**Membership Report**

**Quadrennial 2022-2025**

Activities reported during the 2022 to 2025 quadrennial term.

**Membership Committee.**

The membership committee is composed of the secretary general (chair), the treasurer and the six regional presidents. The committee meets regularly to discuss and make recommendations on membership issues to either the officers or the executive committee.

**WBU membership**

As of 1 September 2025, WBU membership is as follows:

Total number of members = 242

* National members, 172 (214 organizations)
  + Including 5 special members
* Associate members, 8
* International members, 11
* Honorary Life members, 31
  + *Honorary Life members ‘in memoriam’, 20*

**New membership.** Applications for membership were received during the term; the following were accepted:

National membership: The Solomon Islands and Kiribati (AP)

Associate membership: The Gaza Forum for Visual Impairment

**Membership reinstatements**. Several inactive members requested to reinstate their membership. Most of them were new organizations, as previous ones were inactive for several years or dissolved, have a different mandate, or lost their legal status in their countries. The following country members reactivated their membership:

* ***ABU***: Uzbekistan, Kuwait
* ***AFUB***: Burundi, Congo DRC, Libya
* ***AP***: Singapore, Korea, Samoa
* ***ULAC***: Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Mexico, Costa Rica

**Membership disaffiliation**: some members informed us that due to changes in mandate in their organizations, they would rescind their membership with WBU:

* *International*: Hadley Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired
* *Associate*: National Braille Press
* *National*: Uruguay, Dominican Republic (one of the two national organizations, Organizacion Dominicana de Ciegos).

**\***United Arab Emirates requested putting their membership on hold for two years due to organizational restructuring.

**Subsidies** **granted** -a number of countries experiencing financial hardships requested subsidies, some applied for continuation of subsidies and others for additional subsidies. Subsidies were granted.

**Payment of fees** –some countries requested to pay their fees for the next term and/or outstanding balances in person before the general assembly, due to banking restrictions in their respective countries and/or due to high bank charges. The latter requests were accepted.

\*Some fees still to be collected; fees reminders process continues.

**Delegate population review**. The review was conducted in 2024, according to the World Bank index population. 15 countries from three regions (ABU, AFUB, NAC) increased their number of delegates according to their current population -to December 31, 2023. Burkina Faso, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Zambia, and Syria increased from 2 to 4, Afghanistan, Iraq, Algeria, Sudan, Uganda, and Canada, increased from 4 to 6, Congo DRC, Egypt, and Ethiopia increased from 6 to 8. Ukraine (EBU) decreased their number of delegates from 6 to 4.

* Some country members requested to pay the additional delegates fees in 2025, others opted to begin the next term.

**Current classification or membership fees review.**

The phase 1 of the review was conducted as per the Japan Resolution, GA 2021. The review was based on up-to-date indices to (UN-HDI and the World Bank) last report on July 2024 to the end of the year 2023. At the last Officers meeting in May 2025, it was decided that a country’s classification should persist for at least three years before WBU officially reclassifies that country into the new WBU membership fee category. A review of the last three years has now been conducted, and invoices based on the new categorization will begin being issued in 2026.

Respectfully submitted.

Ianina Rodriguez

Office and Project Administrator, WBU