



Secretary-General António Guterres
United Nations
UN Headquarters, S-3800
New York, NY 10017

January 27, 2023

Your Excellency,

Appointment of a United Nations Special Envoy on Vision

In recognition of your steadfast leadership and advocacy for action on the 2030 Agenda, we write in the hope that you will appoint a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Vision to galvanize national action and enhance political commitment towards the implementation of General Assembly resolution 75/310 'Vision for Everyone: accelerating action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.'

The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) provides the overarching alliance for the eye care sector and is widely recognized as the global leader in eye health advocacy, policy and strategy. With more than 2.2 billion people, almost one-third of humanity, living with vision impairment, we strive for a world in which no-one experiences unnecessary or preventable sight loss, eye care services are accessible, inclusive, and affordable to everyone, and where a more equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future can be built.

The Special Envoy on Vision has the full support of IAPB. We have more than 180 member organisations working in over 100 countries drawn from NGOs, civil society, professional bodies, hospitals, research centers, as well as businesses and the corporate sector. A Special Envoy acting as our global champion will strengthen our ability as a sector to elevate eye health as an intersectional issue which is critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Funding support for the office of a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Vision will be secured from civil society groups for an initial period of three years. This office will not seek any UN regular budget support. Any potential extension of this office, after its initial three years, would be evaluated based on need and effectiveness, and the office's continued ability to maintain funding support without reliance on the UN regular budget. Voluntary contributions from UN Member States would of course be welcome.

Your landmark report, Our Common Agenda, tasks us with forging a new global consensus on what our future should look like and how we can secure it. Ensuring everyone has access to affordable eye health services is a global development challenge which *can* be solved in the next decade. We strongly believe that the appointment of a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Vision will help ensure our ambition becomes a reality by 2030.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Peter Holland in black ink.

Peter Holland
IAPB CEO

Handwritten signature of Caroline Casey in black ink.

Caroline Casey
IAPB President

Handwritten signature of Babar Qureshi in black ink.

Babar Qureshi
IAPB Vice President and Board Chair