

First United Nations General Assembly resolution

Vision for Everyone: Accelerating action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

The Member States of the United Nations have come together to agree the first General Assembly resolution on vision. The resolution explicitly links eye health to over half of the Sustainable Development Goals for the first time; and calls for action by governments, businesses, civil society, the UN and its institutions.

What is the global commitment?

To reach the 1.1 billion people who have a vision impairment and currently do not have access to eye care services they need by 2030.

What are the key actions?

Governments



Adopt a 'whole-of-government' approach to eye health and link vision to other development priorities

Donors + Financial Institutions



Increase funding for eye health, especially for developing countries, and to build an international campaign on eye health

**United Nations Institutions
(UNICEF, UN Women, ILO, UNDP)**



Promote and include eye health in the programme of work to achieve the SDGs

**United Nations Secretary-General
Antonio Guterres**



Coordinate and follow-up on the implementation of the resolution and to report back to the UN General Assembly

**Private sector, Civil society,
Academic + Scientific community**



Work with national governments to achieve 'Vision for Everyone'

How will we ensure progress?

The resolution provides two mechanisms for monitoring global progress on the resolution:

Targets

The United Nations Inter-Agency Expert Group will consider including two new targets on eye health in the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals in 2025.

Reporting

Countries will need to report on their progress on eye health as part of their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) presented at the High-Level Political Forum (the main reporting mechanism for the SDGs).

Why eye health matters to the SDGs?



No poverty

90% of vision loss is in low- and middle-income countries, with the poor and extreme poor the furthest left behind. Vision loss costs the global economy \$411 billion every year in lost productivity alone.



Decent work and economic growth

Providing glasses can increase workplace productivity by 22%. Cataract surgery can increase household per capita expenditure by 88%.



Zero hunger

Eye care can increase household income and reduce hunger: 46% of households moved up an income bracket following cataract surgery.



Reduced inequalities

Women, children, older people, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, local communities, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants are most affected by poor vision. 73% of people with vision loss are over the age of 50.



Good health and well-being

Poor eye health increases the risk of mortality up to 2.6 times.



Sustainable cities and communities

Unoperated cataract can increase the chance of a motor vehicle accident by 2.5 times.



Quality education

91 million children have a vision impairment but do not have access to the eye care services they need. Glasses can reduce the odds of failing a class by 44%. Children with vision loss are 2-5 times less likely to be in formal education in low- and middle-income countries.



Climate action

The health sector, including eye care, is responsible for 4.4% of all greenhouse gas emissions and has other impacts on the environment. Climate change may also increase the prevalence of eye conditions and disrupt eye care delivery.



Increased gender equity

55% of people with vision loss are women and girls.



Partnership

Vision for everyone cannot be achieved without partnership.

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