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Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities and the family

Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Croatia, Djibouti, Georgia, Jordan, Namibia, Qatar, Rwanda and United Republic of Tanzania:* draft resolution

International Day of Deafblindness

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years and Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, and paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Recalling also the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,¹ which advocates that all persons with disabilities should be able to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, and aims to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and to promote respect for their inherent dignity, and by which States Parties undertake to adopt immediate, effective and appropriate measures to raise awareness throughout society regarding persons with disabilities,

Realizing that deafblindness is a combined vision and hearing impairment of such severity that it is hard for the impaired senses to compensate for each other, and is thus a distinct disability with its own specific challenges, barriers and requirements for support and inclusion, different from those provided to individuals who are solely deaf or blind,

Noting the barriers that deafblind persons face owing to deafblindness not being treated and/or recognized as a distinct disability, further leading to invisibility in statistics, policies and programmes, and therefore impeding access to services,

* Any changes to the list of sponsors will be reflected in the official record of the meeting.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.



Noting also the critical importance of professional deafblind interpreters and interpreter-guides in ensuring access to information, communication, services and fundamental rights, as well as enabling individuals with deafblindness to live independently and be included in the community,

Acknowledging that the red and white striped cane is used by the deafblind community as an important tool for mobility and identification,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 27 June of each year, beginning in 2025, the International Day of Deafblindness;

2. *Invites* all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and observers of the General Assembly, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to observe the International Day of Deafblindness annually in a manner that each considers most appropriate, including through education and public awareness-raising activities, in order to promote the empowerment and inclusion of deafblind individuals in all aspects of society and raise awareness of deafblindness as a unique and distinct condition;

3. *Encourages* Governments to consider recognizing deafblindness as a distinct disability in relevant policies and programmes, in accordance with their legal and administrative systems;

4. *Invites* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in collaboration with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#), to facilitate the observance of the International Day;

5. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and observers of the General Assembly, the organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations for appropriate observance of the International Day of Deafblindness.
