

LATIN AMERICAN UNION OF THE BLIND

Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020

President's message

After the renewal of ULAC authorities on the occasion of the 9th General Assembly in April 2016, the Technical and Scientific Committee (CTC) devoted its efforts to the organization of a meeting to evaluate and update the Strategic Plan developed in 2012.

Therefore, the members of the Executive Committee, some regional experts and the CTC team met during an active week to work by means of various dynamics, on the assessment of the 2012-2016 actions, achievements, pending challenges and the present circumstances to identify opportunities and threats at a medium term.

Collaborative building, search of consensus and collective commitment were some of the guiding factors to build the methodological process that resulted in an updated ULAC Strategic Plan.

Inspired by the public renewal widely disseminated of the commitment of the Board of the Union, the work had as a starting point a strong participation of all the Executive Committee members and some invited persons, encouraged to share the requirements and feelings related to their expertise in specific action areas.

The result of this initiative is a Plan that publicly strengthens the continuity of the work that had started in 2012, with adjustments to the urgencies and possibilities of the present context.

The Latin American Union of the Blind, through its vision, mission and values, conveys a lot of historic militancy years, alliances, and achievements, which give strength to our identity and guide our forward-looking struggles.

We invite you to take part in this development!

Volmir Raimondi
ULAC President

1. INTRODUCTION

The Latin American Union of the Blind (ULAC) is an international non-governmental organizations founded on November 15th, 1985 in the City of Mar del Plata, Argentina. It is constituted by entities of blind and low vision persons of the nineteen Latin American countries. It is the regional branch of the World Blind Union (WBU).

ULAC has been recognized and accredited by the Organization of American States (OAS) as a civil society organization. It has also been granted the permanent observer status with the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

This document is the result of the assessment and updating of the Strategic Plan 2012-2016, carried out by the Executive Committee on the basis of the orientation and facilitation offered by its Technical and Scientific Committee.

The Strategic Plan 2016-2020 reaffirms the four strategic goals of the previous period and proposes new results for the years to come, always taking into account the internal context and the international circumstances in which their actions will take place.

As a complement, a Plan of Action has been developed. It presents in detail what must be done to achieve each result as well as indicators of success and deadlines. It assigns responsibilities to certain members in order to make its control possible during the present quadrennium.

The Strategic Plan is expected to:

- Strengthen the organization through its members' development and the professionalization of its governing bodies.
- Increase international participation.
- Get the recognition of ULAC as the valid voice of blind persons in the field of visual disability in Latin America.
- Ensure all ULAC governing bodies a set of parameters to help them in the process of establishing priorities.

- Follow up its achievements, identify the obstacles confronted in the process of their implementation and determine the amendments needed to put things right, if necessary.
- Match up political and institutional expectations with the normative instruments that govern the organization.
- Build up internal mechanisms to ensure a balance among the various actions both at technical and political levels.

2. VISION, MISSION, VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Vision:

To be an autonomous, sustainable, political and technical, organization of Latin America that represents the interests and rights of blind and low vision persons and their organizations, and to be their voice before States and international bodies,

Mission:

ULAC represents blind and low vision persons through its member organizations in the nineteen countries of the region. It promotes and advocates for their fundamental rights and freedoms; encourages their participation and their political incidence so that they have access to decision-making levels. Its actions aim at reaching a real and effective social inclusion.

Values:

Autonomy, commitment, solidarity, transparency, equity, responsibility, ethics, equality, competency, justice, proactivity, innovation, respect, dignity, democracy.

Principles:

Transparent management

Inalienable defence of the achieved rights

Commitment to the regulatory framework

Equalization of opportunities

Participation as citizens

Blind and low vision persons' empowerment

Gender equality

Political autonomy

Full inclusion of blind and low vision persons

Visibility of our actions

Acknowledgement of blind and low vision persons' diversity

3. STRATEGIC PLAN ARRAY

3.1 - Objective 1

Establish strategic alliances and promote networking to implement initiatives to foster development and strengthen the Latin American blind movement.

3.1.1 – Expected Outcomes:

- We have consultative status with international bodies.
- Our incidence in the World Blind Union (WBU) is more effective.
- We implement projects together with our member organizations and other bodies in the region.

3.1.2 – Institutional Challenges:

- To promote awareness about ULAC's work among international organizations.
- To have the necessary means to establish direct communication with new partners.
- To engage national leaders in ULAC networks.

3.2 - Objective 2

To build strategies to achieve political incidence, together with our member organizations in each country, and to lead the representation of our region at international level in decision-making spheres.

3.2.1 – Expected Outcomes:

- Blind and low vision persons, in particular young people and women, take part in civil society forums; the organizations that work with young people, women, elderly persons, native populations, LGBT and other specific groups, take into account the disability perspective.
- We have in place an observatory of the rights of blind and low vision persons.

- ULAC represents blind and low vision persons and their organizations before international bodies.
- We, blind and low vision persons, improve our inclusion opportunities.

3.2.2 – Institutional Challenges:

- Identify strategic participation spheres to have a direct incidence.
- Ensure the observatory sustainability.
- To achieve formal recognition by the international community.
- Identify key actors at government level in the region.

3.3 - Objective 3

To encourage the strengthening of the organizations that represent blind and low vision persons, through regulatory, technical and political training in order to promote the renewal, entrenchment and search of sustainability possibilities.

3.3.1 – Expected Outcomes:

- We can issue official certification to the participants in both face-to-face and distant training we offer.
- We have a platform to provide virtual training.
- We enlarge and diversify our training offer.
- We improve the effective participation opportunities of more vulnerable groups.

3.3.2 – Institutional Challenges:

- To ensure the replication of our training actions.
- To run a virtual platform.
- To make the social movement attractive to professionals.
- To strengthen the position of women, youth and native groups in the blind movement.

3.4 - Objective 4

To lay the technical and political foundations of the organization by the permanent creation, collection and circulation of knowledge and expertise in the field of blind and low vision persons and their organizations.

3.4.1 – Expected Outcomes:

- We provide helpful information to the visually impaired persons' organizations, mainstreamed entities, governments, professionals, etc.
- We have technical documents to inform the decision-making processes.
- We establish an accurate political positioning on visual disability.

3.4.2 – Institutional Challenges:

- To identify appropriate means to disseminate information.
- To provide a technical and professional structure to the organization.