

January 24, 2025

**International Agency for the
Prevention of Blindness
IAPB**

Dear Members of the IAPB,

As a Mexican ophthalmologist and the CEO of the Asociación Para Evitar la Ceguera en México (APEC), I am deeply committed to advancing eye health not only in Mexico but across Latin America. It is with this passion and dedication that I seek to take on the role of Regional Chair of Latin America for the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), contributing to the ambitious targets outlined in the 2030 InSight. I believe my background and experience uniquely position me to engage with IAPB and help drive the impactful work needed to make meaningful progress in our region.

Having led APEC for several years, I have been at the forefront of initiatives to combat blindness and vision impairment, working directly with governments, healthcare providers, and local communities. This experience has given me the insight needed to understand the multifaceted challenges facing eye health in Latin America, ranging from limited access to care in rural areas to insufficient awareness of eye diseases. I am driven to change these realities, and I see the IAPB as the ideal partner in this mission.

As Regional Chair, I will work closely with IAPB to ensure effective political engagement at national levels, especially as we prepare for the Global Summit on Eye Health in 2026. This summit is a pivotal moment for advancing global eye health goals, and it will be crucial to have strong, coordinated political support and a clear strategy for its execution. I am committed to engaging national leaders and policymakers to ensure that eye health remains a priority, that commitments are made, and that progress is monitored. Through advocacy and dialogue, we can drive meaningful policy change.

Another priority for me is facilitating strategic discussions and forums with IAPB members and other stakeholders. This collaborative approach is key to developing evidence-based, prioritized programs and policies that can be implemented across the region. By encouraging regional



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planning and fostering collaboration, we can ensure that we take a unified approach to tackling eye health challenges in Latin America.

Finally, I will focus on identifying new members and stakeholders who share our vision for 2030 InSight. Expanding our network of allies will strengthen our collective efforts and provide the resources needed to achieve the ambitious goals set for 2030.

In conclusion, I am fully committed to this important work, and I am excited about the opportunity to collaborate with IAPB and regional partners to make a lasting impact on eye health across Latin America.

Sincerely,

Dr. Valeria Sánchez Huerta, MD

CEO Asociación para Evitar la Ceguera en México