

Program of the Technical and Scientific Congress of the 11th World Blindness Summit

The following program presents the sessions scheduled for the Technical-Scientific Congress of the World Blindness Summit, which will take place in São Paulo on September 2 and 3, 2025.

In the coming days, more information will be released about other activities such as youth and women's forums, opening ceremony, **World Blindness Summit Connection activities** that will take place on September 4 and 5, **presentation of academic research in poster format**, list of **exhibitors at the technology fair**, among other attractions.

Please note that all session details, including speakers and times, are subject to change. We encourage attendees to check back regularly and stay flexible, as adjustments can be made to ensure a smooth and successful event.

This program covers only the Scientific Technical Congress of the World Meeting on Visual Impairment; the schedule for the WBU General Assembly, which will take place on September 4 and 5, is contained in a separate program.

September 1, 2025 Schedule

WOMEN'S FORUM – 13:00 – 17:00

Venue: Helen Keller Auditorium

YOUTH FORUM – 13:00 – 17:00.

Venue: Louis Braille Auditorium

OPENING CEREMONY – 18:00 – 20:00.

Table with government authorities and organizers of the 11th World Meeting on Visual Impairment.

Meta Company Presentation

Cultural presentation

Venue: Dorina Nowill Auditorium

September 2, 2025 Schedule

PLENARY SESSION 1: 09:00 - 10:30

Session Number: P1

Venue: Dorina Nowill Auditorium

Session Title: 200 Years of the Braille System – From Slate to Display

Session Moderator: Yaw Ofori Debra

Speakers:

- **Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame, Ghana; Martine Abel-Williamson, New Zealand** - Launching a Braille Literacy Campaign – More Braille, More Empowerment.
- **Regina Fátima Caldeira de Oliveira, Brazil** - BRAILLE, YES, because reading is essential!
- **Frances Gentle, Australia** - Braille in the Digital Age: Integration of Tactile Literacy and Artificial Intelligence and Assistive Technologies
- **Márcia Noronha de Mello, Brazil** - The Braille System and the Advancement of Technologies as a Tool for Inclusion

Cultural presentation: 10:30

PLENARY SESSION 2: 11:00 - 12:30

Session Number: P2

Venue: Dorina Nowill Auditorium

Session Title: Humanitarian Emergencies – Ensuring No One Is Left Behind

Session Moderator: Diane Bergeron

Speakers:

- **Diana Stentoft, Denmark**
- **Praveena Sukhraj-Ely, South Africa** - Humanitarian emergencies and environmental disasters: the impact of climate change on visually impaired people and their inclusion in climate actions, mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- **Olesia Perepechenko, Ukraine**
- **Katherine Holland, United States**

CONCURRENT SESSIONS - GROUP A: 14:30 - 16:00

Session Number: 1A

Venue: Louis Braille Auditorium

Session Title: Disability Advocacy – Turning Global Commitments into Local Realities

Session Moderator: Tytti Matsinen

Speakers:

- **Susan Laventure, United States** - Capacity Building for Advocacy: Policy Education for Teachers and Parents in the Caribbean.
- **María Soledad Gelvez, Argentina** – Advocacy and Alliance Building: An Opportunity to Strengthen Representativeness and the Defense of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Times of Crisis.
- **Nantanoot Suwannawut, Kanit Pamanee, and Ekkamol Phaetthayanan, Thailand** - ASEAN Community Blind Forum (ACBF): A Mechanism for Localizing Global Disability Advocacy.
- **Beyan Kota, Liberia**

Session Number: 2A

Venue: Adilson Ventura Auditorium

Session Title: Cultural Accessibility as a Right for All

Session Moderator: Sarah Barreto Marques Ribeiro

Speakers:

- **Ednilson Sacramento, Brazil** - The Cultural Experience of the Visually Impaired Through Accessibility Resources.
- **João Batista Maia da Silva, Brazil** – The look beyond vision: the inclusive lens in the Paralympics.
- **Jung-Suk (Js) Ryu, Canada** – Beyond Access: Art as a Rights Advocacy Movement.

Session Number: 3A

Venue: Helen Keller Auditorium

Session Title: Maximizing Inclusion for People with Low Vision

Session Moderator: Professor Dr. Elisabete Gaspareto

Speakers:

- **Lindalva Carvalho de Moraes, Brazil** - Epidemiology of visual impairment and prevention actions
- **Eliana Cunha, Brazil** - Low Vision: Different Perspectives.

- **Karina Eiko Yamashita, Brazil** - Visual loss in the first years of life: impact on typical visual development and developmental disorders.
- **Mariana Lopes Da Silva, Brazil** - Inclusion Under the Gaze: The Schooling of Low Vision.

Session Number: 4A

Venue: Dorina Nowill Auditorium

Session Title: Employment for All – Innovation and Diversity in the Global Labour Market (Multi-Regional Challenges of Labour Inclusion)

Session Moderator: Jorge Luis Cala Ledesma

Speakers:

- **Praveena Sukhraj-Ely, South Africa** - Employability of people with visual impairments: "Strategies to expand employment opportunities, equity and inclusion"
- **Stefan Tromel, Switzerland** - Current trends on the employment of persons with disabilities.
- **Hans Jørgen Wiberg, Denmark** - Increasing employment rates of blind people through public/private partnerships - a case study in progress.
- **Pilar Carbajo, Spain** - Access to Public Sector Employment: Principles and Challenges in Administrative Practice.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS - GROUP B: 16:30 - 18:00

Session Number: 1B

Venue: Louis Braille Auditorium

Session Title: Blindness, Intersectionality and Diversity

Session Moderator: Danielle Aparecida Magela de Freitas Silva

Speakers:

- **Ugwuaneke Calister Chinyere, Nigeria** – Gender equity and inclusion.
- **Walleria Suri, Brazil** – The Gender Identity of People with Disabilities.
- **Jarbas C. C. M. Trindade, Brazil** - Necropolitics and Ableism: Necrobodies Between Racialization and Disability.
- **Akhil S. Paul, India** – Visual impairment, intersectionality and diversity.

Session Number: 2B

Venue: Adilson Ventura Auditorium

Session Title: Designing Cities for Everyone

Session Moderator: Thomas Bryan

Speakers:

- **Merve Sezgin, Germany** – The Right to Be Warned: The Incidence of Blind People's Organizations on UN Vehicle Safety Regulations – A Global Perspective.
- **Cristal del Rocío Gutiérrez López, Mexico** - What does it take to build an accessible city?
- **Octavio Nicolás Carreño Morán, Brazil** - Fare 0 and Urban Mobility: People with Disabilities and the Fundamental Right to Transport.
- **Pierre Marragou and Karine garnier, France**

Session Number: 3B

Venue: Helen Keller Auditorium

Session Title: Health and Visual Impairment

Session Moderator: Cinthia Pereira Freitas

Speakers:

- **Lucas Gil Nadolskis, Brazil, and Dr. Michael Beyeler, United States** - The Vision of a Blind Scientist: Journey, Challenges, and the Future of Visual Prostheses.
- **Maria Aparecida Onuki Haddad, Brazil** - Technological advances in the ophthalmic approach to vision preservation or visual recovery
- **Marcos Wilson, Brazil** - Visual Function and Visual Functionality.
- **Rodrigo Hideharo Sato, Brazil** - Visual impairment and aging
- **Manjula Rath, India** - Human Rights and the Dignity of the Visually Impaired Elderly: What Is the Role of the Family, Society and the State?

Session Number: 4B

Venue: Dorina Nowill Auditorium

Session Title: Successful Experiences and Pathways for Change – Employment Inclusion in Practice

Session Moderator: Marcelo Panico

Speakers:

- **Tuan Rushdi, Sri Lanka** - From training to transformation: a practice-based model of employability for people with disabilities.
- **Chiranjeevi Paudel, Nepal** – Inclusive innovation: Empowering blind people through entrepreneurship and technology in Nepal.
- **Cristal Vargas, Mexico** – Once Foundation's Agora Program of Solidarity with Blind People in Latin America

September 3, 2025 Schedule

CONCURRENT SESSIONS - GROUP C: 09:00 - 10:30

Session Number: 1C

Venue: Louis Braille Auditorium

Session Title: Nothing About Us Without Us – Active Participation of People with Disabilities

Session Moderator: Moisés Bauer Luiz

Speakers:

- **Emma Bennison MBA GAICD, Australia** – Why Should Blind People Lead Their Organizations?
- **Helena Rita Pereira, Brazil** – Our Predecessors of "Nothing About Us Without Us".
- **Hector Miguel Ulloa Asencio, Chile** - We will work to leave no one behind.
- **Edivaldo da Silva Ramos, Brazil** - Social participation, a path to citizenship: the visually impaired person in the context of social control.

Session Number: 2C

Venue: Adilson Ventura Auditorium

Session Title: Beyond Barriers – Tech and Innovation

Session Moderator: Robert Christian Mortimer

Speakers:

- **Jacklyn Doig-Keys, United States** – Ray Ban Meta glasses and our work with and for the blind and low vision community.
- **Thibaut de Martimprey and Stéphane Gaillard, France** - The Louis Braille campus: an innovation center for blind & low vision.
- **Bernardo Barlach, Brazil** - How to use Google's assistive technologies in everyday life.
- **Albert Argo, United States** - MADE For us! The Past, Present & Future Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Global Blind and Visually Impaired Community.
- **Jorge Enrique Muñoz Morales, Colombia** – Artificial intelligence and screen readers: an innovative complement.

Session Number: 3C

Venue: Helen Keller Auditorium

Session Title: Orientation and Mobility – Pathways to Autonomy and Independence

Session Moderator: Silvia Andreoci

Speakers:

- **Artur Mendonça, Brazil** – Overview of Orientation and Mobility today.
- **Eduardo José Drezza, Brazil** - Orientation and mobility for children: when to start?

Session Number: 4C

Venue: Dorina Nowill Auditorium

Session Title: Transforming Systems – Opening Doors in Education

Session Moderator: Frances Gentle

Speakers:

- **Aqib Rehman, India** – The Right to Inclusive Education in the Light of Article 24 of the CRPD: An Autoethnographic Analysis of Higher Education in India.
- **Ana Lucia Pascali Rago, Brazil** - Perkins Model Program Approach - Experience in Brazil.
- **Silvana Lucena Dos Santos Drago, Brazil** - School for All: From Intention to Intentionality – Management, Challenges and Possibilities in the Construction of the Inclusive School
- **Dr. Vimal Dengla, India** - Digital Literacy and Inclusion through Amazon Alexa Devices for Learning and Education

Cultural presentation: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Main Hall .

CONCURRENT SESSIONS - GROUP D: 11:00 - 12:30

Session Number: 1D

Venue: Louis Braille Auditorium

Session Title: Diverse Realities – Blindness and Additional Disabilities

Session Moderator: Charles Mossop

Speakers:

- **Joyce Guerra, Brazil** – Intersections Between ADHD and Visual Impairment - Practical Alternatives
- **Delia Góngora, Argentina** – Post-Graduation in Teaching Students with Deaf-Blindness: Intersectoral Experience as a Starting Point to Combat Inequality.
- **Cecília Vasconcellos, Brazil** – Autism Spectrum Disorder and Visual Impairment
- **Dr. Maria Aparecida Cormedi, Brazil** – Visual impairment beyond the eyes: cortical and cerebral alterations and rare syndromes, from evaluation to intervention.

Session Number: 2D

Venue: Adilson Ventura Auditorium

Session Title: Audio Description – Bringing the Visual World to Life Through Words

Session Moderator: Dr. Francisco Lima

Speakers:

- **Felipe Vieira Monteiro, Brazil** – Audio description for musical events.
- **Livia Maria Villela de Mello Motta, Brazil** - 20 years of audio description in Brazil – advances and achievements
- **Joel Snyder, PhD, USA** – Audio description, a global phenomenon.
- **Mara Rubian Matteussi Garcia Kortelt and Luana Tillmann, Brazil** – Cultural Street Parades: Perceptions Beyond the Application of Audio Description Guidelines

Session Number: 3D

Local: Helen Keller

Session Title: The Power of sport – Celebrating Paralympic Spirit

Session Moderator: Fernando Riaño

Speakers:

- **Théo Liffaud, France** - More Than a Game: Blind Football for Empowerment and Inclusion.
- **Jorge Sidnei De Andrade, Brazil** - Takkyu Volley as an Integrated Tool for Inclusion, Rehabilitation and Well-Being

Session Number: 4D

Venue: Dorina Nowill Auditorium

Session Title: From Access to Success – Supporting every learner

Session Moderator: Diana Stentoft

Speakers:

- **Emily H. White, Phd, Australia** - The expertise of teachers and users of Braille as sources of knowledge to achieve effective Braille literacy.
- **Ms. Regina Zilevu, Ghana** – **Promoting** Inclusive Education and Early Intervention for Visually Impaired Students in Ghana: The Role of Alternative Access Modalities.
- **Ntiranyibagira Daniel, Burundi** - Inclusive education and early intervention.
- **Nepal Association of the Blind, Nepal** - Education of Blind and Visually Impaired Children in Nepal: Current Status, Advocacy Achievements, and Future Directions.

SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS - GROUP E: 14:30 - 16:00

Session Number: 1E

Venue: Louis Braille Auditorium

Session Title: Everyone on the Same Page – Strategies for Implementing and Enforcing the Marrakesh Treaty

Session Moderator: Penny Hartin

Speakers:

- **Pablo Lecuona, Argentina** – Implementing the Marrakech Treaty for Spanish-speaking readers: the practical experience of the Tiflolibros Library and the online exchange.
- **Michele Woods and Mohammad Alhabbal** - Making the Promise of WIPO's Marrakesh Treaty a Reality: Strategies for Supporting WIPO Member States in Joining and Implementing the Treaty
- **Richard Orme, United Kingdom**

Session Number: 2E

Venue: Adilson Ventura Auditorium

Session Title: Digital Access for All – Creating Inclusive Information Spaces

Session Moderator: Simone Freire

Speakers:

- **Marc Workman, Canada** - From Global Commitments to Local Change: Using the Global Digital Compact as an Advocacy Tool
- **Flavio Correia, Brazil** - Brazilian Digital Accessibility Standards - Success Stories for the World
- **James Boreham, Australia** – NVDA, A Global and Resilient Movement: Community-Driven Access to Digital Inclusion.
- **Mariana Cristina Gonçalves Pinheiro, Brazil** - Much More Than a Consumer Relationship, a Question of Citizenship: The Civil Liability of Streaming Platforms in the Face of the Absence of Accessibility Resources

Session Number: 3E

Venue: Helen Keller Auditorium

Session Title: Advancing Tactile Reading and Empowerment

Session Moderator: Santosh Kumar Rungta

Speakers:

- **Anne Lancaster, United States** - Building the Braille Road of the Future: The Monarch and the Braille Revolution.
- **Dadi Abera Reta, Ethiopia** - Braille literacy.

Session Number: 4E

Venue: Dorina Nowill Auditorium

Session Title: Growing up Without Limits – Blindness in Childhood and Adolescence

Session Moderator: Eliana Maria Ormelezi

Speakers:

- **Beto Pereira and Artur de Mari, Brazil** - The participation and protagonism of blind and low-vision children and adolescents in organizations and instances of social participation.
- **Marilda Moraes Garcia Bruno, Brazil** - Early Intervention: Moment of Interaction and Communication.

PLENARY SESSION 3: 16:30 - 18:00

Session Number: P3

Venue: Dorina Nowill Auditorium

Session Title: The Future of the Global Blindness Movement

Session Moderator: Martine Abel-Williamson

Speakers:

- **Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame, Gana**
- **Ana Peláez Narváez, Spain**
- **Rosario Galarza, Peru**
- **Hans Jørgen Wiberg, Denmark**

Self-Managed Activities – WBS Connections

Spaces for Dialogue and Leadership at the World Blindness Summit

During September 4 and 5, while the World Blind Union Assembly takes place, the XI World Blindness Summit will host WBS Connections, self-managed activities that invite participants to engage in spaces of dialogue, knowledge sharing, and citizenship. These meetings, led by leaders, experts, representative entities, and especially by people with visual impairments themselves, will address strategic topics, fostering interactive experiences, the drafting of manifestos, and concrete proposals.

CBDV Forum (September 4 and 5) – Hellen Keller Auditorium

- **September 4 – 13:00 – 15:00** - Parasport in Motion: Struggles, Achievements and Challenges
- **September 4 – 15:30 – 17:00** - Governance, Participation and Transparent Management

- **September 5 – 08:30 – 10:00** - From Grassroots to Podium: A Path of Inclusion, Achievements, Development and Appreciation of Potential
- **September 5 – 11: 00 – 12:30** - In Pursuit of Excellence: The Anatomy of Winning a Medal

Full Program

DAY 4 (Thursday)

Hellen Keller Auditorium

- **9:00 – 10:30 | Meta – Wearables and AI: Unlocking Human Potential**
Target audience: All attendees
- **11:00 – 12:30 | State Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities of São Paulo – Actions and Interactions for Socio-Educational Inclusion**
Target audience: People with visual impairments; professionals and managers of support institutions; researchers and educators; health professionals; those interested in inclusion and accessibility

Louis Braille Auditorium

- **9:00 – 10:30 | Dorina Foundation – Literacy with LEGO® Braille Bricks: Playfulness and Inclusion**
Target audience: Educators, inclusive education professionals, those interested in accessible teaching practices
- **11:00 – 12:30 | Dorina Foundation – Early Prevention and Play as a Development Tool**
Target audience: Health, education, and child rehabilitation professionals and students
- **14:30 – 16:00 | Dorina Foundation – Music Therapy as a Tool in Visual Rehabilitation**
Target audience: Health, rehabilitation, social inclusion professionals and students, those interested in music therapy

Adilson Ventura Auditorium

- **9:00 – 10:30 | Brazilian Council of Ophthalmology (CBO) – Actions for Visual Prevention and Rehabilitation**
Target audience: Ophthalmologists and people with visual impairments
- **11:00 – 12:30 | Google – How to Use Google's Assistive Technologies in Everyday Life**
Target audience: Assistive technology users and support professionals
- **14:30 – 16:00 | Laramara – Discussion Circle: Orientation and Mobility (OM) in Today's World**
Target audience: OM professionals, specialized teachers, people with visual impairments and families

José Álvares de Azevedo Space

- **9:00 – 12:30 / 14:30 – 16:00 | Accessible RPG – Accessible RPG Workshop**
Target audience: People with visual impairments, RPG enthusiasts, educators, interested professionals

Limited seats available — [Register at the link.](#)

Brazil – Spain Space

- **9:00 – 10:30 / 14:30 – 16:00 | Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Exchange of Ideas Spain-Brazil: Our Languages as Bridges for Inclusion**
Target audience: Spanish and Portuguese speakers, those interested in inclusion and accessibility
- **11:00 – 12:30 | Ágora Brasil – You in the Selection: Main Tools and Success Stories**
Target audience: Blind and low-vision people, companies, recruiters, employability professionals

Laramara Space

- **9:30 – 10:30 | Laramara – Discussion Circle: School Inclusion**
Target audience: Teachers, education professionals, students with visual impairments, families
- **9:00 – 12:00 / 14:00 – 16:00 | Laramara – Quick Massage**
Target audience: All attendees
- **10:30 – 11:00 | Laramara – Circle Dance Activity**
Target audience: All attendees
- **9:00 – 16:00 | Laramara – Exhibition of Paintings and Clay Pieces**
Target audience: All attendees
- **14:30 – 16:00 | Laramara – Games and Activities with Adapted Toys**
Target audience: Children and families
- **9:00 – 16:00 | Laramara – Exhibition of Materials from the Braille Music Notation Workshop**
Target audience: Those interested in music and accessibility
- **9:00 – 16:00 | Laramara – Exhibition of Low-Cost Assistive Technology Resources**
Target audience: All attendees

DAY 5 (Friday)

Hellen Keller Auditorium

- **14:30 – 16:00 | World Meeting – Business Roundtable**
Target audience: Exhibitors, public managers, users, political leaders, researchers

Louis Braille Auditorium

- **9:00 – 10:30 | Dorina Foundation – Takkyu Volley as a Tool for Visual Rehabilitation**
Target audience: Physical education professionals, adapted sports professionals, visual rehabilitation specialists, inclusive sports enthusiasts
- **11:00 – 12:30 | National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities (MDHC) – Guide Dogs in Brazil: Policy of Access and Inclusion**
Target audience: Guide dog users, blind and low-vision people, families, trainers, animal rights advocates

Adilson Ventura Auditorium

- **9:00 – 10:30 | Women of Brazil Group – Chess Ladies: Adapted Chess Workshop**
Target audience: People with visual impairments, persons with disabilities in general, and the non-disabled public
- **11:00 – 12:30 | Women of Brazil Group / Angel Diverse Talents – Photo Session and Free Talent Representation**
Target audience: People with or without disabilities, of all identities and expressions

EXHIBITORS – WORLD BLINDNESS SUMMIT

Ágora

The Ágora Program is a professional inclusion initiative for people with visual impairments (blind and low vision), created by FOAL (ONCE Foundation for Solidarity with Blind People in Latin America).

Associação Fernanda Bianchini

Founded in 1995, Associação Fernanda Bianchini pioneered teaching classical ballet to people with visual impairments, with its Blind Ballet Company gaining worldwide recognition.

Campus Louis Braille

Campus Louis Braille is a startup incubator for blind people, focused on developing inclusive technological and educational solutions.

Artha France

Artha France is a French startup that develops innovative technologies for blind and visually impaired people. Its wearable device combines sensors, artificial intelligence, and tactile feedback to enhance autonomy and safety. With a strong focus on social impact, the company promotes greater accessibility and inclusion in everyday life.

Dot Inc

Dot Inc created the Dot Pad X, the first tactile display that combines real-time graphics with multi-line braille, revolutionizing digital access for blind and low-vision users.

Fundação Dorina Nowill para Cegos

The Dorina Nowill Foundation for the Blind is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inclusion, producing accessible books and materials in braille, audio, digital, and other formats.

Google

Google is a multinational technology company focused on internet-related services and products, including its popular search engine, online advertising, and cloud computing.

Handi Exceller

Handi Exceller develops inclusive and sustainable tools, bringing together accessible innovation and collective intelligence.

Index Braille

Index Braille has been a world leader in braille embossers since 1984, combining innovation, accessibility, and sustainability in inclusive solutions.

Laramara

Laramara is a nonprofit organization that promotes the full development, autonomy, and social inclusion of people with visual impairments.

Madrassa An-Noor for the Blind

A nonprofit educational institution that fosters inclusion by providing accessible Islamic resources and development programs for blind and visually impaired people.

Meta

Meta is a multinational technology and innovation company, best known for social media and messaging platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Threads, and WhatsApp, among other products and services.

NaviLens

NaviLens develops accessible signage solutions that make cities and environments more inclusive for blind and low-vision people.

Nippon Telesoft

Nippon Telesoft Co., Ltd. develops innovative products and software for people with visual impairments, including high-quality braille embossers for schools and public institutions.

ONCB – National Organization of the Blind of Brazil

ONCB is an NGO representing over 100 entities and 7 million blind and low-vision people across

Brazil, working nationwide to defend rights and promote inclusion.

SEDPcD – São Paulo State Secretariat for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The São Paulo State Secretariat for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities designs and implements public policies, ensuring access to goods, products, and services through partnerships with municipalities and other state departments.

SMPED – São Paulo Municipal Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities

The São Paulo Municipal Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities develops public policies that promote inclusion, empowerment, and the rights of people with disabilities, strengthening accessibility and support networks in the city.

SNDPD – National Secretariat for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The SNDPD is part of Brazil's Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship, responsible for coordinating public policies and promoting rights, inclusion, and dignity for people with disabilities nationwide.

Solar Grove

Solar Grove designs durable, solar-powered devices that make essential information accessible to people who cannot read, with applications in education, health, safety, and humanitarian aid.

3 Corações

3 Corações operates in the coffee sector, offering products and experiences that promote well-being, quality, and innovation. The company values entrepreneurship and sustainability, focusing on industry growth and community development.