

WORLD FORUM OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

*Blind and Partially Sighted Youth: From the Present We Have to the Future We
Want: voices that transform*

Presentation

Date: Monday, September 1, 2025

Time: 13:30 a 17:30 hs

Modality: In-person

Venue: Anhembi District Convention Center – Louis Braille Room

Estimated attendance: 100 people

Format: Panel discussions, participatory workshop, and collective construction closing session.

Interpretation into official event languages: English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese.

Broadcast: ONCB Radio in original languages.

Moderation: Artur De Mari (Brazil) and Katherine Lucero (Panama)

General Context and Description

Within the framework of the World Blindness Summit and the XI General Assembly of the World Blind Union (WBU), a World Forum of Blind and Partially Sighted Youth is convened, organized by the Latin American Blind Union (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 highlight, from a human rights and intersectional perspective, the realities, challenges, and resistance of youth with visual disabilities, promoting their leadership in social and political transformation.

General Objective

To make visible and strengthen the political, social, and cultural articulation of blind and partially sighted youth through a space for critical dialogue, collective diagnosis, and concrete proposals for action.

Expected Outcomes

- Identify shared challenges and diverse realities from various world regions, in relation to inclusion, participation, and accessibility.
- Build collaboratively a critical, creative, and proactive youth perspective.
- Draft, in a participatory manner, a Global Youth Manifesto capturing demands, reflections, and commitments of visually impaired youth.
- Strengthen global and regional networks of youth with visual disabilities.

Agenda

The Forum will be held in three blocks, combining moments of reflective dialogue, participatory work and a collective closing. The detailed agenda is set out below:

13:00 h - Room opens. Registration and distribution of translation devices.

13:30 h - Welcome remarks and event framing.

Authorities' Remarks:

- **Beto Pereira** – National Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (CONANDA)
- **Alexandre Pupo Quintino** – Secretary General, International Youth Organization (OIJ)
- **Yaw Ofori-Debrrra** – VP2, World Blind Union (WBU)
- **Estefanía Mirpuri** – General Director, ONCE Foundation for Latin America (FOAL)
- **Gladys Díaz** – President, Latin American Blind Union (ULAC)

Framing the Event:

- Agenda presentation
- Guiding questions:

- 1. What present are we living?*
- 2. What future do we want?*
- 3. What will we do to build it?*

BLOCK 1 – Live Panel

“Territories of Resistance: Education, Employment, and Participation in Dispute.”

Time: 14:10 h – 15:34 h (1h 24 min.)

Facilitator: Estefanía Cubillos (Activist and Journalist)

Format: Presentation of youth-led experiences from various regions.

Objective: Expose and challenge structures that perpetuate exclusion, and map youth resistance initiatives.

Themes and Speakers:

- **Educational barriers and adapted technology:**
 - Elisabeth Egel (Estonia)
 - Nina Okoroafor (Ghana)

- María Teresa Pérez (Spain)
- **Precarity, employment, and territorial marginalization:**
 - Kentaro Fukuchi “Fukuchi-san” (Japan)
- **Political activism and real influence gaps:**
 - Adonai Viera Romero (Spain)
 - Emilly Rodrigues de Fonte (Brazil)

Plenary – Open Dialogue

Objective: Public participation, reactions, and brief interventions.

BLOCK 2 – Plenary **“Designing Our Future: Agency, Advocacy, and Transformation.”**

Time: 15:35 h – 16:24 h (49 min.)

Facilitator: María Soledad Gelvez (Secretary of Gender Equity, ULAC)

Objective: Explore collective strategies to enhance youth participation at local and global levels.

Topics:

- Community: political power, space-building, and visibility.
- Technology and digital activism.
- Collective construction and political negotiation.

16:24 h - Sharing break

BLOCK 3 – Manifesto **“Drafting and Reading the São Paulo Manifesto for Blind and Partially Sighted Youth Around the World.”**

Time: 16:40 h – 17:15 h (35 min.)

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

Objective: Collectively validate the proposals built during the forum and present the final document.

- Directed dialogue
- Public reading of the Manifesto

17:15 hs - Forum Closing Remarks



- Final words by Youth Secretariats of ULAC and ONCB - Announcement of the creation of a Global WhatsApp Group for visually impaired youth.
- Call for continued post-event collective action.