



## **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**

**between**

**World Federation of the Deaf (hereinafter referred to as WFD)**

**and**

**The World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB)**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) confirms the partnership between the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and the World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB).

**THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF**, registered as an international non-profit organisation (NGO) at Valkea Talo, Ilkantie 4, 00401, Helsinki, FINLAND, with registration number 199.900 (hereinafter referred to as WFD), is an international non-profit and non-governmental organisation of deaf associations from 137 countries. In addition, its membership includes associate members, international members, individual members, and two categories of youth members. The WFD has 8 Regional Secretariats and one Co-operating Member. Its legal seat is in Helsinki, Finland.

**THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAFBLIND (WFDB)** is an international not-for-profit membership organisation at Rue de l'Industrie 10, 1000, Brussels, BELGIUM, with registration number 1016.309.382., which has attained acknowledgement and recognition as the unified and legitimate global representative and the voice of persons with deafblindness. This includes individuals with a combined hearing and visual impairment. WFDB aspires to improve the quality of life of persons with deafblindness worldwide and to achieve equal rights and equal opportunities in all areas of society. Also, WFDB aims to develop and remain a worldwide forum for the exchange of knowledge and experiences in the area of deafblindness, and to increase international solidarity among organisations of people with deafblindness, as well as other disability representative organisations. WFDB is a point of connection on any global advocacy action related to Deafblind persons with national and international members and partners, as well as with external institutions such as IDA, IDDC, UN, etc. The main principle of WFDB follows the well-known disability motto, and that is: "Nothing about US (Deafblind) without US (Deafblind)."



WFD and WFDB are now called “the Parties” in this Agreement.

## 2. PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

The **WFD** and **WFDB** agree that the communities they represent share common agendas, interests, and experiences. It is of great importance to unite around common goals of collaboration and alignment of strategic actions, particularly in raising awareness and promoting a broader understanding of the rights and needs of persons who are deaf/deafblind. This includes gaining recognition and respect for national sign languages, sign language adaptations, and other common communication systems used by persons with deafblindness.

## 3. JOINT COOPERATION SCOPE

An indicative list of cooperation mechanisms includes:

The Memorandum will serve as an outline to support each other’s strategic goals and initiatives.

1. **Knowledge Exchange and Organisational Understanding:** WFD and WFDB will actively exchange knowledge and information about each other’s organisations and strategic plans, fostering a deeper mutual understanding of their work. This will include coordinated meetings to provide mutual encouragement and support.
2. **Expansion of Publications and Joint Communications:** Both organisations may share publications, announcements, and official statements where relevant. Through this partnership, WFD and WFDB may promote and disseminate each other’s work, ensuring their combined efforts have a greater impact. An example of this would be WFDB’s Campaign on International Day of Deafblindness.
3. **Collaboration on Research, Fundraising, and Policy Development:** WFD and WFDB agree to collaborate in areas such as research promotion, fundraising, campaign releases, policy development, and conferences. This may include forming joint committees, working groups, and project teams or inviting representatives to participate in such initiatives within either organization, subject to availability of funding and/or appropriateness.
4. **Annual Meetings and Representation:** The Presidents of each organization will meet at least annually. A representative from each organisation may be invited to attend the other’s Board and Executive Council/Management



Committee meetings where appropriate and if funding allows.

#### 4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USE OF INSTITUTIONAL LOGOS

The WFD and WFDB recognise that the involvement of both organisations in cooperation activities needs to be publicised. The parties agree that:

- There will be a public acknowledgement of the role and contribution of each organisation to cooperation projects in all public information and documentation related to such cooperation;
- Each organisation's logos will be used in documentation related to the cooperation according to its current policies. Any additional use of the logo must be mutually agreed upon in writing.

#### 5. DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT

This Memorandum of Understanding will remain in effect from the date of signature for a period of four (4) years or until either party decides to terminate it by providing the other with ninety (90) days prior notice in writing.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding on the date indicated below.

#### 6. KEY FOCAL POINT OF BOTH PARTIES

For the WFD

- Joseph Murray, President  
[joseph.murray@wfdeaf.org](mailto:joseph.murray@wfdeaf.org)
- Pamela Molina, Executive Director  
[pamela.molina@wfdeaf.org](mailto:pamela.molina@wfdeaf.org)

For the WFDB

- Sanja Tarczay, President  
[president@wfdb.eu](mailto:president@wfdb.eu)
- Lucía D'Arino, Executive Director  
[executive.director@wfdb.eu](mailto:executive.director@wfdb.eu)



## 7. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Suppose the Parties foresee that intellectual property that must be protected will be created in relation to any activity to be carried out under this MOU. In that case, they shall negotiate and agree on the terms of its ownership and use in a separate agreement.

## 8. CONFIDENTIALITY



The terms and conditions of this Agreement are confidential. WFD and WFDB shall not disclose any information received in implementing this MOU to any third party except for information required by law or already in the public domain.

This MOU follows the confidentiality clauses of the Finnish social service regulations. With this MOU, the parties withhold all present and possible future copyrights and other rights, including rights to the leasing of recordings, that are borne within the partnership ruled by this MOU.

The WFD is also entitled to modify the production and surrender the assigned rights further to a third party with forwarding rights.

In witness whereof the parties have hereto executed these presents on the date below.

This Agreement is drawn up in two original copies and signed by authorised signatories of WFD and WFDB.

 <hr/> For The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) <b>Dr Joseph J. Murray</b> PRESIDENT Date: 02/04/2025	 <hr/> For The World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB) <b>Sanja Tarczay, PhD</b> PRESIDENT Date: 02/04/2025
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