

Global Summit for Eye Health Commitments Guidance

1. Purpose of the document

The Global Summit for Eye Health provides a unique opportunity for governments, civil society, professional associations, private sector, development partners, research institutions and international organisations to demonstrate leadership through concrete commitments that accelerate progress towards universal access to eye health.

Commitments are a cornerstone of the summit. They translate ambition into action by setting out specific activities, measurable outcomes and clear timelines that contribute to ending avoidable sight loss. Collectively, these commitments will showcase global leadership, strengthen accountability, mobilise investment, and foster collaboration across sectors.

This guidance has been developed to support organisations in preparing high-quality commitments for submission through the Global Summit for Eye Health Commitment Portal. It explains each section of the submission form, outlines the characteristics of a strong commitment, and provides practical examples to help organisations develop commitments that are clear, measurable and impactful.

This guidance is intended to help ensure that commitments are meaningful, achievable and aligned with the shared vision of the Global Summit for Eye Health.



Photo by IAPB

2. Who can make a commitment?

Government ministries and bodies, multilateral, international, and philanthropic organizations, civil society organizations, research institutes, academic institutes, service delivery providers and the private sector can pledge their commitment for the summit.

3. What is a summit commitment?

A Summit Commitment is a formal public pledge made by a government, private sector organisation, multilateral institution, philanthropic organisation, non-governmental organisation (NGO/INGO), professional association, academic institution or other eye health stakeholder to take specific actions, allocate resources, or achieve measurable targets that contribute to ending avoidable sight loss.

A commitment is more than an expression of support or intent. It is a clear statement of what an organisation will do, within a defined timeframe, to improve eye health outcomes. Commitments demonstrate leadership, provide a basis for accountability, and enable progress to be monitored over time.

Commitments may focus on policy reform, service delivery, financing, workforce development, research, innovation, partnerships, technology, advocacy or other areas that contribute to strengthening eye health systems and improving equitable access to eye care.

Organisations are encouraged to submit commitments that are new, significantly expanded, or represent a meaningful acceleration of existing work. Where commitments build on ongoing programmes, they should clearly describe the additional actions, scale or investment that distinguish them from routine activities.

4. What Makes a Strong Commitment?

A strong commitment is one that clearly explains what will be done, who will benefit, where it will be implemented, when it will be achieved, and how success will be measured.

All commitments should, wherever possible, follow the SMART principles.

Principle	What this means
Specific	Clearly describe the action an organisation will undertake. Avoid broad statements of intent.
Measurable	Include quantifiable outputs, outcomes, targets or indicators wherever possible
Achievable	Ensure the commitment is realistic, adequately resourced and feasible within the proposed timeframe.
Relevant	Demonstrate how the commitment contributes to improving eye health outcomes and aligns with organisational or national priorities.
Time-bound	Specify when implementation will begin and end, or when key milestones will be achieved.

In addition to being SMART, strong commitments should also be:

- Action-oriented, focusing on implementation rather than aspiration;
- Accountable, with clearly identified lead organisation(s);
- Evidence-informed, drawing on national priorities, data and recognised best practice where appropriate;
- Collaborative, where partnerships strengthen implementation; and
- Sustainable, demonstrating how the commitment will contribute to long-term improvements in eye health.

5. How to develop a commitment:

Developing a strong commitment should be a consensus-driven process within an organisation, engaging relevant teams and leadership to ensure the commitment reflects organisational priorities, is feasible to deliver, and has clear ownership and accountability.

Organisations are encouraged to draw on existing global eye health strategies, evidence and policy resources when shaping their commitment. A range of resources is available to support this process, including:

Global Summit for Eye Health Policy Framework

Value of Vision: The Case for Investment

Thematic Policy Briefs

2030 In Sight Strategy

Commitment Consultation Guide

Organisations may also convene a Commitment Consultation Workshop to bring together relevant colleagues and partners to identify priorities, build consensus and develop a clear and measurable commitment. The [Commitment Consultation Guide](#) provides practical support for facilitating this process.

One-to-one support is also available to help shape and refine your commitment. For further information, please contact **Rachael Bourke**, IAPB Senior Membership Manager, at rbourke@iapb.org, or **Junu Shrestha**, IAPB Senior Policy and Advocacy Manager, at jshrestha@iapb.org

6. Making a commitment

Commitments for the Global Summit for Eye Health can be submitted through the Commitment Submission Portal until World Sight Day, 8 October 2026. Each organization, including governments, can submit only one commitment, unless it is a joint commitment. The commitments will be the part of outcome document of the global summit.

Completing the Commitment Submission Form:

The commitment submission form has been designed to capture the essential information needed to understand, communicate, and monitor your organization's commitment. The following guidance explains each section of the form.

1. Name of Lead Institution

The lead institution will serve as the primary focal point for communication, reporting, and accountability related to the commitment. Enter the official name of the organization responsible for leading and coordinating the commitment.

Examples:

- Ministry of Health, X country
- International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)
- National Eye Institute
- XYZ Vision Foundation

2. Organization Type

Select the category that best describes the lead institution.

- Government
- Non-Government Organization (INGO/NGO/Civil Society)
- Private Sector (For-profit organizations)
- Donors/Development Partners/Philanthropic Organizations
- Research and Academic Institutions
- International and Multinational Organizations (UN Agencies, World Bank, Regional Bodies)
- Professional Associations/Regulatory Bodies
- Health Facilities/Service Providers
- Other (please specify)

3. Lead Contact

Provide the details of the primary contact responsible for coordinating the commitment. This person may be contacted if clarification or additional information is required during the review process.

4. Joint Commitment

A joint commitment is a commitment co-developed and formally submitted by two or more organizations that have agreed to make a shared public commitment towards a common objective. All participating organizations should have formally agreed to the commitment and accept shared ownership of its implementation.

Where a joint commitment is submitted, list the names of all participating organizations that are formal commitment makers. Do not include organizations that are solely implementation partners, technical advisors, funders, or collaborators unless they are also formally participating in the commitment.

A single Lead Institution must be designated to coordinate the submission. The nominated Lead Contact will act as the primary point of contact for all communication with the Global Summit Secretariat, including any queries during the review and verification process.

5. Commitment Title

Provide a short, descriptive title that clearly captures the essence of your commitment.

Good examples:

- Integrating Eye Care into Universal Health Coverage in X country
- Expanding School Eye Health Services in X District
- Scaling AI-enabled Diabetic Retinopathy Screening

6. Commitment Statement

This is the most important section of the submission. We recommend commitment statement should clearly describe:

- what your organization commits to doing;
- why the commitment is important;
- who will benefit;
- where it will be implemented;
- how it will be delivered; and
- when it will be completed.

A commitment statement of up to 300 words is recommended. Strong commitments focus on concrete actions rather than aspirations and should align with the SMART principles described earlier in this guidance.

Example commitment

Example 1: Government

Integrating Comprehensive Eye Care into Universal Health Coverage by 2030

The Ministry of Health commits to integrating comprehensive eye care into the national health system as part of Universal Health Coverage by December 2030. Building on the WHO Integrated People-centred Eye Care (IPEC) approach and the country's National Health Sector Strategic Plan, the Ministry will strengthen prevention, early detection, treatment and rehabilitation services through a coordinated health systems approach.

The commitment will integrate comprehensive eye care into the national UHC benefit package and primary health care services, update national eye health policies and clinical guidelines, strengthen referral pathways, and improve access to affordable spectacles, cataract surgery, diabetic retinopathy screening and rehabilitation services. To support implementation, the Ministry will strengthen the eye health workforce through competency-based training for primary health care workers, ophthalmologists, optometrists and allied eye health personnel.

The Government will progressively increase domestic financing for eye health and strengthen partnerships with provincial governments, professional associations, civil society organizations and development partners to ensure equitable implementation across all regions. Particular emphasis will be placed on reaching underserved populations, including women, children, older persons, people with disabilities and rural communities.

To strengthen accountability, eye health indicators, including effective cataract surgical coverage and effective refractive error coverage, will be incorporated into the national health information system, with annual progress reviews informing implementation and resource allocation.

Through this commitment, the Ministry aims to strengthen health system resilience, reduce avoidable vision impairment and ensure that quality eye care becomes an integral component of Universal Health Coverage.

Geographic Scope: National

Expected Outcomes

- Comprehensive eye care integrated into the national UHC benefits package.
- National eye health policy and clinical guidelines updated.
- Eye health indicators integrated into the national health information system.
- Effective cataract surgical coverage increased by 20%.
- Effective refractive error coverage increased by 25%.

Estimated Financial Contribution: USD 42 Million

Number of people reached: 20 Million

Commitment Timeframe: January 2027 – December 2030

Example 2: Private Sector

Advancing Innovation and Sustainable Access to Vision Technologies

The company commits to improving equitable access to innovative, affordable vision technologies across low- and middle-income countries by investing in research and development, local manufacturing, sustainable distribution systems and regulatory strengthening between 2027 and 2030.

Working in partnership with governments, manufacturers, distributors and eye health providers, the company will expand the availability of quality-assured vision technologies through regional manufacturing capacity, responsible technology transfer and strengthened supply chains. The commitment will also support countries to navigate regulatory pathways for innovative eye care products, improve market availability and affordability, and strengthen local technical capacity for maintenance and servicing of diagnostic and optical equipment.

By promoting innovation alongside sustainable local production and distribution, the company aims to improve long-term access to high-quality eye care technologies while strengthening local markets and reducing dependency on imported products.

Geographic Scope: Multi-country

Expected Outcomes:

- Regional manufacturing capacity established or strengthened in five countries.
- Regulatory approval pathways supported for innovative eye care technologies in ten countries.
- Sustainable distribution networks expanded across 20 low- and middle-income countries.
- Five million additional people gain access to affordable vision technologies.

Estimated Financial Contribution: USD 50 million

Number of people reached: 8 million

Commitment Timeframe: January 2027 – December 2030

Eye Health priority:

- Refractive error

Thematic area:

- Innovation and technology

Example 3: Health Facility / Service Provider

Increasing Access to Cataract Services for Underserved Populations

The Eye Hospital commits to strengthening access to quality cataract services for people living in 'X' rural district of the country between 2027 and 2030. In alignment with the Government's national eye health priorities and Universal Health Coverage agenda, the hospital will increase the number of economically disadvantaged patients receiving subsidized cataract surgery by 20% through strengthening partnerships with local governments, charitable foundations and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. This commitment aims to reduce financial barriers to cataract surgery and improve equitable access to essential eye care services for vulnerable populations.

Geographic Scope: national

Expected Outcome: A 20% increase in the number of economically disadvantaged patients receiving subsidized cataract surgery by 2030.

Estimated Financial Contribution: USD 300,000

Number of people reached: 400,000

Commitment Timeframe: January 2027 – December 2030

Eye Health priority:

- Cataract

Thematic area:

- Equity and Inclusion
- Service Delivery

Example 4: International Non- Government Organization

Advancing Country-led Eye Health Programmes Across Africa and Asia

X commits to supporting governments in 5 countries across Africa and Asia to strengthen equitable, people-centred eye care between 2027 and 2030. Working in partnership with ministries of health, local civil society organisations, professional associations, service providers and communities, the organisation will support the implementation of country-led priorities that contribute to stronger health systems and improved access to quality eye care.

Recognising that eye health priorities differ across countries, this overarching commitment will be delivered through country-specific sub-commitments tailored to national needs and government priorities. Together, these commitments will contribute to strengthening comprehensive eye care through policy and systems strengthening, service delivery, workforce development, health promotion and advocacy, while promoting cross-country learning and collaboration.

Geographic Scope: Multi-country

Expected Outcomes:

- 5 country-specific commitments implemented in partnership with national governments.
- Country programmes aligned with national eye health priorities and government plans.
- Strengthened government capacity to implement sustainable eye health programmes across participating countries.

Estimated Financial Contribution: USD 30 million

Number of people impacted: 10 Million

Commitment Timeframe: Jan 2027 – Dec 2030

Eye Health Priority Areas:

- Cataract
- Childhood eye health
- Refractive Error
- Diabetic Retinopathy

Optional Sub-Commitments

Country A

Support the Ministry of Health to integrate comprehensive eye care within the national health benefits package through policy dialogue, health financing analysis and technical assistance.

Country B

Support the Ministries of Health and Education to integrate eye health into the national Health-Promoting Schools programme through teacher training, vision screening and referral pathways.

Country C

Strengthen the national eye health workforce by supporting competency-based training for primary health care workers and allied eye health personnel.

Country D

Support the national cataract programme by improving access to high-quality cataract surgery through outreach services, quality improvement and strengthened referral pathways.

Country E

Support the integration of diabetic retinopathy screening within existing diabetes services through technical assistance and capacity building.

Thematic Areas

- Integration
- Service delivery
- Partnerships
- Health workforce
- Policy, legislation & regulation
- Health promotion

7. Geographic Scope

Indicate where the commitment will be implemented. Scope includes-country, region, multi-country and global.

8. Expected Outcomes

Expected outcomes describe the results that will be achieved through the commitment. These should focus on changes or improvements resulting from the commitment.

For example:

- ✓ National eye health policy updated.
- ✓ One million people gain access to refractive services.
- ✓ Effective cataract surgical coverage increased by 20%.

Where appropriate, include more than one expected outcome.

9. Estimated Financial Contribution

Estimate the total financial contribution (in USD) that your organisation expects to invest towards implementing this commitment over its implementation period. This may include your organisation's own funding, secured external funding, and the estimated value of in-kind contributions directly supporting the commitment, where applicable. If an exact amount is unavailable, please provide your best reasonable estimate.

10. Number of People reached

Provide an estimate of the number of people expected to be reached or benefitted from the commitment.

11. Commitment Timeframe

Specify the implementation period for your commitment.

Examples: January 2027 – December 2030; 2027–2030

The timeframe should be realistic and aligned with the activities and expected outcomes described in the commitment.

12. Which Eye Health Priority Area Does Your Commitment Primarily Address?

This question is specifically for all stakeholders besides government. Select all eye health priority areas addressed by your commitment.

- Cataract
- Refractive Error
- Childhood eye health
- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Glaucoma
- Myopia
- Low vision and blindness rehabilitation
- Trachoma
- Rare eye disease
- Other (Please specify)

13. Which Thematic Area(s) Does Your Commitment Contribute To?

This question is specifically for all stakeholders besides government. Select all thematic areas that best reflect the focus of your commitment.

Available thematic areas are:

- Policy, legislation and regulation
- Financing and investment
- Health workforce
- Service delivery
- Innovation and technology
- Health information systems

- Partnerships
- Integration
- Equity and inclusion
- Research, data and evidence
- Health promotion
- WHO 2030 eye health targets
- Other (Please specify)

14. Sub-Commitments (Optional)

Organizations making a broad or multi-faceted commitment may choose to include one or more sub-commitments.

Sub-commitments are optional and should represent distinct commitments that contribute to the overall objective. They should not simply divide one activity into smaller implementation tasks.

Sub-commitments will not be the part of the Summit's outcome document, however, will be retained in the portal, and each sub-commitment should be reported separately.

In most cases, a single well-defined commitment is sufficient, and sub-commitments are not necessary.

15. Compact endorsement

Alongside making a commitment, organisations are invited to endorse the Global Eye Health Compact.

The St. John's Global Compact for Eye Health is the Global Summit's multi-stakeholder agreement, setting out a shared vision and priorities for action.

By endorsing the Compact, organisations express their support for these shared principles and demonstrate their commitment to working collaboratively towards achieving its objectives.

Endorsing the Compact is separate from submitting an organisational commitment. While a commitment describes the specific actions organisation will undertake, endorsing the Compact signals alignment with the broader global vision and collective agenda for eye health.

7. Next step

Once submitted, the commitment will undergo an initial review by the Global Summit Secretariat. Following this review, the commitment will be shared with the World Health Organization for their approval.

If additional information or clarification is required during the review process, the Secretariat may contact the Lead Contact provided in the submission.

Following successful verification, the commitment will be included in the Global Summit for Eye Health Outcome Document and showcased during the Summit. The commitment, together with any associated sub-commitments, will also be retained within the Commitment Portal to support ongoing monitoring and reporting of progress following the Summit.

If you have any questions about developing or submitting a commitment, please contact:

Junu Shrestha, jshrestha@iapb.org and

Rachael Bourke, rbourke@iapb.org

**Scan to learn
more about the
Global Summit
for Eye Health**

