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**WFDB**

**THE WORLD FEDERATION**

**OF THE DEAFBLIND**

Web: http://www.wfdb.eu mail: wfdb@wfdb.eu

**To persons with deafblindness world wide.**

30/03/2020

Call for applications to speak at  
The 12th Helen Keller World Conference 2021

*Venue to be decided, Kenya, October 2021.*

Organized every four years since 1977, the Helen Keller World Conference (HKWC) has been a global arena for persons with deafblindness to meet, share, and exchange information and experiences with their peers. Since the founding of the World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB) in 2001, it has been organized in connection with the WFDB General Assembly.

At the 11th HKWC in 2018, the first global report on deafblindness was launched under the theme: “Our rights; Our voice, We lead the way.”, presenting clear recommendations for the inclusion of persons with deafblindness.

In 2021, the 12th HKWC will aim to launch a follow up presenting innovative best practices for the inclusion of persons with deafblindness in all aspects and stages of life - Globally, regionally, nationally, and locally in our societies where we live. The main conference theme is:

**“*Empowering persons with deafblindness***

***– Inclusion through investment and innovation.*”**

The WFDB Scientific Committee hereby invites you to submit papers for plenary and/or workshop presentations at the HKWC 2021.

The presentations are expected to follow the main theme of the conference and be in the context of the CRPD, 2030 Agenda with its SDGs in regards to innovative and inclusive best practices for empowerment, covering topics like social protection, education, health, work and employment, political and social participation and many more.

Technical information

**Plenary sessions.**

*Number: 4-5.  
Length: 50 minutes including interpretation and 10-15 minutes of questions, answers, and comments.*  
  
Individuals interested in making a plenary presentation are invited to submit a paper in the context of the HKWC 2021 main theme, covering one or more of the topics ***Innovation, Inclusion, Investment.***

**Workshop sessions.***Number: 12 – 15.  
Length: 45 minutes including interpretation and 10-15 minutes of questions, answers, and comments.*

Individuals interested in presenting one or more of the workshops are invited to submit a paper with a topic of their own choice, in the context of the HKWC 2021 main theme.

**Application criteria and procedure**To be eligible to submit a presentation for consideration by the WFDB Scientific Committee you must be a person with deafblindness.

* Individuals from the Global South are strongly encouraged to submit papers for both plenary and workshop sessions.
* Submission deadline: December 31st, 2020.
* Submitted papers should be in English or Spanish language, no longer than 10 pages (A4, double space).
* Please note that presenters should ensure proper time for interpretation within the timeframe of the sessions as stated above.
* Selected presenters attend at their own cost (Expenses for travel, accommodation, and attendance will not be covered).
* Funding for speakers to attend may in individual cases be available for individuals from the Global South, through grants from external donors.

**All applications/papers must be submitted to the WFDB Scientific Committee on** [**scientific@wfdb.eu**](mailto:scientific@wfdb.eu) **no later than December 31st, 2020.**

Selected speakers will be notified in due time after the committee has processed the submitted papers.

***Best regards***

The WFDB Scientific Committee,   
XII Helen Keller World Conference 2021