



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)
BETWEEN
the Latin American Network of Organizations of People with Disabilities
and their Families (RIADIS)
AND
the World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB)

Berlin, April 2025

1. Background:

RIADIS was founded on October 17, 2002, during the First Conference in Caracas, Venezuela, it obtained legal status as a Legal Organization in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on September 10, 2008. It has been legally established in Colombia since November 2023, operating as a democratic, participatory, representative organization with solidarity action and shared responsibility among its members.

Today, RIADIS represents 56 organizations, 39 full members, and 17 collaborators, representing people living with different types of disabilities in 19 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. We currently work to promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean, through the values of non-discrimination and inclusive development, aimed at improving the quality of life and social inclusion of people with disabilities and their families.

Its status as a democratic regional network builds a strong bond of cooperation among national organizations. These organizations, while developing independently in their countries, choose to collaborate through RIADIS to produce and exchange good practices, knowledge, and skills to enhance progress in the region. Furthermore, its main role is to represent its members in international forums such as the UN, the OAS, and the International Development Association (IDA), among others, always with the commitment to making the voices of persons with disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean heard, which are many, varied, and resonant. RIADIS is governed by the principles of solidarity, independence, impartiality, accountability, ethics, transparency, respect for human diversity, and democracy, and is a leading member of the International Disability Alliance.

WFDB is an international not-for-profit membership organization founded in 2001 which has attained acknowledgment 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).

2. Purpose:

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aims to establish a framework for collaboration between the WFDB and RIADIS to promote the rights, inclusion, and well-being of persons with deafblindness in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The official language for written communication between the parties is English.

3. Areas of Collaboration:

- **Institutional strengthening:** Support and strengthen organizations of persons with deafblindness in Latin America and the Caribbean, integrating them into RIADIS.
- **Information and best practices exchange:** Share knowledge, resources, and experiences related to deafblindness.
- **Capacity building:** Organize training sessions, workshops, and seminars for professionals, families, and individuals with deafblindness.
- **Political advocacy:** Promote inclusive public policies and advocate for the rights of persons with deafblindness.
- **Awareness raising:** Conduct awareness campaigns to promote inclusion and respect for persons with deafblindness.
- **Joint Projects:** Develop collaborative initiatives in areas of mutual interest.

4. Confidentiality:

- Both parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of the information shared within the framework of this collaboration.
- Confidential information includes, but is not limited to, personal data, financial information, advocacy strategies, and any other information designated as confidential by either party.

- Confidential information may only be disclosed with the prior written consent of the party that provided it, or when required by law.

5. General Provisions:

- This MoU does not create any binding legal obligations between the parties.
- The parties undertake to act in good faith and to collaborate constructively to achieve the objectives of this MoU.
- Any modification to this MoU must be agreed in writing by both parties.

6. DURATION

The MoU will enter into force upon signature by the authorized representatives of WFDB and RIADIS, and will remain in force for 4 years unless revised pursuant to point 7 or terminated in writing (in accordance with point 8).

7. REVIEW

The MoU will be reviewed periodically every two (2) years from the date of its signature.

8. REVISION

Any modification to the MoU must be made in writing and signed by both Parties.



9. TERMINATION

Both Parties shall have the right to terminate the MoU by giving at least thirty (30) days' written notice.

10. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Parties shall attempt in good faith to resolve any dispute arising from the MoU through consultation and negotiation between the Parties.

11. Signatures:

- For the World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB):
 - Name: Sanja Tarczay
 - Title: President 
 - Signature: 03/04/2025
- For the Latin American Network of Organizations of People with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS):
 - Name: Juan Angel De Gouveia 
 - Title: President
 - Signature: 03/04/2025