October 7-11

The 7th AFRICA FORUM on Visual Impairment 2019

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through innovation, access and lifelong learning

Africa Forum Council

The Africa Forum Council (AFC) works to expand the capacity of organizations of and for the blind and visually impaired in Africa and advocates for improved policies and equal participation. For organizations, the AFC strengthens the operational capacity of agencies providing and/or advocating for services to people who are blind or partially sighted through training, technical support, consultancy and mentoring to partner organizations.

The Africa Forum has progressively grown to become the largest gathering related to blindness on the African continent. The Forum is a platform for information and experience sharing on service models and trends within the blindness sector, including opportunities for learning as well as building networks and partnerships. Through the diversity of its participants and the rich content of its presentations, the Africa Forum has become an international hub for scholars, decision-makers, service providers and service users to meet and exchange information, ideas, opinions and experiences on blindness-related issues.

The Africa Forum Council is proud to welcome you to Addis Ababa and to the 7th Africa Forum on Visual Impairment.

(Logo: African Union of the Blind, Union Africaine des Avegles)

(Logo: CNIB Foundation)

(Logo: Dansk Blindesamfund)

(Logo: Ethiopian National Association of the Blind)

(Logo: Finnish Federation of the Visually Impaired)
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WELCOME

Welcome from the Africa Forum Council

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Africa Forum Council, welcome to the 7th Africa Forum—five days to learn, share and connect with peers in our common work to improve the lives and opportunities of people in Africa who are blind or visually impaired. Expect to meet an amazing gathering of individuals in every room. All that’s necessary is turning to the left or right to strike up a conversation, make a new connection, or learn about an innovation or opportunity. Indeed, ‘opportunity’ is a word we can expect to hear a lot over the course of the next five days.

The conference sessions cover a wide range of topics, from attaining the UN Sustainable Development Goals to implementing inclusive education in Burkina Faso. We will hear from experts on these topics and more, from the development of human resources for effective inclusive education, to universal design in learning, and the preservation of braille. And because we know networking is also important, all session materials will be made available after the Forum.

The Forum is the only conference of its kind on the African continent, and Perkins has been privileged to be involved since its inception. The Forum is part of our global commitment to building a more inclusive and welcoming world for children and young adults who are blind or visually impaired. But Perkins is only one member of the Africa Forum Council. Throughout the Forum and in the days following, the Council will seek your input to help scope and scale the
opportunities and challenges we all face in achieving education for all in Africa, including those who are blind and visually impaired. Thank you in advance for sharing your expertise; we look forward to hearing from you.

And, most of all, thank you for your commitment to this community and for being with us for the 7th Africa Forum. Let’s seize every opportunity to learn from and engage with each other as we all work together to create a more welcoming and inclusive world.

Warmly,

W. David Power
President and CEO
Perkins School for the Blind

Katherine Holland
Executive Director
Perkins International
Perkins School for the Blind

Welcome from the Ethiopian National Association of the Blind

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Land of Origins! On behalf of ENAB, we’re thrilled to have you and honored to host the 7th Africa Forum on Visual Impairment here in Addis Ababa, Africa’s diplomatic capital.

Let us take this opportunity to reflect on why we’re here. We’ve come together, in solidarity, to speak for the voiceless, share our collective knowledge and promote the rights of all people with visual impairments, including those with additional disabilities.

During our time together this week, we’ll accomplish much to be proud of. We can’t wait to get started and hope you’ll leave this unforgettable forum inspired anew to continue championing the rights of all people with visual impairment!

Sincerely,
Wesen Alemu
President, Ethiopian National Association of the Blind

Welcome from the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment

Dear Friends and Colleagues,
The International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) is pleased to join the African Union and our Africa Council colleagues in sponsoring and contributing to the 7th Africa Forum on Visual Impairment. The Forum’s focus on the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal 4 offers an excellent opportunity to bring together service providers, researchers, professionals and individuals for mutual sharing, learning and increased understanding.

We acknowledge the efforts of the organising committees in creating an informative program that showcases current research, services and programs across the continent. The program includes presentations and workshops that explore the provision of equality in education through innovation, access and lifelong learning. It also includes a dedicated Education Day hosted by the ICEVI Africa Regional Committee.

In collaboration with our partner members, ICEVI advocates for recognition of the rights and capabilities of every child with visual impairment. We advocate for the provision of disability-specific training programs to provide teachers with the required knowledge and skills to modify curriculum, pedagogy, assessments, and learning environments, ensuring no child with visual impairment is left behind. We hope the program stimulates debate and action on visual impairment issues and promotes inclusive, responsive educational communities for Africans who are vision impaired, including those with additional disabilities or deafblindness.

We look forward to the warm-hearted hospitality of our Ethiopian hosts and the exchange of ideas and fellowship over the five days of the Forum.

Dr. Frances Gentle
President, International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment

Welcome from the World Blind Union

Dear Attendees,

The World Blind Union proudly welcomes you to the 2019 Africa Forum on Visual Impairment, one of the premiere conferences for blindness activists and leaders from the continent and around the world.

This year’s forum will focus on achieving the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals through innovation, access and lifelong learning, as well as what that means for the millions of people who are blind or partially sighted on the continent.
The Africa Forum has grown into the largest gathering related to blindness on the African continent. We are delighted to share such a productive and engaging five-day program, where participants will exchange information and experiences on trends within the blindness sector and their effect in Africa. The event will also provide a great opportunity for attendees to share the latest insights, build networks and partnerships for improved service provision for blind and partially sighted individuals, and discuss the future of disability advocacy in Africa.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to our members of the African Union of the Blind (AFUB) and Perkins School for the Blind’s International division, in collaboration with other partners, for organising this remarkable event.

We thank you for your participation and wish you a successful and informative time in Ethiopia!

With warmest regards,

Dr. Fredric K Schroeder

REFERENCES

Acronyms

ABEA  Action pour le bien être et l'épanouissement des Aveugles
AFC       Africa Forum Council
AFUB      African Union of the Blind
AI        Artificial intelligence
AU        African Union
ART       Anti-viral treatment
CBM       Christian Blind Mission
CBR       Community-based rehabilitation
CRPD      Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO       Civil society organizations
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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
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<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>UK Department for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPO</td>
<td>Disabled Peoples Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPOD</td>
<td>Disabled Peoples Organizations - Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECD</td>
<td>Early childhood development</td>
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<td>ENAB</td>
<td>Ethiopian National Association of the Blind</td>
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<td>GOL-MOE</td>
<td>Government of Liberia - Ministry of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICEVI</td>
<td>International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and communications technology</td>
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<td>IDP</td>
<td>Internally displaced person</td>
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<td>LNLVIP</td>
<td>Lesotho National League of Visually Impaired Persons</td>
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<td>LOFOB</td>
<td>The League of Friends of the Blind, South Africa</td>
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<td>NAB</td>
<td>Nigerian Association of the Blind</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-government organization</td>
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<td>OSIEA</td>
<td>Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa</td>
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<td>PDF</td>
<td>Portable document format</td>
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<td>RNIB</td>
<td>Royal National Institute of Blind People</td>
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<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td>Secure digital</td>
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<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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Session Tracks

To help attendees get the most out of the Africa Forum, sessions have been grouped into tracks by topic or thematic area: learning, teaching, health and wellbeing, legal and policy frameworks, and technology. Each track has a descriptive icon which is included in the schedule for your convenience.

You may focus on a particular track, or pick and choose sessions from more than one track. Some sessions apply to more than one track, and are listed more than once.

The two spotlight tracks (ICEVI and AFUB) are meetings of those organizations as described in the schedule.

**LEARNING**

| Inclusive Education in an Emergency Situation: Case Study of Kaloyebei Settlement Scheme Located in Northern Part of Kenya |
| Building a Youth Agenda Within the African Blindness Sector |
| Status of Inclusive Pedagogies in Teaching Children with Visual Impairment at Primary Schools of Ethiopia |
| Foundations for Mainstreaming in South Africa: Four Cases of the LOFOB Early Childhood Development (ECD) Programme Promoting Social Inclusion |
| Bona Ubuntu ECD Programme: Providing Quality Early Education and Holistic Family Support in the Visually Impaired Child’s Early Years |
| Child Protection and Disability |
| Effect of Specific Emotions on Academic Performance of Adolescent Learners with Visual Impairment in Secondary Schools in Kenya |
| Grade Twelve National Examination Assessments Practices for Learners with Visual Impairments in Selected Schools in Zambia’s Mwense and Lusaka Districts |
| Low Vision at School and University: What Options Do You Have When Glasses Aren’t Enough? |
| Basic Challenges of Inclusive Education Supporting Resource Centers in Relation to Blind Students |
| The ‘Actuality And Tactuality’ of Including a Student with Deafblindness in Higher Education Institution in a Developing Country |
| Facilitating Deafblind Children’s Access to Education through a Community-Based Education Model in Uganda: Lessons and Challenges |
| Getting Started with Visionary Learning |

**TEACHING**

| Education for Children with Visual Impairment in Sub-Saharan Africa: Obstacles and Opportunities |
| Inclusive Education in Burkina Faso: The Accessible Book Consortium Project on Access to Textbooks by Blind Students (French) |
| Special Education in Benin: Current and Future Perspectives (French) |
| GOL-MOE and DPOD Inclusive Education |
| Ensuring Access to Instructional Materials for Learners with Visual Impairment |
| Synergistic Solutions to Disability Challenges of Leadership: Lesson from Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan (Amharic) |
| Improving the Support System for Young People With Low Vision In Uganda |
| Can Optical Low Vision Devices Improve Reading Outcomes? Results from a Kenyan Study |
| Targeted Low Vision Awareness Creation and Interventions Enhance Learner Livelihood |
| Techniques in Teaching Mathematics to Learners with Visual Impairment |
| Education of the Blind in Africa (French) |
| Factors Influencing the Low Inclusion of Visual Handicapped Learners in Togo |
| Challenges Faced by Women and Girls with Disabilities in Accessing Education: An Experience of Discrimination and Capacitation in Moving Towards Inclusion |
| How You Can Bring a Sports Camp to Your Students? |
| Determinants of Best Self-Concept Enhancement as Per Programme for Learners Who Are Visually Impaired in Kenya |
| Student Empowerment: An Innovative Strategy for Breaking Down Barriers and Maximizing the Potential of Students with Visual Impairments |
| Communication in Malaw’s Education System Remains a Barrier to Deafblind Learners |
| Towards Better Policy and Practice in the Teaching of Mathematics to Learners with Visual Impairment in Africa |
| Innovative Techniques for in the Classroom |
| Introducing the New TorchIt TakeNote |
| Accessible Book Production |
| Ingredients of Effective Teacher Preparation: ICEVI Teacher Training Gateway |

**LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS**

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<td>The Policy Issues of Hiring Workers with Disabilities: Survey of International Experiences (Amharic)</td>
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<td>The Two Blind Heroes Of Ethiopia (Amharic)</td>
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<td>Self-Employment in the Rural Settings: The Situation of Visually Impaired Persons in Ghana</td>
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<td>Collaboration and Coordination: The Principles Underlying the Achievement of the SDGs</td>
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<td>The Strategy to Meet SDGS in the Interest of the Blind In Africa: Avoiding the Other Mistake</td>
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<td>Inclusiveness in the Vocational Education Policy and Legal Frameworks of Kenya and Tanzania (Amharic)</td>
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**HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

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| Assessing the Inclusion of IDPs with Disabilities in the Boko Haram Insurgency |
| The 60-year Journey of ENAB |
| Challenges Facing Blind People Living with HIV/AIDS in Adherence to ART |
The Stance of Blind and Visually Impaired Persons in the 90-90-90 Fighting Strategy Against HIV/AIDS

Educating Blind and Visually Impaired Adolescents on Sexual Reproductive Health

The Dilemma of Eye Care Services in Mainstream Schools: Experiences from Uganda’s Mubende District

Eye Health Program in Ghana: Contribution of Partners

Accelerating Progress to SGD 3 on Good Health & Well Being: A Case of SMART Cards to Persons with Blindness and Vision Impairment in Africa

Prevention of Avoidable Blindness and Visual Impairment through Treatment, Intervention and Access to Vision Rehabilitation

Bona uBuntu ECD Programme: Providing Quality Early Education and Holistic Family Support in the Visually Impaired Child’s Early Years

Child Protection And Disability

Improving the Support System for Young People with Low Vision In Uganda

Fathers’ Involvement in the Development and Education of Their Children with Visual Impairment and Deafblindness

Bona Ubuntu Bags: Breaking the Barriers of Blindness for Children through Parental Empowerment

Youngsters with Visual Impairments Access to Lifelong Learning through Family Support Experiences

Parental Influence on Education

Teaching Habilitation and Rehabilitation Skills to Blind and Vision Impaired Adults, Children and Young People in Sub-Saharan Africa

TECHNOLOGY

Session

Introducing Visionary Learning through Technology

Getting the Most Out of JAWS in Your Daily Life
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**SPOTLIGHT: AFUB Sessions**

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<td>AFUB Women’s Assembly</td>
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<td>AFUB Central Regional Assembly</td>
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<td>AFUB Southern Regional Assembly</td>
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<td>AFUB Northern Regional Assembly</td>
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<td>AFUB Eastern Regional Assembly</td>
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Keynote Speakers

AMBASSADOR KWESI QUARTEY
Deputy Chairperson of the Secretariat Arm of the African Union
(Photo: Ambassador Kwesi Quartey)

Keynote Speaker, Monday, October 7

Ambassador Kwesi Quartey is the Deputy Chairperson of the Africa Union Commission, a 55-member state organization working to create an integrated, prosperous, democratic and peaceful Africa. Elected in 2017, his strategic focus is centered on ensuring operational functionality across the union’s different offices and agencies and believes strongly that a “numerate and literate” Africa is key to realizing its core mission. He brings to the job extensive diplomatic experience. An honors graduate from the Faculty of Law at the University of Ghana, he also has more than 35 years experience as a lawyer.

YETNEBERSH NIGUSSIE
Director for Advocacy and Human Rights at Light for the World
(Photo: Yetnebersh Nigussie)

Keynote Speaker, Tuesday, October 8

Yetnebersh Nigussie is a human rights lawyer dedicated to improving living conditions within marginalized communities. Currently, she serves as the Director for Advocacy and Human Rights at Light for the World, an international NGO, and was recently elected Deputy Commissioner for the National Reconciliation Commission. Additionally, she runs a private, inclusive kindergarten and elementary school in Addis Ababa, which serves more than 400 students with and without disabilities. Throughout her career, she has earned a Master’s Degree in Social Work, an Executive Master’s Degree in Peace and Security in Africa, co-founded the Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development and chaired the Ethiopian National Association of the Blind Women’s Wing. In 2015, she was voted the most influential woman in Africa in the welfare field.
DR. PRAVEENA SUKHRAJ-ELY
Senior State Advocate of the High Court of South Africa
(Photo: Dr. Praveena Sukhraj-Ely)

Keynote Speaker, Wednesday, October 9

Dr. Praveena Sukhraj-Ely is a Senior State Advocate of the High Court of South Africa. As Directorate of Persons with Disabilities at the National Department of Justice, she is responsible for managing the areas of domestic violence, and persons with disabilities and gender affairs. She is the First Vice President of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) and represents ICEVI on the Board of the Accessible Books Consortium established by WIPO based in Geneva. She sits as the Chairperson of the Disability Chamber of the National ICT Forum and a Member of the Board of the Christoffel Blinden Mission.

KEVIN CAREY
Executive Committee Member of ICEVI and Chair of the World Blind Union Technology Committee
(Photo: Kevin Carey)

Keynote Speaker, Thursday, October 10

Kevin Carey is a Member of the Executive Committee of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment as well as the Chair of both the World Blind Union Technology Committee and the World Braille Council. From 2009 to 2017, he served as Chair of the Royal National Institute of Blind People. For nearly 20 years before that, Carey ran his own IT and e-Inclusion consultancy firm, which focused on computing, telecommunications and broadcasting accessibility. A former editor of the British Journal of Visual Impairment, he has also led educational and innovation efforts. Namely, he has developed teaching strategies for visually impaired children throughout Africa and established the first computer-driven braille production system outside the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

PROF. TIRUSEW TEFERRA KIDANEMARIAM
University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
(Photo: Professor Tirusew Teferra Kidanemariam)

Keynote Speaker, Friday, October 11
Tirussew Teferra is professor and department chair of Special Needs Education in the College of Education at Addis Ababa University. He serves as the Executive Director of the Institute of Education, Health and Development, as overall project leader of the Ethiopian Education and Training Roadmap Development team (2017-30) and team leader of its Pre-primary and Primary Educational Panel. He has authored several articles and book chapters, and has engaged in multiple international research collaborations. His work has garnered several awards, including a Senior Fulbright Research Award of the Council for International Exchange Scholars Program (2003-2004), UNESCO’s Jan Amos Comenius Medal (2008), and the Outstanding Faculty Award from Addis Ababa University (2013).

**Exhibitor List**

Braillo Norway  
Dot Incorporated  
Edit Microsystems  
eKitabu  
Humanware  
Index Braille  
Kilimanjaro Blind Trust  
Perkins International  
Special Education Needs: Tigray  
Torchit  
Vispero Freedom Scientific  
Zychem Ltd.

**Presenter List**

James Amoo Addy  
Eye Specialist  
Ghana Health Service

Angela Affran  
Regional Director  
Perkins International

Elizabeth Agbettor  
Project Manager  
Ghana Blind Union

Wesen Alemu  
President  
ENAB
Eveline Angomi  
Vice President and Chairperson of AFUB  
Women’s Committee  
African Union of the Blind

Peter Anomah-Kordieh  
Programme Officer  
African Union of the Blind

Grace Antwi-Atsu  
Global Advocacy Advisor  
Sightsavers

Nafisa Baboo  
Senior Director Inclusive Education  
Light for the World

Armand Bam  
Executive Director  
The League of Friends of the Blind (LOFOB)

Danlami Basharu  
CRPD Committee Member  
CRPD Committee

Tilahun Bedada  
Inclusive Health Project Officer  
Ethiopian Center of Disability and Development (ECDD)

Wendmeneh Beyene  
Haramaya University

Hunny Bhagchandani  
Founder  
Torchit Electronics Pvt Ltd.

Dr. Satya P. Bindra  
UNCSD Rio +20 Focal Point

Jan Bloem  
International Sales Manager  
Vispero
Anthony Boateng
Deputy Director General - Management Services
Ghana Education Service

Julia Tebogo Bothasitse
Coordinator Botswana
Thuto Le Pono Boswa Foundation

Loice Bunei
Customer Retention Agent
Standard Chartered Bank

Esther Grace Candiru
Coordinator Uganda and head VI Unit
Kyambogo University

Kevin Carey
Chair
Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB)

Alfred Chepkwony
Curriculum Overseer
Ministry of Education

Robyn Clark
ECD Facilitator
Nkosinathi Foundation of and for Blind
and Partially sighted People

Julie de Barbeyrac
Program Coordinator
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Ben de Souza
Canon Collins Scholar
Rhodes University

Daniel Dogbe
Senior Lecturer
University of Education

Nqobani Dube
Lead Consultant
Inclusive Humanity Institute
Leslie Edmonds
Special Education Teacher
Sonoma County Office of Education

Dr. Lawrence Eron
Dean of the Faculty of Special Needs and Rehabilitation
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Sabine Fijn van Draat
Executive Secretary
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Mary Anne Funk
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Yetmwerk Getachew
Ministry of Education

James Gichuhi
Industry Manager
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Moses Chowdari Gorrepati
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Belay Hagos Hailu
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Asmanou Bouraima Ibrahim
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Adamu Ishiyaku
National President
Nigeria Association of the Blind

Anita Julka
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National Council of Educational Research
and Training

Samuel Kabue
Executive Secretary
UN Committee on the Rights with Disabilities

Alex Kaluyu
Coordinator
Kilimanjaro Blind Trust

Emias Kibreab
Professor
Addis Ababa University

John Kimani
Handicap International

Ayassou Komivi
Regional Representative
ICEVI Africa

Molemisi Kono
Visual Eyes Afrika

Beyan Kota
Executive Director
Liberia Christian Association of the Blind

Ezekiel Kumwenda
Executive Director
Malawi Union of the Blind

Binasali Kyebagadha
IT Instructor
Kyambogo University

Dr. Kibaya Laibuta
Managing Partner
University of Nairobi

Susan LaVenture
Executive Director
International Association of Parents of the
Visually Impaired

Victor Locoro
Lecturer
Kyambogo University

Therese Ntoy Loutekila
Union Nationale Des Aveugle Et Malvoyant
Du Congo

Doaa Mabrouk
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Baseera Foundation for the Visually Impaired

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Sisay Mammo
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Mary Maragia
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Kilimani Integrated Primary School

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David Merriman
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Were Michael
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Dr. Homiyar Mobedji
Disability Expert
Bookshare

Dr. Homiyar Mobedji
Disability Expert
Disability Expert

Deenadayalan Moodley
Independent Chair
University of South Africa

Ruth Ndunge Musyoki
Officer
The Salvation Army

Celine Mutisya
Head of Educational Resources
Kenya Institute for the Blind

Scovia Nansuwa
Consultant
Kymbogo University

Yetnebersh Nigussie
Director for Advocacy and Human Rights
Light for the World

Daniel Odoch
Head of the Special Needs Unit
Oysters & Pearls

Dickens Ogony
Instructor
The Kenya National Examinations Council
Martin Okiyo  
Global Advocacy Advisor  
Sightsavers

David Okon  
Immediate Past President  
Nigeria Association of the Blind

Bazil Onen  
Oysters & Pearls

Christophe Oule  
President  
UN-ABPAM

Natasha Parkins-Maliko  
SASL interpreter  
University of the Witwatersrand

Richard Rukwaro  
Low Vision Therapist  
Kenya Institute of Special Education

Bruno Savaria  
Branch Manager and Access Technology Specialist  
Sensory Solutions

Jeremiah Badu Shayar  
Program Coordinator  
Visio International

Ben Souza  
Professor  
Rhodes University

Diana Stentoft  
Associate Professor  
Danish Association of the Blind

Dr. Praveena Sukhraj-Ely  
Senior State Advocate
ICEVI

Anteneh Taye
Engineer

Jeremane Teele
President of the Executive Board
Lesotho National League of Visually Impaired Persons (LNLVIP)

Gebre Teshome
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Ethiopian National Association of the Blind

Sian Tesni
Senior Advisor
The Overseas Disability Charity

Helen Tilahun
Administrative Assistant
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Odette Niyisabwa Tumwesigye
Kyambogo University

Niels van Weele
International Sales Manager
INDEX Braille

Petra Wijen
International Program Manager
Royal Dutch Visio

Kassahun Yibeltal
Senior Operation Researcher
Bank of Abyssinia

Note: Sessions are presented in English unless an alternative language is noted.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7: CONFERENCE OPENING

9:00 – 15:00  Participant Registration
              Hotel Lobby
9:00 – 15:00 Exhibition Set-up
Outside of Room 1

16:00 – 17:00 African Union Headquarters
Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception
Address: African Union, Roosevelt Street W21K19, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
(attendees will be transported to this location for their convenience)
Keynote Speaker: Ambassador Kwesi Quartey, Deputy Chairperson, African Union

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8: THEME - ACCESS

8:45 Daily Announcements
Room 1

9:00 – 10:30 Plenary Session
Room 1

Keynote Speaker: Yetnebersh Nigussie, Commission for Truth and Reconciliation, Ethiopia
Room 1
Session Chair: Thomas Ong’olo, Disability Advisor, African Union, Ethiopia
Panel Moderator: Fredrick Ouko, Program Officer, OSIEA, Kenya
Panelists: Danlami Basharu (CRPD Committee, Nigeria), Dr. Daniel Dogbe (University of Winneba, Ghana), Martine Abel (WBU, New Zealand), Loice Bunei (Standard Chartered Bank, Kenya)

10:30 - 11:00 Morning Tea/Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 Concurrent Panel Presentations

ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT
Chair: Moses Chowdari Gorrpati, Program Manager Training and Solutions, Enable India, India
Room 1

Exploring the Availability of Job Opportunities for Persons with Visual Impairment Post-College
Helen Tilahun, Administrative Assistant, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Ethiopia
Language: Amharic

Employment is a fundamental human right, irrespective of a person’s sex, race or disability. Yet unemployment runs rampant in vulnerable communities. This session will
explore the availability of employment opportunities after college graduation and ways to make employment more accessible to people with disabilities.

**Self-Employment in the Rural Settings: The Situation of Visually Impaired Persons in Ghana**  
Elizabeth Ladjer Bibi Agbettor, Ghana Blind Union, Ghana

Prevailing rural conditions and environment as well as lack of resources contribute to determining the kinds of employment ventures that are pursued by persons with visual impairment based in rural communities. The session will also discuss gender parity as it relates to persons with visual impairment in Ghana’s rural communities, will draw lessons from the Ghana Blind Union employment programme and make recommendations on possible ways to improve the situation of persons with visual impairment in self-employment on the continent.

**The Policy Issues of Hiring Workers with Disabilities: A Survey of International Experiences**  
Sisay Mammo, Head of Department, ECDD, Ethiopia  
Language: Amharic

Structural equality (or the equality of opportunities) is a common issue in African countries. This session will explore the issue, and the way forward to ensure all people with or without disabilities are able to benefit from and participate in the economy.

**Two Blind Heroes of Ethiopia**  
Dawit Oticho, Federal Public Prosecutor, Ethiopia  
Language: Amharic

Ethiopia’s constitution guarantees all citizens the right to engage in economic activities. Up until 2017, however, people with visual impairment had been barred from pursuing judicial positions. This session will tell the story of two blind Ethiopians who successfully navigated the litigation system to overturn those customs, ensuring better, more equitable employment opportunities for all citizens.

**Self-Employment in the Rural Settings: The Situation of Visually Impaired Persons in Ghana**  
Elizabeth Ladjer Bibi Agbettor, Programme Manager, Ghana Blind Union, Ghana

Prevailing rural conditions and environment as well as lack of resources contribute to determining the kinds of employment ventures that are pursued by persons with visual impairment based in rural communities. The session will also discuss gender parity as it relates to persons with visual impairment in Ghana’s rural communities, will draw lessons from the Ghana Blind Union employment programme and make recommendations on possible ways to improve the situation of persons with visual impairment in self-employment on the continent.
PUTTING THE SDGs INTO ACTION
Chair: Sian Tesni, Senior Education Advisor, CBM, UK
Room 2

Collaboration and Coordination: The Principles Underlying the Achievement of the SDGs
Tracy Vaughan Gough, Senior Global Technical Lead, Social Inclusion and Disability,
Sightsavers, UK

DPOs, NGOs and the private sector share an obligation to support governments as they work to
fulfill their commitments to the SDGs outlined by the United Nations. To achieve this goal,
every stakeholder must provide tangible and coherent solutions in spite of competing priorities,
resource constraints and other challenges. The organization Sightsavers is leading two large
DFID-funded consortia, both of which are committed to testing innovative approaches to what
works and providing solutions that can be scaled up by others. The session will describe
Sightsaver’s process for consortium building, crucial insights and solutions.

The Strategy to Meet SDGs in the Interest of the Blind in Africa: Avoiding the Other Mistake
Kassahun Yibeltal Sahilu, Past President, ENAB, Ethiopia

This session will contextualize the SDGs against the successes and failures of the Millennium
Development Goals, providing direction for how to more effectively implement the SDGs.
Furthermore, it will explain why the blind in Africa did not benefit from the previous goals and
how to overcome those shortcomings.

The Implementation of SDGs 3 and 4: A Case Study in Tanzania
Emmanuel Mhehwa, Tanzania League of the Blind, Tanzania

To satisfy SDGs 3 and 4, Tanzania League of the Blind, Tanzania Albino Society and Zanzibar
National Association of the Blind are spearheading a project to increase access to inclusive
educational opportunities and better health care services across nine Tanzanian districts. This
presentation will serve as a model for implementing similar efforts elsewhere.

The SDGs and the CRPD: Linking Efforts to Ensure No Person with a Disability is Left Behind
Rosina Oparebea Pobee, Sightsavers, Ghana

Since its adoption, the CRPD has presented the disability movement with multiple opportunities
to engage in advocacy at all levels. This presentation will examine ways in which CSOs, DPOs,
and others can link efforts to monitor the implementation of the CRPD and the SDGs.
GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE CRPD
Chair: Danlami Basharu, Committee Member, CRPD Committee, Nigeria
Room 3

Compliance of the Ethiopian Legislature to its Obligations Under the CRPD
Wesen Alemu, President, ENAB, Ethiopia

The CRPD is the only disability-specific international convention ratified in Ethiopia. The country did not ratify the continent-wide African Protocol on the rights of persons with disabilities. Meanwhile, it signed but similarly did not ratify the Marrakesh Treaty, a more global effort. This session will explore whether House of Peoples representatives have thus met their obligations to the CPRD without ratifying the other two continental and global treaties.

Using Knowledge from CRPD Documents and Processes to Enhance Lobbying and Advocacy and to Work with SDGs in Organisations of the Blind
Diana Stentoft, Associate Professor, Department of Health Science and Technology and The Faculty of Medicine, Aalborg University, Danish Association of the Blind, Denmark

Over the last ten years, several countries have delivered reports to the CRPD Committee, detailing issues and conditions that negatively impact blind and partially sighted individuals. The Danish Association of the Blind has analysed these reports and during this session will present their findings and lead a discussion around the advocacy and lobby work necessary to improve conditions for the blind population in CRPD-ratified countries.

The African Disability Protocol: It’s Relevance and the Need for Advocacy for Ratification
Grace Antwi-Atsu, Global Advocacy Advisor, Sightsavers, Ghana

The AU’s Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights clarified the need for member states to have a framework to promote the rights of individuals with disabilities. Thus, beyond the rights enshrined by other treaties like the CRPD, the AU’s Disability Protocol addresses contextual issues around disability throughout Africa. This session will explore the highlights of the protocol in simple terms while emphasising the need for ratification.

ACCESS TO CIVIL PARTICIPATION AND HUMANITARIAN SERVICES
Chair: Dr. Kibaya Laibuta, University of Nairobi, Kenya
Room 4

Political Participation of the Blind in Senegal
Moussa Thiare, Amitié Des Aveugles Senegal, Senegal

The Senegalese Federation of Disabled People’s Associations, Senegal’s government and Sightsavers are jointly leading a project to encourage people with disabilities to participate in
the country’s political process. This session will encourage attendees to consider the importance of equal political participation in their own countries.

Assessing the Inclusion of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) with Disabilities in the Boko Haram Insurgency
Adamu Ishiyaku, President, Nigeria Association of the Blind, Nigeria

This session will assess the level of inclusion of IDPs with disabilities in the provision of humanitarian services rendered by selected national and international relief agencies working in Nigeria. It will shine light on the general humanitarian condition of IDPs in the northeast region of the country and further examine the plight of IDPs with disabilities during emergency situations.

Inclusive Education in Emergency Situations: A Case Study of the Kaloyebei Settlement Scheme in Northern Kenya
John Kimani, Handicap International, Kenya

This presentation will showcase how inclusive education is achieved for refugees with disabilities in Kenya, with a particular focus on services offered in the Kalobeyei Refugee Camp. Speakers will lead a discussion on how inclusivity can be mainstreamed in the education sector.

The 60-year Journey of ENAB
Gebre Teshome, ENAB, Ethiopia

ENAB was founded on January 1, 1960 by 29 blind men and one sighted woman. Inspired by the early special education institutions of the 1940s, the organization has undergone many changes over its six decades. This session will explore the challenges of the past 60 years, lessons learned, and the future direction of ENAB.

ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS-RELATED SERVICES
Ruth Ndunge, Salvation Army, Kenya
Room 5

Challenges Facing Blind People Living with HIV/AIDS and Adherence to Antiviral Treatment (ART)
Tilahun Bedada, Inclusive Health Project Officer, ECDD

The problem of adherence to ART is disastrous, particularly when it relates to blind individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Blind individuals are vulnerable to additional stigma and other economic and psychological problems. Relying on a recent study exploring the problem, this session will identify and explain four mechanisms that can be used to overcome the most pressing challenges.
The Stance of Blind and Visually Impaired Persons in the 90-90-90 Strategy in Fighting Against HIV/AIDS
Latim Matenje, Senior Programmes Manager, Malawi Union of the Blind, Malawi

The 90-90-90 strategy is globally accepted as an effective tactic for fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In Malawi, however, there are issues to be resolved regarding the inclusion and involvement of persons with visual impairments as participants in both service provision and reception. This session will present the stance of persons with visual impairments and how to include them in the implementation of the 90-90-90 strategy.

Educating Blind and Visually Impaired Adolescents on Sexual Reproductive Health
Nqobani Dube, Lead Consultant, Inclusive Humanity Institute, Zimbabwe

Teaching sexual and reproductive health and rights to blind and visually impaired adolescents presents a unique set of challenges. This session will review the effectiveness of different initiatives to improve this area of education and suggest ways to improve access to these essential services in resource-constrained contexts.

ACCESS TO EYE HEALTH AND PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS
Chair: Jace Nair, Blind SA, South Africa
Room 6

The Dilemma of Eye Care Services in Mainstream Schools: Experiences from Uganda’s Mubende District
Odette Niyisabwa Tumwesigye, PhD, Lecturer and Ag. Head of Mobility and Rehabilitation Section,, Kyambogo University, Uganda

This session will explore the experiences of learners with visual impairment in mainstream schools, primarily the challenges associated with trying to access eyecare services, the prohibitive cost thereof and the lack of specialized personnel in government health facilities.

Eye Health Program in Ghana: Contribution of Partners
James Amoo Addy, Eye Specialist, Ghana Health Service, Jeremiah Badu Shayar, Visio International, Ghana

The Ghana National Eye Health Program seeks to reduce rates of avoidable blindness by ensuring the availability of affordable eyecare services for all people in the country. The lack of human resources, however, presents a major challenge. This presentation will highlight the invaluable contributions of partner organizations to fill the gap to provide eyecare in Ghana.

Accelerating Progress to SGD 3 on Good Health and Well Being: A Case of Smart Cards to Persons with Blindness and Vision Impairment in Africa
Dr. Satya P. Bindra, Professor, Libya
Using the World Health Organization’s catalogue of key eye health indicators across Africa, this session will explore and promote the effectiveness of SMART Card technology and its applications for people with blindness and other visual impairment.

A case study based on an ongoing project using WHO’s catalogue of key Eye Health indicators in the African Region as a database for the SMART cards project to prepare, prevent and respond in time USING 4Ts (Talent, Team, Training & Technology) to stimulate the understanding, adoption, use and widespread application of cost effective, proven and reliable smart card technology is the main highlight of the paper; and for its possible applications to persons suffering mainly from blindness and vision impairment in Africa.

**Prevention of Avoidable Blindness and Visual Impairment through Treatment, Intervention and Access to Vision Rehabilitation**

Doaa Mabrouk, Founder, Baseera Foundation for the Visually Impaired, Egypt

The Baseera Foundation for the Visually Impaired in partnership with Egypt’s Ministry of Education conducted a comprehensive integrated approach program, through which it screened a large number of children aged 3-14 in schools throughout the country. This session will explore the findings and lessons learned around early detection in both regular and specialty schools and the ramifications of the widespread lack of eyecare insurance.

12:30 - 14:00  Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Workshops and Interactive Sessions

**Second Decade of the UN CRPD: Prospects and Challenges**

Samuel Kabue, UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Kenya

Room 1

Though the CRPD has been ratified by more than 40 African states, there are still areas of concern that require attention if the convention is to fulfill its purpose of improving the lives of people with disabilities around the continent. This workshop invites stakeholder organizations to come together for an in-depth analysis of the convention and the mechanisms pressuring its successful implementation.

**Building a Youth Agenda Within the African Blindness Sector**

Chair: Yetnebesh Nigussie, Commission for Truth and Reconciliation, Ethiopia

Room 2

This session will explore issues relating to the inclusion of young people with visual impairment in national and international development agendas. Attendees will also discuss various opportunities and strategies for youth inclusion and participation in mainstream programs. This session is open to the young as well as the young at heart.
AFUB Human Rights Project
Peter Anomah-Kordieh, Programme Officer, AFUB, Kenya
Room 3

During this presentation, AFUB will detail lessons learned and success stories from its Human Rights for the Visually Impaired in Africa advocacy campaign. It will also raise awareness of the CRPD as a tool for further advocacy while addressing concerns surrounding the ratification of the Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa.

Education for Children with Visual Impairments in Sub-Saharan Africa: Obstacles and Opportunities
Dr. Guy Le Fanu, Sightsavers, UK
Room 4

UNESCO has commissioned Sightsavers to produce a report on educational provision for children with visual impairments in sub-Saharan Africa, the findings from which will feed into UNESCO’s 2020 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) report. This session will draw on the rich body of evidence in the report, including data provided by ten Ministries of Education, to identify educational realities for children with visual impairments across the region and the factors shaping those realities.

Workshop for the ICEVI Regional Presidents
Sabine Fijn Van Draat, Royal Dutch Visio, Netherlands
Room 5

During this workshop, Visio will provide helpful skills and tools on how to write a proposal and prepare for presentations and interviews, covering all the do’s and don’ts. It will be an interactive workshop where participants will apply what they learn.

Introducing Visionary Learning through Technology
Richard Orme, CEO, DAISY Consortium, UK
Room 6

This session will describe the steps required to deliver a Visionary Learning model, which was developed by ICEVI and the DAISY Consortium, with relevant examples and lessons learned. This session is highly relevant to SDG 4 and the Education 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It’s also highly topical in light of the rapid adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty and the growing number of accessible learning materials.

15:30 - 16:00 Afternoon Tea/Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:30 Interest Group Meetings
AFUB Women’s Assembly
Eveline Angomw, Vice President and Chairperson of the Women’s Committee, AFUB, Cameroon
Room 1
The AFUB Women Assembly will discuss activities from the organization’s Women’s Wing over the past four years. Delegates to the Assembly are the women delegates from national members of AFUB. The Assembly will also elect new officials of the Women’s Wing. Observers are welcome.

Getting the Most Out of JAWS in Your Daily Life
Jan Bloem, International Sales Manager, Vispero, Netherlands
Room 2
In this workshop, attendees will learn how to most efficiently use JAWS in day-to-day life. It will cover the latest features in compliance with Windows 10, how to use the start menu, launch programs and make use of the internal mail program, browsers and PDF readers. Attendees will also learn how to make settings in JAWS for speech and braille, how to use it with different languages and more.

Print Standard Text Files in Braille Using Index BrailleApp
Niels van Weele, International Sales Manager, INDEX Braille, Sweden
Room 3
In this workshop, the presenters will show how easy it is to use BrailleApp on mobile devices to print standard text files in braille using only an Index V5 printer, a wireless network and a mainstream mobile device. The session is perfect for anyone that already prints braille or is interested in learning how.

Access to Reading Using Modern and Affordable Technology
Dr. Homiyar Mobedji, Bookshare, India
Room 4
This presentation will cover the challenges of traditional reading methods, the availability of accessible reading materials compatible with Android and Windows, the advantages of digital reading, sources of accessible content and more.

Workshop for the ICEVI Regional Presidents
Sabine Fijn Van Draat, Royal Dutch Visio, Netherlands
Room 5
This is a continuation of the workshop by Visio to the Regional Presidents of ICEVI. Here, attendees from the previous session will implement what they learned and provide feedback to each other, which will contribute to the training’s overall effectiveness.
ICEVI Principal Officers Meeting  
Dr. Frances Gentle, ICEVI President, Australia  
Room 6

This is a closed-door meeting of the Principal Officers of ICEVI.  

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9: THEME - EDUCATION

8:45  Daily Announcements  
Room 1

9:00 – 10:30  Plenary Session  
Room 1

Session Chair: Dr. Frances Gentle, ICEVI President, Australia  

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Praveena Sukhraj-Ely, ICEVI Vice President, South Africa  
Panel Moderator: Jose Viera, CEO, WBU, Canada  

Panelists: Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame (Sightsavers, Ghana), Suzane Tapsoba (ABPAM, Burkina Faso), Fred Haga (Ministry of Education, Kenya), Haimanot Alachew (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia)

10:30 - 11:00  Morning Tea/Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30  Concurrent Panel Presentations

SHOWCASING MODELS OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN AFRICA  
Chair: Ayassou Komivi, Regional Representative, ICEVI Africa, Togo  
Room 1

Inclusive Education In Burkina Faso: The Accessible Book Consortium Project On Access To Textbooks By Blind Students  
Oule Christophe, SASL Interpreter, UN-ABPAM, Burkina Faso  
Language: French

In 1987, UN-ABPAM opened its school for the blind. In 2012, the school opened its doors to sighted learners as well, introducing inclusive preschool classes. In this presentation, UN-ABPAM’s leadership will rely on this perspective to discuss the importance of inclusive education.

Special Education in Benin: Current and Future Perspectives  
Henri Montcho, APISAAB, Benin  
Language: French
In Benin, education is a fundamental right guaranteed by the constitution. This recognition of special education, though, was not the work of public authorities. Rather, it came about through the work of civil society organizations. This presentation will share Benin’s journey toward implementing effective special education.

**GOL-MOE and DPOD Inclusive Education**  
*Beyan Kota, Executive Director, Liberia Christian Association of the Blind, Liberia*

Schools need strong leadership to effectively implement inclusive educational practices. This session will discuss the importance of empowering institutions and providing incentives to develop leadership nationwide, starting with public institutions of learning.

**Ensuring Access to Instructional Materials for Learners with Visual Impairment**  
*Celine Mutisya, Head of Educational Resources, Kenya Institute for the Blind, Kenya*

Worldwide, 91 percent of school-aged children are enrolled in educational institutions, according to UNICEF. We cannot say conclusively, however, that effective learning is occurring in many of these places. This is because mere access to educational institutions is only one aspect of creating educational parity. It’s also essential to address other factors that serve to uphold educational inequality like the lack of adequate instructional materials for learners with visual impairment.

**IMPROVING LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR LEARNERS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT**  
*Chair: Dr. Bhushan Punani, Chair, ICEVI West Asia, India*  
*Room 2*

**Effect of Specific Emotions on Academic Performance of Adolescent Learners with Visual Impairment in Secondary Schools in Kenya**  
*Dickens Ogony, Teacher, The Kenya National Examinations Council, Kenya*

This presentation explores how specific emotions disorders – withdrawal, depression, anxiety and shame – affect learning among adolescents with visual impairment. Presenter will suggest ways students can manage these emotions for lifelong learning.

**Grade Twelve National Examination Assessments Practices for Learners with Visual Impairments in Selected Schools in Zambia’s Mwense and Lusaka Districts**  
*Sarah Muyoma Ndume, Malcolm Moffat College of Education, Zambia*

A study aimed at examining the grade twelve national examination assessment practices for learners with visual impairments in Zambia’s Mwense and Lusaka districts. This presentation seeks to disseminate those findings.
Alfred Chepkwony, Ministry of Education, Kenya

The Kenyan Competency-Based Curriculum is a new system of education designed to emphasise the significance of developing skills and knowledge and applying those competencies in real life situations. This presentation will provide suggestions for how governments can roll out new initiatives, including curriculum, in their school systems.

Synergistic Solutions to Disability Challenges of Leadership: Lessons from Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan
Wendmeneh Beyene, ENAB, Ethiopia
Language: Amharic

This session will examine the relationship between Helen Keller and her teacher, Anne Sullivan. It will identify the major challenges people with disabilities face in relation to leadership and then, using the relationship between Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan, detail practical solutions.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
Chair: Frances Gentle, President, ICEVI, Australia
Room 3

Status of Inclusive Pedagogies in Teaching Children with Visual Impairment at Primary Schools of Ethiopia
Belay Hagos Hailu, PhD, and Ermias Kibreab, Ababa University, Ethiopia

Teachers and other school community members are responsible for facilitating participatory teaching methods that consider visually impaired students. However, there is growing concern that pre-primary and primary teachers lack the pedagogical skills necessary for teaching children with visual impairment in inclusive classrooms effectively. This session will explore vital inclusive pedagogies that primary teachers can use in their educational settings.

Foundations for Mainstreaming in South Africa: Four Cases of the LOFOB ECD Programme Promoting Social Inclusion
Armand Bam, Executive Director, LOFOB, South Africa

South Africa's White Paper 6 articulates the intent to build an inclusive education and training system, yet the implementation and adoption at the community level remains hindered by the lack of skilled educators and inadequate resources. The LOFOB ECD programme prepares children and parents for the opportunity to access special or mainstream education after preschool. The presentation will focus on four cases detailing the successes and failures in attempts to mainstream students at preschool and primary school levels.
**Bona uBuntu ECD Programme: Providing Quality Early Education and Holistic Family Support in the Visually Impaired Child’s Early Years**  
Robyn Clark, ECD Facilitator, Nkosinathi Foundation of and for Blind and Partially Sighted People, South Africa

A presentation detailing, describing and demonstrating (through videos) the effective implementation of an ECD programme for visually impaired children in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The programme, Bona uBuntu, is aimed at the holistic development of the child from 0-9 and has a strong focus on parent empowerment as well as community education and awareness. The presentation offers insight into the challenges and successes of providing quality specialized education in a developing nation.

**Child Protection and Disability**  
Ruth Ndunge Musyoki, The Salvation Army Kenya East Territory, Kenya

The Salvation Army has for decades been at the forefront of providing education for children with disabilities and protecting children with disabilities around the world. This session will discuss protecting children with disabilities as a rights issue and the need to integrate protection in the education of children with visual impairment as a priority.

**PROVIDING FOR LEARNERS WITH LOW VISION**  
Chair: Martin Kieti, ICEVI Africa, Kenya  
Room 4

**Improving the Support System for Young People with Low Vision in Uganda**  
Dr. Lawrence Eron, Dean of the Faculty of Special Needs, Kyambogo University, Uganda  
Petra Wijen, International Program Manager, Royal Dutch Visio, Netherlands

“All we see is possibility” is a project started in 2016 as a collaboration between the Royal Dutch Visio Netherlands and Kyambogo University to improve the support system for Ugandan partially sighted and blind students from 11 to 25 years in age. The program is designed to ensure students are fully included in society, at home, in school, at work and in their community. This session presents a summary of background studies that led to the project, current activities, challenges, lessons learned, outcomes and the strategic direction for project sustainability.

**Can Optical Low Vision Devices Improve Reading Outcomes? Results from a Kenyan Study**  
Richard Rukwaro, Low Vision Therapist and Lecturer, Kenya Institute of Special Education, Kenya

Accessing literature through the use of optical low vision devices indicates positive reading outcomes. However, only 20% of learners in Kenya have access to optical low vision devices. This low percentage of learners who have access creates a literacy gap. This session will assess
the influence of optical low vision devices (and often the lack thereof) on the reading performance of learners with low vision.

**Targeted Low Vision Awareness Creation and Interventions Enhance Learner Livelihood**

*Julia Tebogo Bothasitse, Coordinator, Thuto Le Pono Boswa Foundation - Royal Dutch Visio, Botswana*

The tripartite project by Royal Dutch Visio, the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Ministry of Basic Education enabled teachers to identify and refer learners for screening through outreach and assessment by trained health care workers (ophthalmic nurses). Those diagnosed were provided with necessary intervention such as devices, treatment and appropriate school placement. This session will demonstrate how increased access to low vision services leads to improved academic performance.

**Low Vision at School and University: What Options Do You Have When Glasses Aren’t Enough?**

*Jan Bloem, International Sales Manager, Vispero, Netherlands*

Portable optical and electronic magnifiers solve many problems, enabling students with low vision to read handouts and books at school. But the assistive devices don’t solve all problems. Powerpoint slides at a distance, for instance, remain inaccessible. This session will explore the struggles low vision students experience in the classroom and some of the ways educators can help them thrive at school.

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION**

*Chair: Susan LaVenture, International Association of Parents of the Visually Impaired*

**Room 5**

**Fathers’ Involvement in the Development and Education of their Children with Visual Impairment and Deafblindness**

*Jerry G. Petroff, PhD, Professor, The College of New Jersey, United States*

This session will report on the current status of coordinated research efforts regarding fathers of children with visual impairment and deafblindness. It will raise awareness and explore how fathers can impact their child’s development and education.

**Bona Ubuntu Bags: Breaking the Barriers of Blindness for Children through Parental Empowerment**

*Cashelle Mclean, Awareness and Events Coordinator, Nkosinathi Foundation of and for Blind and Partially Sighted People, South Africa*

Often we take the idea of parental investment in a child's development as a given, but this isn’t always possible when parents themselves don’t receive the opportunity or tools to empower
themselves. This session will explore the important role parents play in their child's development and how the Bona Ubuntu Bag programme addresses some of these issues.

**Youngsters with Visual Impairments Access to Lifelong Learning through Family Support Experiences**  
**Scovia Nansuwa, Consultant, Kyambogo University, Uganda**

The majority of parents of children with visual impairment in Uganda struggle to support their children. This presentation seeks to share parental experiences to equip families with better knowledge around care provision. It will also provide tailored strategies for empowering parents within their communities in Uganda.

**Parental Influence on Education**  
**Loice Bunei, Standard Chartered Bank, Kenya**

This presentation will focus on how the speaker, who lost her sight at 13, was supported by her parents throughout her educational journey. Channeling her father’s words, “I know with education you will conquer the world,” author Loice Bunei will discuss the importance of having a firm support system in the home.

**Technique in Teaching Mathematics to Learners with Visual Impairment**  
**Dr. MNG Mani, CEO, ICEVI, India**

Students who are blind and partially sighted have systematically been excluded from mathematics education, in large part because many believe, incorrectly, that it’s near impossible to educate them. This session will deconstruct this myth and demonstrate techniques for how to teach mathematics based on ICEVI’s resources. Participants will also engage in a discussion on how to make mathematics education for the blind and partially sighted a reality, even in resource-constrained contexts.

12:30 - 14:00  Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Workshops and Interactive Sessions

**TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PRACTICE IN AFRICA**

Chair: Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame, Regional Chair, ICEVI Africa, Ghana

**Factors Influencing the Low Inclusion of Visually Handicapped Learners in Togo**  
**Bouraima Asmanou, President, ABEA, Togo**

Language: French
Seventy years ago, the U.N. affirmed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that everyone has the right to an education. Unfortunately, in many developing countries, ensuring everyone can realize this right is an enormous challenge. This session will compare the difficulties faced by visually impaired learners in Togo with visually impaired learners who live in other countries represented by attendees.

**Education of the Blind in Africa**  
**Therese Ntoto Loutekila, National Union of the Blind and Partially Sighted, Congo**  
**Language: French**

Education for the blind is a major concern for developing countries in Africa. Given advancements in technologies for information and communication, the number of non-educated persons among the blind should not be so high. This is why governments, NGOs and communities must work in synergy to promote inclusive education for all children and to meet the educational needs of the blind.

**Ghana: Progress to Date on Inclusive Education**  
**Anthony Boateng, Ghana Education Service, Ghana**

Ghana has made great strides in inclusive education since adopting an official government policy in 2016. A number of interventions have been put in place for its smooth implementation. The presentation seeks to elaborate on the role of the Ghana Education Service has played to ensure access to quality education for all children, especially children with disabilities through its inclusive education agenda.

**Challenges Faced by Women and Girls with Disabilities in Accessing Education: An Experience of Discrimination and Capacitation in Moving Towards Inclusion**  
**Esther Mbite, Malawi Union of the Blind Youth Wing, Malawi**

Speaker Esther Mbite will explore discrimination on the basis of sex and disability. Through the lens of her own experience, she’ll show how, when given adequate resources, a supportive environment and ample learning opportunities, young women with disabilities have as much potential as anyone.

**EQUITY IN THE EDUCATION OF PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT**  
**Chair: Fred Haga, Director, SNE, Ministry of Education, Kenya**  
**Room 2**

**Ensuring Equitable Education for the Visually Impaired in Lesotho**  
**Jeremane Teele, President of the Executive Board, LNLVIP, Lesotho**
Mainstream schools face many more challenges when educating children with disabilities, in large part because there is a shortage of qualified teachers. This session will explore how Lesotho is currently working to advance its national education system in terms of laws and curriculum while adopting the national Inclusive Education policy, which directly addresses the needs of persons with disabilities.

**Inclusivity in the Vocational Education Policy and Legal Frameworks of Kenya and Tanzania**

Abebe Yehualawork Malle, Assistant Professor of Special Needs Education, Ethiopia  
Language: Amharic

This session will examine the status of inclusivity in the education and training policies of Ethiopia in comparison to those of selected East African countries. The focus will be on vocational education and how the issue of disability is not adequately addressed in the education and training policies or the legal and implementation instruments of other countries.

**Scope and Limits of Reasonable Accommodation**

Wendmeneh Beyene, Ethiopia  
Language: Amharic

Reasonable accommodation for SWVI and students with disabilities has not been provided effectively in Ethiopia. This session will underline how inclusive education without effective provision of reasonable accommodation is impossible, exploring what Ethiopia needs to do to reformulate its legal framework.

**CONFIDENCE: AN IMPORTANT INGREDIENT IN THE EDUCATION OF LEARNERS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT**

Aria Indrawati, Regional Chair, ICEVI East Asia, Indonesia  
Room 3

**Teaching Habilitation and Rehabilitation Skills to Blind and Vision Impaired Adults, Children and Young People in Sub-Saharan Africa**

Molemisi Kono, Visual Eyes Afrika-international (VEA-i), UK

Vision loss can exacerbate inequities for women especially in Sub-Saharan Africa where the gender gap in eye health, though narrowing, continues apace. To address these health disparities, habilitation and rehabilitation skills training should be offered to heighten health seeking behaviours and the ability to decide when to start a family. This session addresses SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls.

**How You Can Bring a Sports Camp to Your Students**

Jerry G. Petroff, PhD, Professor, The College of New Jersey, United States
Camp Abilities is an educational sports camp for children with visual impairments and deafblindness. This presentation will examine the importance of sports, the history of Camp Abilities, instructional strategies, and how key players from African countries can start their own sports camps. Presenters will share and discuss many videos, books, web sites, products and sports. A Camp Abilities start-up manual is available to all attendees.

Determinants of Best Self-Concept Enhancement as Per Programme for Learners Who Are Visually Impaired in Kenya
Were Michael, Maseno University, Kenya

This session will examine the results of a recent study conducted in Kenyan primary schools that found inclusive environments enhanced the self-concept of learners with visual impairment.

Student Empowerment: An Innovative Strategy for Breaking Down Barriers and Maximizing the Potential of Students with Visual Impairments
Scovia Nansuwa, Consultant, Kyambogo University, Uganda

In Uganda, young people with visual impairment still suffer unequal recognition from service providers, educators, governmental bodies and their communities. By sharing how organizations empower young people with visual impairment in Uganda, and presenting different strategies for building impactful empowerment programs, this session will provide important lessons to help attendees support their own programs.

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM
Chair: Ben Claire, Regional Chair, ICEVI Pacific, Australia
Room 4

Multi-Purpose Computer Laboratories for Students with Disabilities
Deenadayalan Moodley, University of South Africa, South Africa

The University of South Africa in 2009 debuted its Open Distance and E-learning digital-centric teaching and learning model. This presentation will cover the design and rollout of the multi-purpose computer laboratories, the types of disabilities covered, types of equipment used, lessons learned and challenges faced.

Access to Assistive Technology and Resource Centers by SWVI in Resource-Constrained Areas in Uganda: Lessons and Challenges
Binasali Kyebagadha, IT Instructor, Kyambogo University, Uganda

SWVI in Uganda face the lowest levels of educational access of any cohort of students. Due to the lack of assistive technology and resource centers in schools, many are kept indoors at home, while those at school either experience difficulties during class or hardly participate in
co-curricular activities. As a result, many drop out of school and/or develop a pervasive passivity. This session will highlight experiences and efforts made by the “All We See is Possibility” programme in Uganda to alleviate the plight of SWVI in secondary schools.

**Basic Challenges of Inclusive Education Supporting Resource Centers in Relation to Blind Students**  
Yetmwerk Getachew, Ministry of Education, Ethiopia

The government of Ethiopia is working to ensure equitable and accessible education for all citizens. With respect to ensuring quality education for children with one or more disabilities, one of the Ministry of Education’s biggest priorities is establishing and strengthening resource centers that support the teaching-learning process. This session will assess 30 resource centers, showing the basic challenges they face and possible solutions.

**The Benefits of Having a Fusion Country License in Promoting ICT as a Tool for Leveraging Academic and Employment Opportunities for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Africa**  
Daniel Odoch, Board Member, Oysters & Pearls, Uganda

This session presents a case study led by Oysters & Pearls Uganda, an NGO expanding access to accessible computer systems and JAWS through negotiated country licenses. Speakers will make the case for government involvement when it comes to expanding access to quality screen reading software and computer science education for blind and visually impaired persons.

**EDUCATIONAL AND TRANSITIONAL SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAFBLIND**  
Chair: Nandini Rawal, Treasurer, ICEVI, India
Room 5

**The ‘Actuality And Tactuality’ of Including a Student with Deafblindness in a Higher Education Institution in a Developing Country**  
Daniel Dogbe, Senior Lecturer, University of Education, Winneba, Ghana

This phenomenological session will focus on the experiences of a student who is deafblind at the University of Education in Winneba, Ghana. It will explore the student’s social and academic experiences and offer recommendations to ensure full inclusion for deafblind students.

**Facilitating Deafblind Children’s Access to Education through a Community-Based Education Model in Uganda: Lessons and Challenges**  
Victor Locoro, Lecturer, Kyambogo University, Uganda

This session highlights efforts made by service providers in Uganda to alleviate the plight of deafblind children and their families. It will describe a community-based education model...
initiated to provide education and rehabilitation to children in their homes and build resilience and capacity among family members, enabling them to play a central role in the process.

**Communication in Malawi’s Education System Remains a Barrier to Deafblind Learners**

*Ezekiel Kumwenda, Executive Director, Malawi Union of the Blind, Malawi*

Malawi still faces challenges in the education system, especially when it comes to teaching learners with visual impairment, as most schools don’t have trained special educators on staff. This discussion will explore challenges deafblind learners face in Malawi, particularly as they relate to communication in the deafblind population.

**TOWARDS BETTER POLICY AND PRACTICE IN THE TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS TO LEARNERS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT IN AFRICA**

*Nafisa Baboo, Senior Director of Inclusive Education, Light For the World, South Africa*

Room 6

This session is a follow up of the morning session, “Techniques for Teaching Mathematics to Learners with Visual Impairment.” It will provide an opportunity for policy-makers and practitioners to discuss issues surrounding policy and practice in the teaching of mathematics for learners with visual impairment in Africa, and how these can be improved to enhance the teaching and learning of mathematics around the continent.

15:30 - 16:00  Afternoon Tea/Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:30 Interest Group Meetings

**AFUB Western Regional Assembly**
Contact: Yaw Ofori Debra, Western Regional Representative, AFUB, Ghana Room 1

**AFUB Central Regional Assembly**
Contact: Paul Tezanou, Central Regional Representative, AFUB, Cameroon Room 2

**AFUB Southern Regional Assembly**
Contact: Ishmael Zhou, Southern Regional Representative, AFUB, Zimbabwe Room 3

**AFUB Northern Regional Assembly**
Contact: Mohammed Ezzaoui, Northern Regional Representative, AFUB, Morocco Room 4
AFUB Eastern Regional Assembly
Contact: Louis Benedicto, Eastern Regionally Representative, AFUB, Tanzania
Room 5

ICEVI Regional Presidents Meeting
Contact: Dr. Frances Gentle, President, ICEVI, Australia
Room 6

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10: THEME - INNOVATION

8:45  Daily Announcements
      Room 1

9:00 – 10:30  Plenary Session
      Room 1
      Session Chair: Will Clurman, CEO and Co-founder, eKitabu, Kenya
      Keynote Speaker:  Kevin Carrey, ICEVI, WBU, World Braille Council, UK
      Panel Moderator: Martine Abel Williamson, Treasurer, WBU, New Zealand

      Panelists: Nafisa Baboo (Senior Director of Inclusive Education, Light For the World, South Africa), Tizie Maphalala (UNICEF, Kenya), Dr. Homiyar Mobedji (Disability Expert, Benetech, India), Gadissa Nigussie (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia)

10:30 - 11:00  Morning Tea/Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 Panel Presentations

AFUB GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Chair: Yaw Ofori Debra, AFUB President, Ghana
Room 1

AFUB holds its 9th General Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the auspices of the 7th Africa Forum. Delegates to the Assembly are a man and a woman from the AFUB national members as well as elected officers of the Union. The Assembly will consider reports over the past four years, consider plans of action for the next four years and elect new officers. Observers are welcome.

THE INTERNET AND SOCIAL NETWORKS
Chair: Dipendra Manocha, Developing Countries Coordinator, DAISY Consortium, India
Room 2

Web Developers Without Sight: A Case Study of Blind Web Developers Making the Web More Accessible in Uganda
Bazil Onen, Oysters & Pearls Uganda, Uganda

The web is arguably the greatest invention of our time. The speed at which the web is evolving, however, leaves users with disabilities constantly fighting for the most basic of digital accommodations. This presentation will discuss why it’s so critical to include people with visual impairment in web experiences and how developers can create a more inclusive web.

Web Accessibility and the Visually Impaired
Bruno Savaria, Branch Manager and Access Technology Specialist, Sensory Solutions, South Africa

Having an accessible website not only increases the potential number of users, but also improves usability for every user, regardless of ability. Relying on the W3C guidelines for web accessibility, this presentation will help attendees understand the need for web accessibility and some of the many ways a more accessible web can be realized.

Enable Vaani: An Unusual Social Network Empowering Rural Persons with Disabilities
Moses Chowdari Gorrepati, Program Manager, Enable India, India

When it comes to pursuing a meaningful livelihood, people with disabilities who live in rural areas face greater challenges because of a limited access to opportunities, ideas, finance, assistive aids and more. This presentation will showcase how disruptive innovation can alleviate some of these challenges, specifically highlighting Enable India, a moderated social networking platform compatible with simple, non-smart phone technology, where users can share stories, opportunities and ideas.

The Impact JAWS and ZoomText Fusion Software Has Had on Blind and Low Vision Persons
James Gichuhi, Itac Consulting Ltd, Kenya

Tremendous advancements in information technology have been made all over the world in recent years. Accommodations made to ensure persons with visual impairment like the proliferation of screen readers and magnification software have been key milestones. This session will examine the leading technologies Jaws and ZoomText Fusion from Vispero group and their impact on the lives of the visually impaired persons, their families and society.

INNOVATIONS AND INDEPENDENT MOBILITY
Chair: David Oko, Immediate Former President, Nigeria Association of the Blind, Nigeria
Room 3

Saarthi Assistive Mobility Device for Visually Impaired
Hunny Bhagchandani, Founder, Torchit Electronics Pvt Ltd, India

This session will demo Saarthi, a new innovative product, which when attached to a white cane, buzzes and vibrates to alert the cane-holder to their surroundings and potential obstacles.
More broadly, the presentation will highlight the importance of innovation and technology as a tool for empowering people with disabilities to live and navigate the world independently.

**Smart Blind Cane that Speaks When Sensing Obstacles and Wet Floor**  
Anteneh Taye, Ethiopia

The smart cane on display during this session corrects a longstanding shortcoming of the analog cane: it detects overhead obstacles. Using ultrasonic sensors, the cane displayed during this presentation relies on Bluetooth to alert the user to overhead obstruction and can also provide torch light for individuals with low vision. This session will explore how smart canes can support people who are visually impaired.

**Seeing Through Hearing: An Ongoing Immersive Multi-Directional Project Focused on Documenting the Stories of People Who Are Blind and Visually Impaired**  
Mary Anne Funk, Project Manager, University of Oregon School of Journalism, United States

Abby's Dreamworld is an immersive audio and web story about the journey of a woman who lost her sight at age eight while playing in the central Ethiopian city of Areka. When we think of immersive storytelling and VR content, we typically think of them as visual stories. Yet, for the estimated 1.3 billion people with visual impairment, the 360-degree experience is largely an auditory one. This session examines how the use of spatial audio can tell an immersive story, as experienced and told through people who are blind.

**SMART CITIES**  
Chair: Martine Abel Williamson, WBU, New Zealand  
Room 4

This session will explain the context and definition of Smart Cities, highlighting practical examples. Session participants will discuss the role they and their organisations can play in designing Smart Cities and help summarize actions for all to take.

**Ethiopia: The Future of Technology Beyond the 7th Africa Forum**  
Richard Orme, CEO, DAISY Consortium, UK

In this session, participants will discuss the current status of technology for people who are blind in Ethiopia in view of the wealth of technology brought into the country by the 7th Africa Forum. Participants will identify gaps and opportunities arising from the experience at the Forum and make broad recommendations on how Ethiopia can exploit these opportunities and increase access to technology and its benefits for people who are blind and partially sighted beyond the conference.
This is a closed-door meeting of the Executive Committee of ICEVI.

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30 Workshops and Interactive Sessions

AFUB GENERAL ASSEMBLY (continuation)
Yaw Ofori Debra, President, AFUB, Ghana
Room 1

AFUB shall hold its 9th General Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the auspices of the 7th Africa Forum. Delegates to the Assembly are a man and a woman from the AFUB national members as well as elected officers of the Union. The Assembly will consider reports over the past four years, consider plans of action for the next four years and elect new officers. Observers are welcome.

Technology, Innovation and Youth with Visual Impairment
Nafisa Baboo, Senior Director of Inclusive Education, Light For the World, South Africa
Room 2

This session provides a platform for young people with visual impairment to discuss the role of technology in their day-to-day lives and how they can fully take advantage of the professional and personal opportunities technological innovations provide. A resolution for the advancement of the youth agenda within the African blindness sector will be developed.

MAKING BRAILLE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL: THE CHALLENGE OF BRAILLE PRODUCTION IN AFRICA
David Merriman, Braillo, Norway
Room 3

Braillo Norway, in collaboration with the African Braille Centre and the Kenya Institute for the Blind, have hosted a series of braille production workshops in East Africa, which have brought together participants from institutions producing braille in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Ethiopia. This session will cover the standardization of braille codes, transcription of mathematics, cost of braille production reductions, access to electronic copies of books from publishers and adaptation. There will also be a presentation of tactile impressions that improve braille reading and writing skills among learners.

3D PRINTED MATERIALS: FROM IDEA TO IMPLEMENTATION
Leslie Edmonds, Special Education Teacher, Sonoma County Office of Education, United States
Room 4

Educators of the visually impaired are discovering 3D-printed materials are an invaluable asset for students. This presentation will take attendees through the process of using 3D-printed
manipulatives with students and adults with visual impairments. Free, open-source resources will be shared. Attendees will leave with a better understanding of how 3D-printed materials can be used to assist SWVI.

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) AND TECHNOLOGY FOR PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT**
 Brad Turner: Benetech, USA
 Room 5

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a term that has been around for decades. But can AI help make books more accessible? This session will provide a basic understanding of various AI techniques, including Machine Learning and Computer Vision, and explore how Benetech is applying these techniques to remediate complex books.

**ICEVI Executive Committee Meeting**
Session Chair: Dr. Frances Gentle
Room 6

This is a closed-door meeting of the Executive Committee of ICEVI.

15:30 - 16:00 Afternoon Tea/Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:30 Interest Group Meetings

**AFUB GENERAL ASSEMBLY (continuation)**
Yaw Ofori Debra: President, AFUB, Ghana
Room 1

AFUB shall hold its 9th General Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the auspices of the 7th Africa Forum. Delegates to the Assembly are a man and a woman from the AFUB national members as well as elected officers of the Union. The Assembly will consider reports over the past four years, consider plans of action for the next four years and elect new officers. Observers are welcome

Innovative Techniques for in the Classroom
Jan Bloem, International Sales Manager, Vispero, Netherlands.
Room 2

In this workshop, attendees will learn the latest techniques for using artificial intelligence to describe pictures, read handwritten text, and perform OCR on documents. They’ll also interact with the Focus Scratchpad, which enables users to create and save notes in TXT format to an inserted micro SD card, as well as the ElBraille, a cutting-edge portable braille solution with a 40-cell display.

Introducing the New TorchIT Takenote
Hunny Bhagchandani, Founder, Torchit Electronics Pvt Ltd, India

Room 3

During this session, participants will get a chance to interact with a number of assistive technologies, including Saarthi, an innovative product used by visually impaired people to sense their surroundings, the Wireless Braille BLE Keyboard for smartphones and computers and the Takenote, which enables users to take notes during lectures and office meetings.

ACCESSIBLE BOOK PRODUCTION
Dipendra Manocha, Developing Countries Coordinator, DAISY Consortium, India

Room 4

Digital books can be accessed through vision, hearing and touch. For that reason, digital books can provide a rich reading experience for all, including persons with print disabilities. This session will introduce guidelines and simple-to-use tools to facilitate the production of accessible, digital books.

Interact with the Orbit Reader 2.0
Suparna Biswas, Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa, Kenya

Room 5

This session invites participants to interact with and learn about the new Orbit Reader 2.0, an affordable, electronic device with digital braille display that is both a book reader and notetaker. Participants will be introduced to the basic functions and operation of this compact and versatile assistive device for learners with visual impairment in Africa and learn first hand how the Orbit Reader 2.0 can facilitate employability.

ICEVI Executive Committee Meeting
Chair: Dr. Frances Gentle
Room 6

This is a closed-door meeting of the Executive Committee of ICEVI.

18:00 – 21:00 Conference Celebration
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11: THEME - LIFELONG LEARNING

8:45  Closing Remarks
Room 1

9:00 – 10:30  Plenary Session
Room 1

Chair: Wessen Alemu, President, ENAB, Ethiopia
Keynote Speaker: Prof. Tirussew Teferra, Chair, Department of Inclusive Education, University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Panel Moderator: Dr. Nandini Rawal; ICEVI Treasurer, India
Panelists: Dr. Kibaya Laibuta (University of Nairobi, Kenya), Brad Turner (Benetech, USA), Deenah Moodley (University of South Africa, South Africa), Stephen Efunkoya (Nigeria Association of the Blind, Nigeria)

10:30 - 11:00  Morning Tea/Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30  Panel Presentations

TACKLING THE BOOK FAMINE IN AFRICA
Chair: Jace Nair, Blind SA, South Africa
Room 1

Marrakesh Treaty Ratification and Implementation Pathways
Martin Okiyo, Global Advocacy Advisor, Sightsavers, Kenya

On June 27, 2013, the WIPO adopted the Marrakesh Treaty. However, in Africa, questions surrounding the relevance of the treaty persist, as both the CRPD and the African Disability Protocol are meant to protect the rights of people with disabilities. This session will explore why the Marrakesh Treaty is so important.

Implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty in Nigeria: Challenges and Opportunities
David Okon, Immediate Past President, NAB, Nigeria

Since Nigeria ratified the Marrakesh Treaty in 2018, NAB has continued to campaign for its domestication into Nigerian law. Some important provisions of the treaty are incorporated into the proposed Copyright Act, which is under consideration. This presentation will examine the significance of Nigeria’s ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty and explore NAB’s efforts to make books accessible to all.

Talking Textbooks for Blind Students In Ethiopia in Mainstream Schools
Masho Kidanemariam Gebremass, Special Educational Needs, Ethiopia
Language: Amharic
This session will examine an Ethiopian programme that provides all blind and visually impaired students in Tigray’s mainstream schools with audio textbook players, including government textbooks at their grade level. Participants will learn how vital talking textbooks are to the development of accessible curricula.

**Access to Information Technology for the Visually Impaired In Ethiopia**  
Abate Tsegaye, Public Prosecution, Ethiopia  
Language: Amharic

In the modern world, information technology is intertwined with all aspects of our lives. Most technology, though, is imported from other countries, generally with pre-existing accessibility limitations. This session will explore the challenges faced by visually impaired persons living in Ethiopia when accessing and using these information technology services.

**COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT**  
Chair: Tigabu Gerbremendhin, ICEVI Africa, Ethiopia  
Room 2

**CBR/CBID Strategy: Promoting Education of Children with Visual Impairments**  
Girma Haile, Selale CBID Program, Ethiopia  
Language: Amharic

The Selale CBID Program is a cross-disability rehabilitation organization working in semi-rural communities of Ethiopia. This session will examine the organization’s work with parents and school systems, as well as how it equips communities with technical skills to accommodate children with visual impairment.

**Contribution of CBR in Preparing Children with Visual Impairments for Schooling**  
Behailu Mulugeta, Ethiopia  
Language: Amharic

CBR projects in Ethiopia have contributed immensely to efforts supporting children with visual impairment. This session will explore how such projects help them access education, healthcare, family resources and other supports within their communities.

**Effectiveness of CBR: Examining a Wezesha Community-Based Organization in Mombasa County, Kenya**  
Vincent Macmbinji, Umma University, Kenya

This session looks at the relationship between CBR health-related rehabilitation programs. It will examine building linkages to enhance CBR programs. Further, it will seek to identify the role communities play in successful CBR programs.
Experiences of Rehabilitation Workers in Uganda in Facilitating the Social Participation of Deafblind Children
Victor Locoro, Kyambogo University, Uganda

This session will investigate how rehabilitation workers in Uganda harness community support to facilitate social participation from deafblind children, and what their experiences can contribute to CBR training programs.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH REHABILITATION SERVICES
Chair: Angela Affran, Regional Director - Africa, Perkins International, Perkins School for the Blind, Ghana
Room 3

Influence of Orientation and Mobility Training on Economic Participation of Adults with Visual Impairment in Kano State, Nigeria
Abubakar Isa Ibrahim, Bayero University, Nigeria

This session will investigate the influence of orientation and mobility training on adults with visual impairment and their ability to participate in Kano State, Nigeria’s economy. Attendees will learn how orientation and mobility training can actually stimulate the economy.

How Rehabilitation Services are Contributing to the Realization of the SDGs.
Patrick Suubi, University of Rwanda, Rwanda

Over the years, the Rwanda Union of the Blind has offered rehabilitation services to Rwandans with visual impairment. This presentation will highlight the successes and challenges of the rehabilitation center offering this service and show how, through rehabilitation, Rwanda Union of the Blind is helping many individuals with visual impairment in a way that aligns with the SDGs.

A Case Study of Rehabilitation Services for Newly Blinded Persons at the Kenya Institute for the Blind
Mary Ngugi, Kenya Institute For the Blind, Kenya

Kenya Institute for the Blind is a government institute under the Ministry of Education, mandated to offer transcribers, rehabilitation and training services for newly blinded learners, among other services. This presentation describes how the organization’s unique educational rehabilitation services enable newly blinded learners and trainees to acquire the skills they need to continue with their education after sight loss.

Building Hope and Aspirations Among the Visually Impaired to Become Active Citizens and Nation Builders
Moses Chowdari Gorrepati, Enable India, India
Persons with visual impairment are often confined to their homes and denied access to basic education and livelihoods simply because they or their families don’t know about existing opportunities. This presentation will showcase replicable models, developed over the years by Enable India and Bookshare, to inspire hope among the visually impaired and encourage them to become active citizens and nation builders.

KEEPING BRAILLE ALIVE
Chair: Cathy Donaldson, Blind SA, South Africa
Room 4

Braille and Mother Tongues in Ethiopia
Eden Metkn, ENAB, Ethiopia

This session will examine recent developments and challenges associated with braille and the use of mother tongues in Ethiopia. It will cover the historical development of braille and braille literacy throughout the country, the language barriers keeping braille out of the nation’s classrooms and how to overcome those challenges.

Preservation of Braille: Empowerment of Braille Users, an African Perspective.
Ntshavheni Netshituni, UNISA, South Africa

Why is the illiteracy rate so high among braille users? How can braille be made available throughout Africa? What is the best and most affordable type of braille in Africa? This session seeks to answer these questions and more.

Optimizing Braille Production
Samuel Foulkes, Manager of Braille Printing House, Clovernook Center For the Blind, United States

Founded in 1903, Clovernook’s Braille Printing House produces over twenty million pages of braille each year for the National Library Service and is a founding member of the Braille Authority of North America. This session will draw on Clovernook’s expertise to outline methods and techniques braille producers can implement to optimize production practices.

Complimenting Braille Literacy with Computers and Screen Readers in Educating the Visually Impaired Elementary School Student
Nina Okoroafor, Ghana Blind Union, Ghana

This session will compare the effectiveness and use of computer software versus braille resources for elementary school pupils with visual impairment. The main objective is to emphasise the importance of educating elementary school SWVI with computers and screen reader software in their everyday learning experiences and how these tools better prepare SWVI for further studies.
Ingredients of Effective Teacher Preparation: ICEVI Teacher Training Gateway
Chair: Kay Ferrell, ICEVI North America and the Caribbean, USA
Room 5

ICEVI’s Executive Committee established a working group to address one of its priority goals for the quadrennium: promoting access to quality education for people with visual impairment, including those with blindness, low vision, deafblindness and additional disabilities. The group has developed various modules on teacher preparation that help general classroom teachers understand the nuances of inclusion. This session will address the details of the curriculum and how it will bolster inclusion throughout Africa.

Getting Started with Visionary Learning
Richard Orme, Chief Executive Officer, DAISY Consortium, UK
Room 6

Visionary Learning is a model developed by ICEVI and the DAISY Consortium to support the successful education of students who are blind or partially sighted through the planned use of appropriate technologies. Through group work and workshop discussions, attendees of this session will develop technological plans using the Visionary Learning model. The session will also support attendees responding to a call for proposals highly relevant to SDGs 3 and 4.

12:30 - 14:00  Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30 Closing Plenary Session: The Future in African Blindness Services
Room 1
Session Chair: Dr. Thomas Ong’olo, Disability Advisor, African Union, Ethiopia
Panelists: Yetnebesh Nigussie (Commission for Truth and Reconciliation, Ethiopia), Dr. Praveena Sukhraj-Ely (ICEVI Vice President, South Africa), Kevin Carrey (Executive Committee Member of ICEVI, Chair of the WBU Technology Committee and World Braille Council, UK), Prof. Tirussew Teferra (University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

15:30 - Onward  Optional Meetings And Individually Planned Excursions

(Photo: A man using a Perkins brailler in a workshop.)
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Schedule at a glance

Monday, October 7  Conference Opening
8:00 - 15:00 Registration, Room
9:00 - 17:00 Exhibitor Set-up, Room
16:00 - 18:00 Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception, African Union Headquarters, Roosevelt Street W21K19

Tuesday, October 8       Theme: Access
9:00 - 10:30 Plenary Session, Room 1
10:30 - 11:00 Morning Tea/Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30 Concurrent Sessions One, See agenda for locations
12:30 - 14:00 Lunch
14:00 - 15:30 Concurrent Sessions Two, See agenda for locations
15:30 - 16:00 Afternoon Tea/Coffee Break
16:00 - 17:30 Interest Group Meetings, See agenda for locations

Wednesday, October 9    Theme: Education
9:00 - 10:30 Plenary Session, Room 1
10:30 - 11:00 Morning Tea/Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30 Concurrent Sessions One, See agenda for locations
12:30 - 14:00 Lunch
14:00 - 15:30 Concurrent Sessions Two, See agenda for locations
15:30 - 16:00 Afternoon Tea/Coffee Break
16:00 - 17:30 Interest Group Meetings, See agenda for locations

Thursday, October 10    Theme: Innovation
9:00 - 10:30 Plenary Session, Room 1
10:30 - 11:00 Morning Tea/Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30 Concurrent Sessions One, See agenda for locations
12:30 - 14:00 Lunch
14:00 - 15:30 Concurrent Sessions Two, See agenda for locations
15:30 - 16:00 Afternoon Tea/Coffee Break
16:00 - 17:30 Interest Group Meetings, See agenda for locations

Friday, October 11     Theme Lifelong Learning
9:00 - 10:30 Plenary Session, Room 1
10:30 - 11:00 Morning Tea/Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30 Concurrent Sessions One, See agenda for locations
12:30 - 14:00 Lunch
14:00 - 15:30 Plenary Session Two, Room 1
15:30 Optional meetings and Individually Planned Excursions