



WORLD COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY

*Advocacy | Education | Policy Development
Humanitarian Outreach*

Who we are...

The World Council of Optometry (WCO) is an international optometric association founded in 1927.

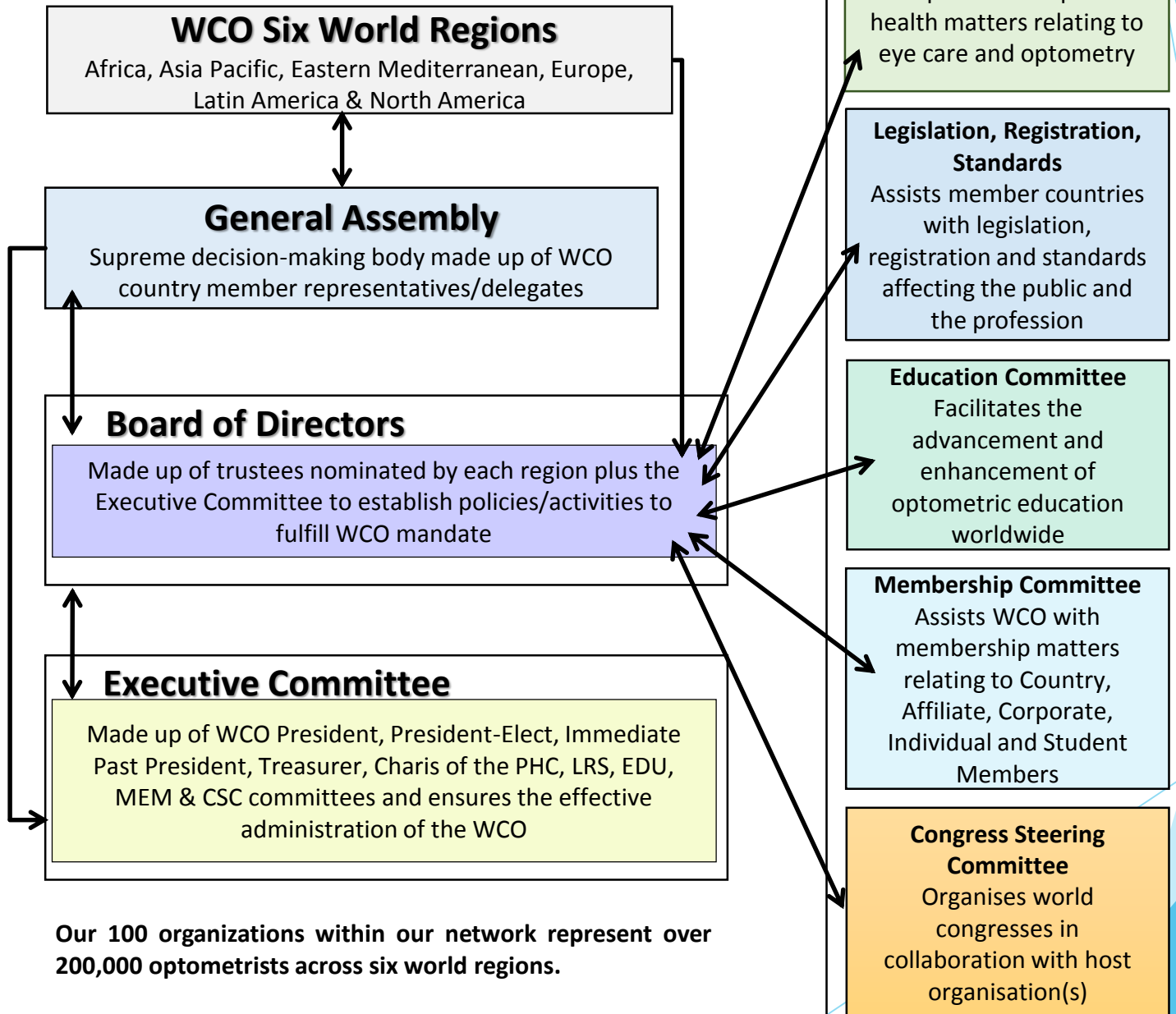
- The WCO represents over 200,000 optometrists in more than 60 countries, through almost 300 Country, Affiliate, Corporate and Individual Memberships across six world regions.



We envision a world where high quality eye health and vision care is accessible to all people.

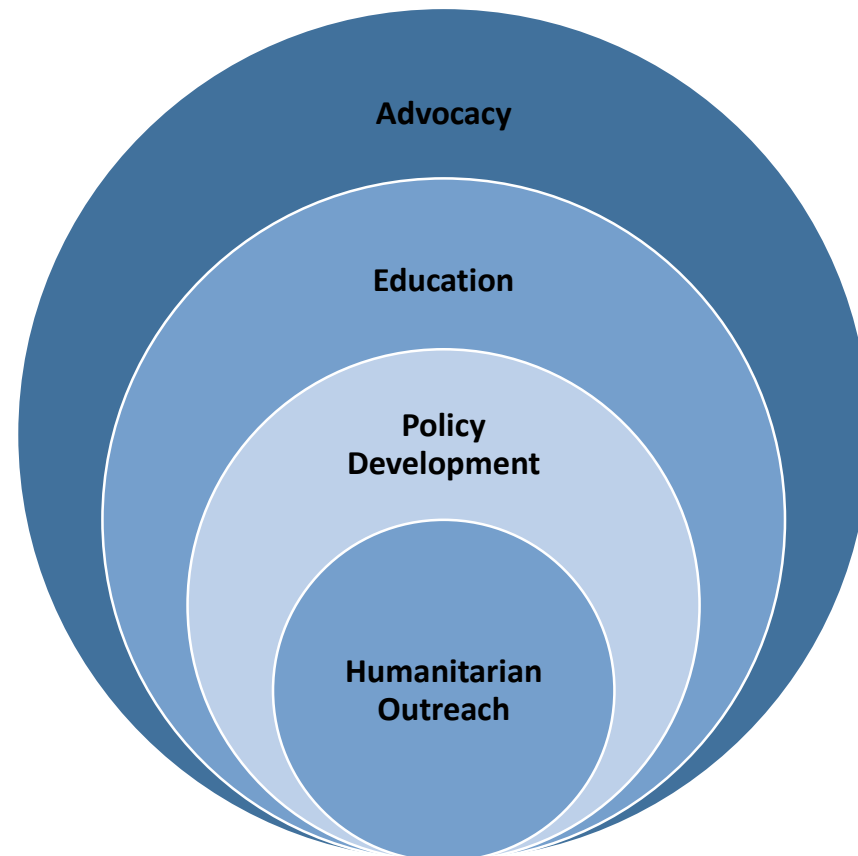
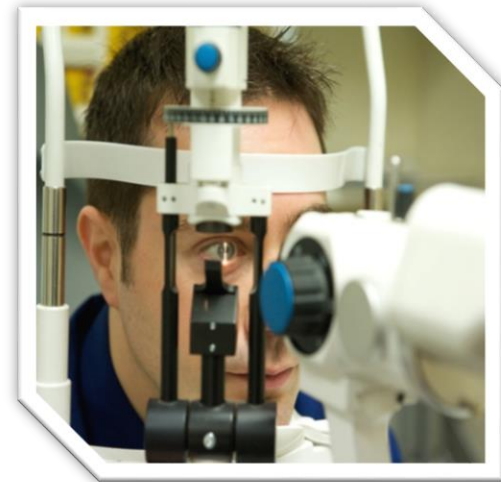


Organigram



What we do...

- Facilitate the development of optometry around the world
- Support optometrists in promoting eye health and vision care as a human right through:



Why we do it...

- An estimated **253 million** people live with vision impairment.¹
- **Over 80%** of all vision impairment can be prevented or cured.¹



36 million are blind, **217 million** have moderate to severe vision impairment¹

55% of visually impaired people are women²

1.4 million children could benefit from vision rehabilitation¹

¹ WHO, 2017

² IAPB, 2017

An Overview of our Work...



Our Objectives

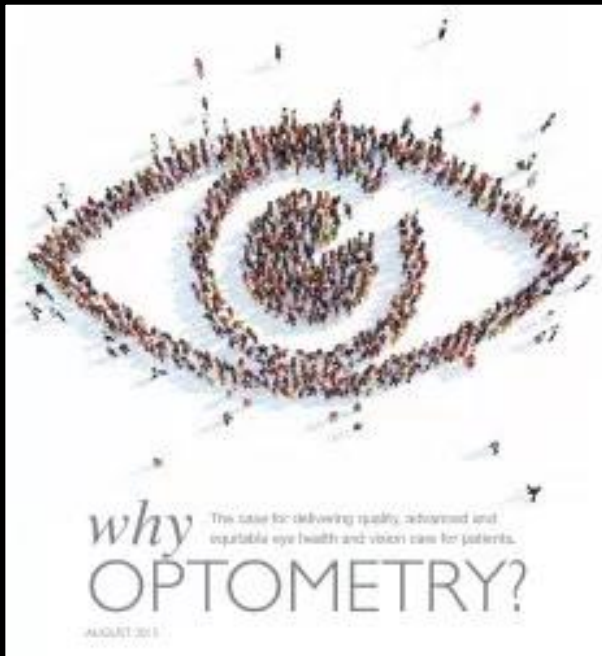
Enhancement
and
development of
primary eye
and vision care
by optometrists

Promotion of
high standards
of education
and practice
while
promoting
international
coordination of
optometrists

Provision of
support to aid
programs
directed at
providing eye
and vision care
to societies in
need

Promotion of
the
advancement
and science of
optometry

The “Why Optometry?” Document

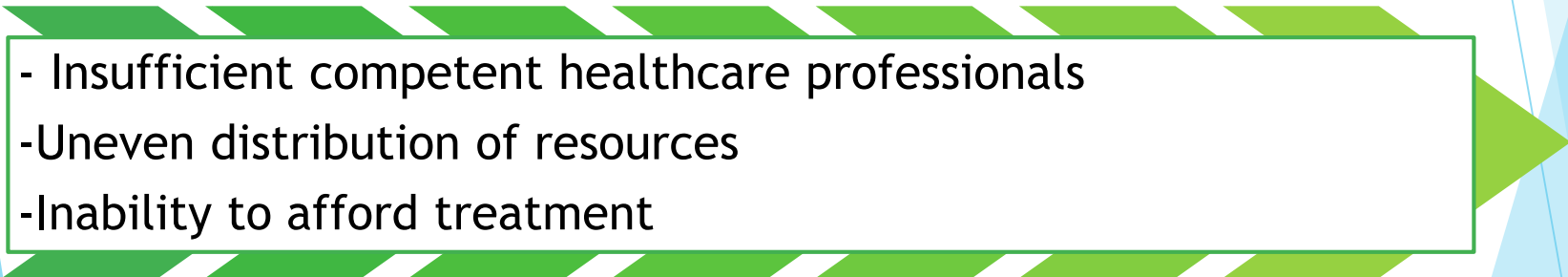


Provides the case for delivering high quality, advanced and equitable eye health and vision care for patients worldwide

Produced by the WCO in response to the World Health Organisation's Global Action Plan for the Prevention of Avoidable Blindness and Visual Impairment 2014-2019

The Need for “Why Optometry”

There are significant challenges for eye health with increasing avoidable blindness and visual impairment, including:

- 
- Insufficient competent healthcare professionals
 - Uneven distribution of resources
 - Inability to afford treatment

Strategic Plan 2017-2020

“Towards a better world – optometry’s role”

Reflects the Advocacy Strategy for 2017-2020 adopted by the Board of Directors in September 2017

Emphasizes Optometry’s intrinsically important role in solving the global problem of Uncorrected Refractive Errors (UREs)

Fits with the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Plan 2014-2019, which aims to:

Further improve eye health

Reduce avoidable visual impairment

Secure access for rehabilitation services

Set up a global target to reduce the prevalence of avoidable visual impairment by 25 percent by 2019

Strategic Plan Goals

Our **VISION** is of a world where optometry makes high quality eye health and vision care accessible to all people

Our **MISSION** is to promote eye health and vision care as a human right through advocacy, education, policy development and the promotion of sustainable eyecare services

Strategic Plan Themes

Theme 1 - Enhance optometric education globally for the benefit of patients and the profession

Theme 2 - Support the Maintenance and Development of Legislation, Registration and Standards for the benefit of patients and the profession

Theme 3 - Increase access to quality eye health and vision care by integrating optometry within the global public health community.

Theme 4 - Leadership of the optometric profession globally.

Theme 5 - Partnerships and strategic alliances

Theme 6 - Membership, Sustainability, Communication, Governance

Global Competency-Based Scope of Practice Model



Provides a vertical career ladder for individuals seeking to expand their scope of clinical responsibility



Helps regulatory bodies guarantee practitioners' competence to protect the public



Acts as a stimulus for creating greater uniformity of optometric practice worldwide by being applied to teaching curriculums

The WCO recognizes that:

Optometric education and the practice of optometry have developed differently and at different levels around the world.




Optometric education is provided in major research universities and independent schools and colleges of optometry.



To meet present and future challenges, a change is needed in the way optometry approaches the delivery of eye care services delivery.



The WCO believes:



Optometrists should possess the skills and competencies to perform eye examinations, prescribe spectacles, diagnose and treat common eye problems, and refer more serious conditions.

The WCO also encourages and helps to develop optometric education and facilitates the reviews of education providers by external agencies.

Optometrists should be integrated within the eye care, and wider health care team.

WCO Major Achievements

In 2017, we celebrated 90-year anniversary through press releases, web postings, articles, a special logo and presentation.

Appointed a new Managing Director – Sue Chiles (previously with the American Optometric Association) and a Marketing Communications Specialist – Garryn Marlen.

Improved member, board and committee communication and engagement.

Launched new bi-monthly member e-newsletter, the WCO E-News.

Continued to provide letters of support for developing countries in response to various regulatory issues.

WCO Major Achievements

Continued to build our World Health Organization (WHO) relationship through ongoing support of the WHO's Global Plan of Action for 2014-2019.

Hosted the 2nd World Congress of Optometry in September 2017 in Hyderabad, India.

Promoted conferences worldwide and addressed the issue of predatory optometric meetings/conferences.

Continued our relationship with Our Children's Vision, whose initial target is to provide eye care services to 50 million children worldwide by 2020.

Continued to work with the regions regarding optometry practitioner mapping to determine manpower and education needs.

The Future – Looking Ahead

Children's
vision

Increase the
recognition
and scope
of practice
of
optometry
worldwide

Increase
membership

Governance
and our
structural
framework

Finance
reform

Our Strategic Partners

The WCO is committed to meeting global eye and vision care needs through collaboration.



OPTOMETRYGIVINGSIGHT

Transforming lives through the gift of vision



WCO Member Benefits



Access to a worldwide optometric network

Opportunity to participate in WCO committees

Be part of a global movement to support the development of optometry

Contribute to setting and maintaining world standards of education and practice of optometry

Support the implementation of the WHO Universal Eye Health: A Global Action Plan 2014-2019

WCO Member Benefits



Contribute to the development of the WCO's advocacy agenda

Access to high quality conferences and events

Promote your activities through WCO communications

Apply for funding from the WCO Fellowship Programme

Join Us

Already a member?

**Invite your
colleagues to
join!**

Not a member?

**Now's the time to
become one!**

Visit

<https://worldcouncilofoptometry.info/membership/join-wco/>

WCO Member Materials Include:

WCO Member Certificate



WCO Logo



E-News Subscription



**New Member
Welcome Letter**

**Personalized
Membership
Certificate**

**Member Benefits
List**

**Your name on
the WCO Website**

**WCO Logo For
Use in
Promotional
Materials**

**E-News Bi-
Monthly e-
Newsletter**

**Worldwide
Networking
Opportunities**

**Opportunity to
Participate in WCO
Committees**

To learn more, visit

<https://worldcouncilofoptometry.info/membership/join-wco/>

October 23rd-28th, 2019 in Orlando, Florida, USA

World Optometry Coming Together

ACADEMY
2019
ORLANDO

3rd World Congress of Optometry



**WORLD COUNCIL
OF OPTOMETRY**



**AMERICAN ACADEMY
of OPTOMETRY**

3rd World Congress of Optometry

World Optometry Coming Together

- ▶ Global platform where practitioners, students, researchers and educators share expertise and engage in the development of optometry's future through clinical CE, research, education and public health, and focus on specific areas including the latest advances in optometry – vision sciences, research, optics and contact lens technology.

ACADEMY
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October 23rd-28th, 2019
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Scientific Track:

- ▶ **Rich and diverse information supporting the delivery of optometric care through Clinical research and development, including:**
 - ▶ Symposia
 - ▶ Clinical workshops
 - ▶ Research presentations

Educator Track:

- ▶ **Scientific research to support improved delivery of academic information for educators, including:**
 - ▶ Improved delivery for didactics
 - ▶ Improved evidence for teaching clinical skills
 - ▶ Lectures, workshops and research presentations
 - ▶ Opportunity to advance the optometric education agenda across the world
 - ▶ Supports the sustainable development of highly needed human resources

The World Council of Optometry Offers the Following Opportunities:

- ▶ To attend the President's Forum - convening major stakeholders, focusing on issues facing the profession
- ▶ To discuss the status of optometry globally
- ▶ To attend networking events featuring Orlando, Florida and tourists attractions



**We hope to see
you there!**

For more information, visit www.worldoptometry.org

Thank you!



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Together, we will do great things.