

Address by Stig Ohlson

**World Federation of the Deafblind
42nd Session of the Commission for Social Development
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I will speak for the WFDB an organisation of deafblind. Deafblindness is a severe communication and information disability.

Being deafblind you have lost the two most important senses used for contact with the world around you. You need to be compensated for this loss by special support and service like specially trained interpreters, information in Braille and help to learn a new and maybe tactile communication method.

If this is not done the risk of deep and far-going isolation is obvious.

There is more than a million deafblind in the world. Most of them, maybe as many as 80%, have still not been found and identified and they lack all service. This is partly due to lack of knowledge and information about deafblind and deafblindness in many parts of the world. But it is also due to the fact that many deafblind live so isolated that they do not even send out signals to let anyone know that they exist.

In the global work to improve the situation for deafblind and other persons with disabilities, the Standard Rules have proved to be an important tool. Much has been achieved which would not have been achieved without them. The supplement to the Standard Rules will make them even more effective as they contain information needed by the governments in the process to give deafblind and other persons with disabilities their rights and full access to society. Therefore we recommend the Commission on Social Development to decide on the adoption of the supplement during this session so that they immediately may be used by governments and by the Special Rapporteur in their work.

Thank you.