Brighton**

The World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2013 adopted a new global action plan - *Towards universal eye health: a global action plan 2014-2019*. Importantly, the WHA agreed on a hard target of a 25% reduction in avoidable visual impairment by 2019, and on several indicators to monitor progress. The global action plan includes strategies and actions that member states, WHO and international partners can implement to address avoidable blindness and visual impairment.

This session will cover the key elements of the Global Action Plan (GAP) and what is new and different; the role played by advocacy, and what the GAP aims to achieve.

The GAP will only be as good as its implementation at regional and national levels. The session will focus on what is required for successful implementation, what work is already underway and what is planned, the challenges faced, and what all partners (member states, WHO and international partners) can contribute to ensure success.

### **Chair:**

**Mr Johannes Trimmel**, IAPB Vice President and Director for International Programme Support and Policies at the Confederation Light for the World

### **Speakers:**

**Dr Ivo Kocur, Prevention and Blindness and Deafness, WHO:** Global action plan Implementation, major challenges and support needs; What partners (WHO, member states and NGOs) can contribute, and how we can monitor progress through indicators and meet the 25% reduction target?

**Ms Lesley Podesta, Director of Global Programs, The Fred Hollows Foundation:** Successful global action plan advocacy and its impact; the new global target and indicators - key challenges including better data collection at regional and national level and what NGOs can contribute to improvement in this area.

**Dr Van Lansingh, Regional Coordinator, Latin America, IAPB:** Implementation of the GAP in Latin America, Progress and building capacity for better data collection and meeting challenges. Plans for, and lessons to date from workshops and trials in the Latin American region.

**Ms Zoe Gray, Advocacy Manager, IAPB:** Opportunities to promote implementation of the Global Action Plan: the World Sight Day (WSD) report.