



Dear Colleagues,

On May 24th, during the 75th World Health Assembly at the United Nations in Geneva, the World Council of Optometry (WCO) was invited to participate in a special event to launch the World Health Organization's (WHO) [Eye Care in Health Systems: Guide for Action](#). This guide was developed with the support of the WCO and is a significant step for eye care.

Members of WCO were asked to take part in the various work groups involved in the development of this landmark document. The collaborative approach taken by WHO resulted in this positive and practical document.

Currently, more than 2 billion people are living with a vision impairment and of these, at least 1 billion people are needlessly living with poor vision due to lack of access to eye care services. This burden is not borne equally: 90 percent of people with vision impairment or blindness live in low- and middle-income countries. Often, all that is needed is a cost-effective intervention, such as a pair of spectacles or cataract surgery.

The Eye Care in Health Systems: Guide for Action provides practical, step-by-step, guidance to support Member States in planning and implementing the recommendations of the [World Report on Vision](#) with the goal to provide integrated people-centred eye care services.

This new resource leads Member States through a four-step process: situation analysis; development of an eye care strategic plan and monitoring framework; development and implementation of an operational plan; and establishing and maintaining ongoing review processes.

The Guide further describes and links the following four new tools developed by WHO to support country planning:

- [Eye Care Situation Analysis Tool \(ECSAT\)](#) Purpose: Questionnaire based survey tool to comprehensively assess eye care in a country.
- [Eye Care Indicator Menu \(ECIM\)](#) Purpose: List of recommended eye care indicators to be collected regularly.
- [Package of Eye Care Interventions \(PECI\)](#) Purpose: Planning and budgeting for eye care at each level of the health system.
- [Eye Care Competency Framework \(ECCF\)](#) Purpose: Planning tool for eye care human resources based on competencies.

These resources can also be found on the WCO website.

The World Council of Optometry will continue to advocate and work with WHO and other global eye care organizations as we strive towards accessible and equitable eye care for all.

Sincerely,

Peter Hendicott
WCO President