# 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

### Greetings and Brief Remarks: 11:00 – 11:10

Venue: Dorina Nowill Auditorium

* **Susana Sumelzo** - Secretary of State for Ibero-America, the Caribbean and Spanish in the World.

### PLENARY SESSION 2: 11:10 - 12:10

Session Number: P2

Venue: Dorina Nowill Auditorium

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

Session Moderator: Diane Bergeron

Speakers:

* **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 – topic to be defined.
* **Katherine Holland, United States -** topic to be defined.

### WBU Pre-Session: 12:10 – 12:30

Venue: Dorina Nowill Auditorium

Session Moderator: Martine Abel-Williamson

* Report of the Nominations Committee – Bárbara Martín Muñoz, Chair
* Formal declaration of the close of nominations
* Any urgent procedural business as required

### 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 -** topic to be defined.

#### 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 Advocacy for Disability Rights.
* **Márcia Beatriz dos Santos Bamberg, Brazil -** Museum for all: accessibility experiences at the Porto Alegre Museum Joaquim Felizardo.

#### Session Number: 3A

Venue: Helen Keller Auditorium

Session Title: Maximizing Inclusion for People with Low Vision

Session Moderator: Professor Dr. Elisabete Gaspareto

Speakers:

* 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 -** topic to be defined.

#### 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
* **Aikeo Koomanivong, Lao PDR -** Trained but Unemployed: The Struggle for Inclusive Employment among New blind Graduates in Lao PDR.

## 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?
* **Vanessa Zardini, Brazil -** Haptic Social Communication as an Intervention Strategy for the Orientation and Mobility of People with Deafblindness: Challenges and Perspectives.

#### 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.
* **Lívia 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
* **Additional speakers to be confirmed.**

#### 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.
* **Khomraj Sharma, 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 -** Topic to be defined
* **Additional Speakers to Be Confirmed**

#### 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.
* **Sheyla Macedo de Sousa, Brazil -** The trajectory of deafblind students to learn the Braille system through the intentional structuring project of the AEE for the deafblind of the CEEDV in Brasília.
* **Marilena Assis, Brazil -** The Body as a Pedagogical Tool.

#### 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