

World Forum of Youth with Visual Disabilities
Blind and low vision youth: from the present we have to the future we want –
Voices that transform

Agenda

Date: Monday, September 1, 2025

Time: 13:30 to 17:30

Modality: In person

Venue: Distrito Anhembi Convention Center – Room to be confirmed

Estimated attendance: 100 people

Format: Panel discussions, participatory workshop, and collective closing. Online transmission via ONCB radio.

Translation: Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the official languages of the event: English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese.

Context and General Description

Within the framework of the **World Blindness Summit** and the **11th General Assembly of the World Blind Union (WBU)**, the **World Forum of Blind and Low Vision Youth** is convened, organized by the **Latin American Union of the Blind (ULAC)** and the **ONCE Foundation for Solidarity with Blind People in Latin America (FOAL)**, with the support of the **World Blind Union (WBU)** and the **National Organization of the Blind of Brazil (ONCB)**.

This forum seeks to raise visibility, from a human rights and intersectional perspective, of the realities, challenges, and forms of resistance of youth with visual disabilities, promoting their protagonism in social and political transformation.

General Objective

To raise visibility and strengthen the political, social, and cultural agency of blind and low vision youth through a space of critical dialogue, collective diagnosis, and concrete proposals for action.

Expected Results

- Highlight common challenges and diverse realities from different regions of the world, regarding inclusion, participation, and accessibility.
- Collaboratively build critical, creative, and proactive thinking among youth.
- Participatorily develop a Manifesto for the Youth of the World, gathering the demands, reflections, and commitments of youth with visual disabilities.
- Strengthen networks of youth with visual disabilities in the region and globally.

FORUM STRUCTURE

The forum will take place in three blocks, including reflective dialogue, participatory work, and collective closure. The detailed agenda is as follows:

1:00 PM Opening of the venue. Registration and distribution of translation devices

Time: 13:30 – 14:05 (45 minutes)

Facilitator: General moderator of the event

- Welcome remarks by representatives of ULAC, FOAL, WBU, and the Government of Brazil
- Presentation of the forum's overall framework
- Guiding questions:
 - What present are we living in?
 - What future do we want?
 - What will we do to build it?

BLOCK 1 – Panel Discussion

"Territories of Resistance: Education, Employment, and Participation in Dispute"

Time: 14:05 – 15:14 (1h 10 minutes)

Moderator: Estefanía Cubillos

Format: Conversation with young leaders from different regions

Thematic Areas

- Educational barriers and adaptive technology
- Precarity, employment, and territorial marginalization
- Political activism and gaps in real influence

Objective: To name, raise visibility, and problematize structures that reproduce exclusion, and map experiences of youth resistance.

Plenary – Open Dialogue

Time: 15:14 – 15:28 (14 minutes)

Objective: Space for public participation, reactions, and brief interventions.

Institutional Space for Recognition of Youth Leadership

Time: 15:28 – 15:43 (15 minutos)

Speaker: WBU representative

Objective: Deliver an institutional message highlighting the strategic role of youth in the global visual disability agenda.

BLOCK 2 – Participatory Plenary

"Designing Our Future: Agency, Advocacy, and Transformation"

Time: 15:43 – 16:23 (40 minutes)

Moderator: María Soledad Gelvez

Topics:

- Community and territories

- Digital activism
- Political negotiation

Objective: To collectively explore strategies to strengthen youth participation based on local and global realities.

Break

Time: 16:23 – 16:38 (15 minutes)

BLOCK 3 – Manifesto

"Construction of the São Paulo Manifesto by Blind and Low Vision Youth of the World"

Time: 16:38 – 17:08 (30 minutes)

Facilitators: Fabiana Castillo (ULAC Youth Secretariat) and Antonio Palma (RIADIS Human Rights Secretariat)

Objective: Collect and collectively validate the proposals developed during the forum.

MENIFESTO READING

Time: 17:08 – 17:18 (10 minutes)

Objective: Public reading of the agreed document.

FORUM CLOSING

Time: 17:18 – 17:30 (12 minutes)

- Final remarks by ULAC and ONCB Youth Secretariats.
- Announcement of the creation of a **Global WhatsApp Group** for youth with visual disabilities.
- Invitation to continue collective articulation post-event.