**MEMORANDUM OF UNDESRSTANDING BETWEEN ICEVI- LATINOAMÉRICA AND ONCE FOUNDATION IN SUPPORT OF THE BLIND IN LATIN AMERICA (FOAL)**

**GATHERED**

**From one Party:**

ICEVI- LATINOAMÉRICA, legally recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay as an International non-profit Non-governmental Organization, and inscribed in the register of associations of Uruguay with the Nº RM 557/2016 of the 7th of November 2016, with registered office in Uruguay and being represented in this act by Mrs. Cristina Sanz as its Chair.

**From the other:**

The ONCE Foundation in Support of the Blind in Latin America (hereafter FOAL), inscribed in the public Register of Foundations of state competence of the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality of Spain with the number 28/1088, with registered office in Spain, in the street Ortega y Gasset Nº 18, Madrid and being represented in this act by D. Alberto Durán López, as Chair of the Board of the Foundation.

Both Parties mutually recognize to each other capacity and representation to sign this agreement, and in the light of it

**EXPRESS:**

1. That ICEVI- LATINOAMÉRICA is a technical organisation of educative nature, non-governmental and non-profitable, established on the 27th April 2016, with registered office in the city of Montevideo –Uruguay-,whose mission is to continuously improve the professional, technical and material resources for the promotion of access, enjoyment and exercise of the right to an inclusive and quality education, as well as to a full habilitation and rehabilitation in their community, for all children and young people with visual impairment, at every level and modality, with equal opportunities and in equal conditions than the rest, in the 19 countries of Latin America. For these, it promotes the full development and potential of the children and young people with visual impairment, contributing to the formation of their personality, valuing each one’s talents and creativity to make their social participation possible.
2. That the National Organisation of Spanish Blind People (ONCE) decided to create a Foundation on the 8th May 1998, with the aim of improving certain aspects of the quality of life of blind people and the visually impaired who live in the Latin American countries, in accordance with the Founding Deed and the Statues of the Foundation. It is named ONCE Foundation in Support of the Blind in Latin America (FOAL)".
3. That the main purpose of FOAL is to promote the improvement of the life quality of the visually impaired in Latin America, contributing to the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights and basic freedoms, through the instruments of international cooperation for the human development, and on the basis of a social and of human rights model of services for the visually impaired based on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; facilitating the achievement of their personal autonomy, their full social inclusion and citizenship rights, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, and the minimization of the impact of blindness or low vision in their lives.
4. For doing this, it articulates a group of services, social benefits and activities, realized in the terms established by its Board and its Permanent Commission, referred to inclusive education; training and employability; full rehabilitation for personal autonomy; universal accessibility and design for all; impetus of research, development and innovation related to blindness, sever visual impairment and tiflotechnology; promotion of accessible libraries and dissemination to accomplish inclusive education and labour, access to culture and sports. Furthermore, it contributes to the strengthening of the associative movement of the blind people in every country of Latin America.

Considering the objectives that both Parties share, they agree to establish a regulatory framework for the institutional relationships governed by the following

**CLAUSES:**

**First: General action criteria**

1. ICEVI-LATINOAMÉRICA and FOAL will strengthen their own activities by means of the institutional relationship between both Parties established in this Memorandum, and they will mutually respect the autonomy and Independence of each other in pursuit of their objectives.
2. The actions of both Parties will be confined, at all times, to what is stated in the Ethical Code approved by the Board of FOAL and signed by all members.
3. Both entities will develop their activities from a human rights approach for the persons with visual impairment, taking into account the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and advocating for the contribution in achieving the Agenda 2030.

**Second: Commitments of ICEVI-LATINOAMÉRICA**

1. To elaborate a strategic plan, annually, for the fulfilment of its statutory goals under the following criteria that will govern the definition of their objectives, its functioning, and its organisational and economic commitments:
	* 1. To always act following principles of good governance, transparency, and excellence in the criteria and work, procedures, definition of priorities, usage of resources, and communication of results.
		2. To enhance an executive structure endowed of functionality, of a compact size, and formed of professionals, that grants the accomplishment of its commitments and objectives.
		3. To act in the interest of a progressive renewal and a neat rotation of all its positions, through the impulse of the statutory reform to grant the principles of non-discrimination and gender equity.
		4. To develop actions aimed at achieving greater financial autonomy, through the participation of the public and private sectors of the countries within its intervention area, generating synergies, in order to obtain the economic resources needed for the funding of its activity, by means of other external sources.
		5. To boost internal resources contributions, from ICEVI GLOBAL, as well as from collaborating partners or sponsors.
		6. To motivate the full incorporation, democratic participation, and commitment of every country within the area of Latin America in its projects and programs, favouring the inclusive education for children and young people with visual impairment, multiple disabilities and deafblindness, and the positive image of these people in the society.
2. ICEVI LATINOAMÉRICA will make FOAL visible in every action executed within the framework of this Memorandum. Similarly, it will incorporate FOAL’s image in its website and other media for communicating its activities.

**Third: Commitments of FOAL**

1. To maintain a line of financial support to ICEVI LATINOAMÉRICA according to its capabilities, within the frame of the annual budget estimate approved by its Board, and provided there are no negative impacts in its priority development co-operation programmes.
2. The amount of the mentioned contribution will be supported by the submission of an annual strategic plan elaborated by ICEVI LATINOAMÉRICA, and its corresponding budget, that will be assessed and approved, in each case, by the pertinent bodies.
3. To accompany and advise ICEVI LATINOAMÉRICA on those fields where its support could enrich ICEVI LATINOAMÉRICA’s work, additionally counting on the collaboration of the people who are part of its Volunteer Programme.

**Fourth: Execution mode and monitoring**

1. Towards the end of each period, ICEVI LATINOAMÉRICA will submit to FOAL an annual strategic plan, with its corresponding budget, to develop during the next period.
2. The Annual Strategic Plan will reflect the degree of compliance and the estimated results of the objectives listed in the second clause of this memorandum, which will be developed during the next financial period.
3. As a development of the indicated programme, ICEVI LATINOAMÉRICA will arbitrate the commissioning of management units in charge of the execution of each one of the objectives established in the mentioned clause, monitoring them and reflecting in an individualized way the other sources of funding used by ICEVI LATINOAMÉRICA for executing each one of the objectives.
4. ICEVI LATINOAMÉRICA will submit to FOAL, every three month, the report of the actions established in the Strategic plan, conducted during the period, submitting information of its execution and the supporting documentation of the expenditures.
5. Towards the end of each period, ICEVI LATINOAMÉRICA will accredit, in the corresponding report of activities, the fulfillment of the objectives planned in the Strategic Plan of the previous period, allowing the economic impacts of this Memorandum to be maintained during the contract term.
6. A monitoring commission for this Memorandum will be established, formed by two representatives of each party with sufficient decision-making capacity. Its function will be to analyze every aspect related to the implementation of what is established in this memorandum, and to monitor and interpret the commitments made.
7. The mentioned commission will meet, at least twice a year, ensuring it coincides with the meetings of the Board of FOAL. The commission will be convened with 15 days notice, submitting the corresponding agenda, and its agreements will be valid if, at least, one representative of each party assists.
8. The meetings could also be conducted via videoconference or teleconference. All the agreements reached need to be written.
9. Those guests that are approved by both parties can participate in the monitoring commission.

**Fifth: Termination of the Memorandum**

This Memorandum will end when the four year period since its signing matures, coinciding with the following Assembly of ICEVI LATINOAMÉRICA, and it can only be extended through a new written agreement where it must be explicitly stated the will of renewal.

Any party can unilaterally terminate the agreement, before its established maturity date when it considers that the commitments and objectives undertaken by the other party have been generally unfulfilled. A written communication informing the decision must be delivered by a reliable way.

In the case of anticipated termination of this Memorandum, the non-interruption of those programs that are being developed will be granted, until its completion, according to the commitments undertaken and adhering to the fulfilment of the objectives, in accordance with the activities calendar and the established economic schedule, and up to the completion of the mentioned programs.

In witness thereof, in accordance with all of the foregoing, the Parties hereby sign this Memorandum in duplicate in Madrid, on the 22nd of June 2017.

**Fdo.: D. Alberto Durán López Fdo.: Dña. Cristina Sanz**

Presidente Presidenta

FOAL ICEVI Latinoamérica