



## **ADDRESSING EYE TISSUE TRANSPLANTATION AT 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 27.2: Human organ and tissue transplantation**

Honourable Chair, Distinguished delegates,

IAPB, the alliance for global eye health including eye banks and transplant facilities, supports the WHO's report on 'Human organ and tissue transplantation' and Global Action Frameworks for Organs and Tissues.

Globally, 12.7 million people await a sight restoring corneal transplant. Of those, 80% reside in LMICs and 53% are without access to local eye bank donation and transplant services. Today there is only one corneal donation available for every 70 patients.

While the WHA 63.22 has progressed tissue donation and allocation services, there remains slow and inequitable growth and development across the field. The donation and transplant services are without sufficient resources to develop effective donation programs, build their processing-banking services and allocate tissue equitably at present.

The report and frameworks offer essential steps for addressing tissue donation and allocation worldwide which is crucial to meet the global goal of vision for everyone.

Thank you