# Concept Note

## **“Presenting WFDB’s 2nd Global Report: Good Practices and Recommendations for the Inclusion of Persons with Deafblindness”**

## Side Event – CoSP16April 2023

## **Background**

The World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB) is a global non-governmental advocacy organization by and for persons with deafblindness, established in 2001 which consists today of 75 national and associated member organizations from 62 different countries from all corners of the world.

In 2007, the organization attained consultative status at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is a proud member of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) where the WFDB President serves as a member of the board.

## **Rationale**

In March 2023, WFDB published its second global report which seeks to build on the findings and recommendations of WFDB's first global report, published in 2018, and consolidate evidence from different regions and diverse groups, including persons with deafblindness and professionals. This report builds on the quantitative analysis of the first report, providing data on children with deafblindness.

The qualitative analysis identifies good practices, essential elements, measures that increase and improve the inclusion of persons with deafblindness, case studies to illustrate and inspire good practices and programmatic approaches, and recommendations across thematic areas. Every chapter in the report includes specific recommendations for three different groups: governments, OPDs and NGOs and donors.

Key audiences for this report include national and local government officials and statutory bodies, donors, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), service providers and frontline staff, intergovernmental organisations (such as United Nations entities and country teams), and others.

During this side event, WFDB intends to present its 2nd Global Report, a key advocacy tool for the deafblind community and their allies to stimulate collaboration and partnerships to advance the rights of persons with deafblindness and inform governments on how to foster the inclusion of persons with deafblindness.

**Objectives**

The side event would include the participation of governments and other key stakeholders, providing an excellent opportunity to discuss urgent priorities to ensure persons with deafblindness are not left behind.

1. The objectives of this online event can be summarised as follows:
2. Present WFDB’s recently published 2nd Global Report and main barriers to and recommendations for the Inclusion of Persons with Deafblindness
3. Introduce the SHAPES Project (an Innovation Action funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 programme) as a case study and example of a good practice on how to involve the deafblind community in large scale projects, including older people with deafblindness.
4. Raise awareness on the fact that persons with deafblindness are a broad and diverse group that require reasonable accommodations and tailored deafblindness-specific services, such as interpreter-guides/Deafblind interpreters to ensure social inclusion, participation, independence, and autonomy.
5. Highlight and discuss the importance of reaching under-represented groups of persons with disabilities, such as persons with deafblindness, in line with Sub theme 3 of CoSP 2023.

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