



## ADDRESSING DIABETES RELATED AGENDA AT WHA75

25 May 2022

**This is a statement made by IAPB at the 75<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (22-28 May 2022) on Agenda Item 14.1: Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases; Grouping 1.1.2 (b) Draft recommendations to strengthen and monitor diabetes responses within national noncommunicable disease programmes, including potential targets**

Honourable Chair, Distinguished delegates,

IAPB, the alliance for global eye health, supports the adoption of targets to strengthen and monitor diabetes responses.

Globally, over 160 million people with diabetes have Diabetic Retinopathy, the most common microvascular complication of diabetes. 1 million are irreversibly blind and 47 million of them require urgent treatment.

DR is the fifth leading cause of blindness, and the only one that has increased globally between 1990 and 2020. DR vision loss can be prevented through screening and treatment. All people with diabetes must be screened regularly.

There is a pressing need to integrate DR control strategies in diabetes care. This should start by including a DR target within the diabetes targets.

Thank you