**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**ULAC - ICEVI Latinoamérica.**

**Identification of the Parties**

**ULAC**

The Latin American Union of the Blind (ULAC) is an international non-governmental non-profit organisation, established on the 15thNovember1985 with the mission of being the technical-political organisation of Latin America that represents the interests of the people who are blind or have low vision and their organisations, acting as interlocutor before the national, regional and international bodies, with political autonomy and sustainability.

**ICEVI Latinoamérica**

ICEVI Latinoamérica is a non-profit international civil association, with more than forty years of experience in the region, and whose Constitutive Assembly took place in Montevideo, Uruguay on the 27th April 2016. Its mission is to continually improve the professional resources, technicians and materials for the promotion of the access, enjoyment and exercise of the right to a quality inclusive education, and the right to a full habilitation and rehabilitation in their community, for all the children and youth with visual impairment, at every level, with equal opportunities, in the 19 countries of Latin America.

**Considerations:**

1) That the Latin American Union of the Blind is an organisation that gathers and represents the organisations of and for blind people and people with low vision of the nineteen countries of Latin America, acting towards the guarantee and defence of the rights of the people that constitute those collectives, influencing to generate policies through the development of programmes, projects and initiatives, as well as the utilization of the technologies, the consulting and the strengthening of the organizations that are part of it, to improve the living conditions of the visually impaired;

2) That ULAC’s framework is based on the commitment, solidarity, transparency, equity, responsibility, ethics, autonomy, equality, perseverance, adequacy, justice, proactivity and publicity of the blind people and the people with low vision of Latin America.

3) That ULAC intends, through the networking, to have effective political influence, to form and produce knowledge, and to consolidate the movement of the blind and visually impaired in Latin America strengthening the organisations that conform it and represent it in each country of the region, promoting, from a constructive proposal, the implementation of plans, programmes and policies that meet the demands of this sector, in which one of the priorities is the education.

4) That ULAC participates in the implementation of the Regional Campaign EFA-VI since 2009, seeking to improve the participation of its member organisations in the execution of this campaign at national level in the countries in which it is being conducted.

5) That ICEVI Latinoamérica is the regional of ICEVI Global that works in the 19 countries of the region, seeking to improve the educative conditions of the children and youth with visual impairment.

6)  That ICEVI Latinoamérica has initiated in 2016 a process of institutional regularization, through the conduction of its Initial Assembly, the approval of its Statues and the election of its Board of Directors.

7) That ICEVI Latinoamérica leads, in the region, the implementation of the EFA-VI Campaign since 2007, seeking to translate into concrete actions the right to the education of the children with visual impairment and their families.

**Clauses:**

**First Clause.  Objective.**

To coordinate and articulate actions for the promotion, defence and restoration of the human rights of the people with disability, acting directly before the international intergovernmental bodies and the regional and sub-regional non-governmental organisations, and advising and contributing to the actions of the national organisations of people with disability before their respective governments and non-governmental organisations, with the aim of accomplishing the effective fulfilment of the CDPD and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 in Latin America.

In order to execute de objective, the Parties will develop the following specific purposes:

1. To promote and encourage, in Latin America, the formulation, adoption and implementation of the public policies to guarantee the effective and full enjoyment of the human rights of the people with disability in the region.

2. To become established as the regional interlocutors in the consultation processes, movements and regional research that come from the international governmental and non-governmental organisations of every kind, in Latin America.

3. To generate joint forums, seminars and congresses for the Exchange of information and the experience of ULAC and ICEVI Latinoamérica.

4. To support, coordinate and guide the national organizations of people with disability in the preparation of plans, programmes and advocacy actions to improve the quality of the education ofpeople with visual impairment.

5. To manage projects and resources for research and capacity building programmes in the region.

6. To manage projects and resources for strengthening the presence and activities of ULAC and ICEVI in Latin America.

7. To boost, promote and broaden this Latin-American alliance for the improvement of the educational opportunities of people with visual impairment.

**Second Clause. Mechanisms of direction, execution and follow up of this memorandum.**

1. **Committee of Direction and Follow Up**. Each of the Parties will designate two (2) representatives to conform this Committee.

This Committee is responsible for:

a) Agreeing upon and conducting the activities of planning, directing, executing and assessing, necessary for realizing the objective of the Memorandum;

b) Determining the human, logistic and financial resources required for the objective of the Memorandum, considering the institutional readiness of each one of the Parties.

2.The appointment of the members of the Committee of Direction and Follow Up will be carried out by the parties within the following three months of the signing of this Memorandum, for a two year period, with the possibility of being re-elected.

**Third Clause. Obligations of the Parties.**

1. To provide all the necessary information for the development of the Memorandum.

2. To agree on the institutional mechanisms for the dissemination and socialisation of this Memorandum, its objective, its development and its results.

3. To contribute on the management and attainment of human, technical and financial resources.

4. To disseminate, communicate, publish and socialise the information and knowledge resulting of the development of this Memorandum.

**Fourth Clause. Specific Memorandums**.

These are the Memorandums signed by the Parties to execute the objective of this Memorandum through concrete and differentiated actions.

**Fifth Clause. Duration and Termination.**

This memorandum is of indefinite duration. Nevertheless, any of the Parties can finalise it, indicating the reasons why, through a written notification sent to the address of the other Party, stated in this memorandum. The decision will be effective sixty (60) calendar days from the reception of the notification.

**Sixth Clause: Confidentiality**

When one or some of the documents produced as a result of this Memorandum require confidentiality, the legal representatives of the Parties will subscribe the respective confidentiality agreement.

**Seventh Clause. Intellectual Property**

The documents produced as a result of this memorandum will be intellectual property of the signing parties, ICEVI Latinoamérica and ULAC.

**Eighth Clause. Addresses**

1. The address of the Memorandum will rotate every two (2) years. ULAC’s address is in Montevideo, Uruguay, headquarters of its Technical Office. ICEVI Latinoamérica’s address for this memorandum is the address of the Chair of ICEVI Latinoamérica, even though its legal address is Mercedes 1327, Montevideo, Uruguay.

2. The addresses of each Party will be the one in its respective statutes.

**Signed by**

**María Cristina Sanz**  **Volmir Raimondi,**

Chair of ICEVI Latinoamérica         President of ULAC