

# REHA

FOR THE BLIND® IN POLAND

Warsaw, October 5, 2024

A world for everyone, not only the selected few  
Meeting of the blind, partially sighted, their families and friends

**“East-West, North-South”**

As part of the 22nd edition of the International Conference  
**REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND**

Organized by the Chance Foundation – We Are Together (Chance for the Blind)

We, blind and partially sighted citizens from many countries around the world, as individuals with visual impairments, strive for active and full participation in the life of the communities and nations to which we belong. We hereby express our satisfaction for all that has been accomplished in recent years in the field of leveling the effects of our disabilities. In many countries there is a growing awareness of the need to support people who have been disadvantaged by fate - the weak, the lonely, the sick, the disabled. In our country, initiatives are developing to make public facilities and information accessible to every citizen. However, due to the numerous backlogs accumulated over the centuries, much remains to be done. We are concerned about certain unfortunate phenomena, among which a lack of understanding of the specifics of blindness and the associated need for dedicating more attention, empathy, and funding to our community is most prominent. The goal of the individuals who have gathered for this meeting (either in person or virtually) is to draw the attention of society, media, and authorities worldwide to the following challenges and issues:

- The vast areas of poverty where individuals with disabilities live the most difficult lives;
- The persistent differences in the standard of living between citizens in poor and wealthy countries;
- The insufficient effectiveness of actions taken by international organizations aimed at improving this situation. Despite numerous legal acts and documents, too much remains to be done;

- The harmful susceptibility of social policies to crisis phenomena, resulting in the marginalization of the needs of individuals with disabilities, including the blind and partially sighted;
- The increasing tendency to treat assistance to individuals with disabilities in an instrumental way;
- Limited access to the latest advancements in medicine and technology for those at risk of losing their sight;

In response to the above and many other pressing phenomena, we appeal to governments and international organizations with important requests for our community:

1. Implementing programs aimed at improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities living in both Eastern and Western countries, as well as the North and South;
2. Creating optimal educational and professional opportunities for individuals with visual impairments;
3. Enabling blind and partially sighted individuals to use public transportation and ensuring guarantees for safe and independent travel to their chosen destinations;
4. Funding the creation of various facilities that allow these individuals access to public buildings and their surroundings;
5. Providing financial support to enable them to access the latest solutions that mitigate the effects of disabilities using all helpful assistive technologies;
6. Following the principles of universal design in all aspects of life;
7. Implementing solutions that allow blind and partially sighted individuals full access to information;
8. Implementing comprehensive rehabilitation programs for blind and partially sighted adults, including the elderly, covering necessary training, mental support, information about rights and obligations, etc.;
9. Providing blind and partially sighted individuals with all kinds of information related to art, the environment, landscapes, daily tasks, money management, etc., using techniques such as tactile marking, audio description, specialized aids, and applications that are currently available or may be available in the future;
10. And all the tools and equipment they need to lead a fully independent life alongside sighted citizens;
11. Achieving the above goals for all citizens with visual impairments, regardless of origin, gender or beliefs.