



IAPB

2026 Global Summit for Eye Health

Draft Guidance

Mauritius Strategy to Secure Government Commitments

Purpose and Status of this Document

This document is **Draft Guidance** intended to support a strategic process to explore, shape, and secure potential Government of Mauritius commitments in the lead-up to the **2026 Global Summit for Eye Health**. It is propositional rather than prescriptive and is designed to support structured discussion, consultation, and iterative refinement with the **National Department of Health and Wellness** and relevant stakeholders.

Timeframes included are indicative. Face-to-face engagement is considered important throughout the process. Exact dates, sequencing, and formats will be adapted to Mauritius' national planning cycles, governance arrangements, and decision-making processes.

Overview of the Global Summit for Eye Health

The first-ever Global Summit for Eye Health, to be hosted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in **November 2026**, represents a landmark moment for global eye health. Building on the WHO Resolution on **Integrated People-Centred Eye Care (IPEC)** and the UN Resolution on Vision, the Summit will convene Heads of Government, Ministers, multilateral agencies, development banks, industry, and civil society.

The Summit aims to strengthen national action, unlock sustainable financing, and establish a global accountability framework for eye health. It positions eye health as a whole-of-life and whole-of-government priority that underpins **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**, supports healthy ageing, strengthens responses to non-communicable diseases (NCDs), enhances productivity, and promotes inclusion.

Mauritius' Context

Mauritius has a relatively strong and well-organised health system, with high coverage of public health services and a strong policy focus on prevention, quality, and equity. Eye health sits within this broader health system context, particularly through linkages with NCDs and ageing.

Key features of Mauritius' eye health context include:

- A **high burden of diabetes and other NCDs**, making diabetic retinopathy and age-related eye conditions important public health priorities.
- Availability of **specialist eye care services** within public sector hospitals, complemented by a growing private sector.
- Existing experience with **diabetic retinopathy screening and management**, reflecting national priorities on diabetes control.
- A strong emphasis on **data, monitoring, and quality of care** within the national health system, providing a foundation for improved eye health accountability.
- An ageing population, increasing the relevance of cataract, glaucoma, and other age-related eye conditions within health and social care planning.

Together, these elements position Mauritius as a country with solid system foundations and a clear opportunity to further strengthen and formalise eye health within national health priorities.

Why the Global Summit for Eye Health Is Important for Mauritius

The 2026 Global Summit for Eye Health offers Mauritius a strategic opportunity to consolidate existing strengths, elevate priority areas, and demonstrate leadership among upper-middle-income and small island states.

Engagement in the Summit would enable Mauritius to:

- Highlight integration of eye health within **NCD and diabetes strategies**.
- Formalise and publicly signal **government-led commitments** grounded in existing systems.
- Strengthen accountability through clearer monitoring and reporting of eye health outcomes.
- Position Mauritius as a model for **integrated, people-centred eye care** in small island and middle-income contexts.

Participation in the Summit does not require a new policy direction. Rather, it offers a platform to recognise, strengthen, and internationally signal progress already underway.

Characteristics of Potential Commitments

In discussion with the National Department of Health and Wellness and partners, potential commitments may be explored that are:

- **New or scaled**, building on existing initiatives rather than restating policy
 - **Specific, measurable, and time-bound**, with clear accountability
 - **Aligned with national health priorities**, particularly NCDs, ageing, and UHC
 - **Grounded in existing service delivery and data systems**
 - **Feasible and cost-aware**, leveraging existing budgets and infrastructure
 - **Aligned with global frameworks**, including WHO IPEC, the World Report on Vision, and Global Summit accelerators
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Pathway to Exploring Government Commitments

The proposed approach aligns with established government decision-making pathways, progressing from technical engagement to senior endorsement and public signalling. The process is structured across five phases. Each phase should include consultation, documentation of decisions, and alignment with national planning processes.

Phase 1: Engagement and Scoping

Indicative timing: February – March 2026

Objectives

- Explore alignment between possible commitment areas and national health priorities
- Introduce the Global Summit and commitment concept informally
- Identify potential government champions

Indicative activities

- Technical discussions drawing on NCD and eye care data
- Initial consultations with relevant departments and clinical leaders

Phase 2: Cross-Sector Alignment and Initial Consultation

Indicative timing: April – May 2026

Objectives

- Translate priority areas into draft commitment concepts
- Encourage cross-programme input (e.g. NCDs, ageing, data and digital health)
- Begin informal feasibility and resourcing considerations

Indicative activities

- Refinement of draft commitment language
 - Alignment with national strategies and WHO reporting frameworks
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Phase 3: Commitment Shaping and Senior Engagement

Indicative timing: June – September 2026

Objectives

- Refine commitments with senior leadership input
- Prepare Mauritius' narrative and positioning for regional and global audiences

Indicative activities

- Clarification of implementation pathways and responsibilities
 - Preparation of draft public-facing commitment statements
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Phase 4: Submission and Preparation

Indicative timing: By World Sight Day (October 2026)

Objectives

- Register commitments in the Global Summit tracking mechanism
 - Support announcement planning and communications
 - Prepare for post-announcement follow-up
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Phase 5: Announcement and Implementation

Indicative timing: Post-announcement

Objectives

- Support implementation, monitoring, and reporting
 - Enable recognition, peer learning, and accountability
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Messaging and Positioning Considerations

Messaging throughout the process may emphasise that the Global Summit for Eye Health is a **recognition and leadership opportunity**, not an external policy request.

Indicative messaging themes include:

- Mauritius as a leader in **integrated NCD and eye health responses**
 - Strong health system foundations enabling quality and equity
 - Eye health as integral to healthy ageing, productivity, and inclusion
 - Mauritius' contribution to regional and global learning
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Illustrative Areas for Potential Commitments

The areas below are indicative and intended to support discussion. Final decisions rest with the Government of Mauritius.

- **Monitoring and accountability for eye health outcomes**
 - **Integration of eye health within NCD and diabetes services**
 - **Quality and efficiency of cataract and age-related eye care services**
 - **Healthy ageing and vision care**
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Illustrative Commitment Examples

These examples are provided to support discussion and refinement. They are not intended as final proposals.

1. Monitoring and Accountability (Flagship Example)

From 2027 onwards, Mauritius could integrate key eye health indicators—such as effective cataract surgical coverage (eCSC) and diabetic retinopathy screening coverage—within national health information and reporting systems.

Rationale

- Builds on strong national data systems
 - Supports evidence-based planning and accountability
 - Aligns with WHO 2030 eye health targets
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2. Integration of Eye Health within NCD Services

By 2029, Mauritius could strengthen the systematic integration of eye screening and referral within national diabetes and NCD programmes, ensuring continuity of care from primary to specialist services.

Rationale

- Aligns with national diabetes priorities
 - Supports early detection and prevention of vision loss
 - Improves efficiency and patient-centred care
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3. Healthy Ageing and Vision Care

Mauritius could formalise a national focus on vision care for older adults, including cataract and glaucoma services, as part of healthy ageing strategies by 2028.

Rationale

- Responds to demographic trends
 - Supports independence, productivity, and quality of life
 - Requires limited new policy change
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Supporting Policy Frameworks and Evidence Base

This process will be supported by:

- National health and NCD strategies of Mauritius
- WHO Integrated People-Centred Eye Care guidance
- Global Summit for Eye Health Policy Framework and accelerator areas

Together, these provide a strong foundation for feasible, measurable, and high-impact commitments.

Looking Ahead

The 2026 Global Summit for Eye Health offers Mauritius an opportunity to consolidate progress, elevate priority areas, and demonstrate leadership in integrated and people-centred eye care. Through a structured, consultative process, Mauritius can articulate clear and credible commitments that deliver national impact while contributing to global accountability and progress in eye health.