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**CALL TO HOST THE
5th DEAFNET AFRICA QUADRENNIAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN AUGUST 2021**

Closing date for proposal submission: 31 January 2020

DeafNET Centre of knowledge (DeafNET) is a non-profit organisation committed to promoting the human rights of Deaf people, as well as strengthening their well-being through training, development and implementing programmes that promote respect for D/deaf persons' language and culture. DeafNET promotes and safeguard the right of all Deaf people to quality education and remains actively involved in the CRPD implementation. The management believes that access to education via Sign Language is critical to the healthy development of Deaf children as is their family's ability to accept their child's natural language (Sign Language).

DeafNET holds its Quadrennial Conference in partnership with one or more members/partners in Africa. In the past, we have requested all of DeafNET's network to apply to host this memorable event. Since our 2005 World Conference, the management committee of DeafNET recommended that we solicit proposals from specific African countries, to host the event. As the conference is in the interest of Deaf people in Africa, the geographic rotation of hosting this special event in different African countries has been considered to the previous one held in South Africa and Swaziland. This is to ensure a fair, African representation over the years.

DeafNET Centre of Knowledge is planning to host its 5th DeafNET Africa Conference in 2021. The theme of the conference will be Accessible "Technology for Deaf Persons". The five-days conference will focus on D/deaf related matters on the African continent. We are looking forward to organizing an interesting conference that promotes human rights and Sign Language rights for all, in line with human rights mechanisms such as the CRPD and participation in policymaking decisions that affect themselves. Furthermore, the conference will offer up-to-date scientific inputs, build relationships with other Deaf organisations e.g the National Association of the Deaf (NADs), create awareness of the needs of the Deaf community, facilitate networking and sharing of knowledge and expertise.

DeafNET seeks collaboration with all National Deaf Association and other Deaf organisation in the 6 regions (namely; North, South, East, West, Central & Indian Ocean) to host the 5th DeafNET Africa Conference in 2021. The conference aims to network and establish partnerships, provide an opportunity to share knowledge and expertise at an international level, give feedback of what has been accomplished in the last 4 years in the six regions of Africa, explore future initiatives and to conduct a meeting of the DeafNET Africa Committee(DAC) and elect the new committee.

Interested organisations may obtain further information from the Africa Desk. For DAC regional members who are interested in exploring the potential to partner with DeafNET to host the conference, please contact Sanjay Beepat, at africa@deafnet.org

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL TO HOST THE DEAFNET AFRICA CONFERENCE

Deaf organisation willing to host the conference should address the following matters in their proposal:

- Key D/deaf organisations heading this proposal and supportive letters from their National Association of the Deaf, and other relevant organisations
- Capacity and experience in organising such a high profile event, including setting up a website
- Tentative dates, noting that religious and national holidays should be avoided.
- A detailed description of the Conference, programme format and duration.
- Present a draft budget outlining the main costs and the anticipated income for the conference, the main source of income, major expenditure, and sponsorship that is expected to be raised for the Conference
- Expected number of local participants
- The proposed venue, capacity, facilities, reception/information counter, safety provisions and conference catering
- Proposed hotel facilities and accommodation, accessibility of the venue and logistics, including inland transport from/to airport and between the hotels and /conference venue
- Proposed conference tour and gala dinner
- Security and political stability of the host country
- The conference will be in English with other languages and translation services available
- First Aid station and Emergency services

- Sign Language interpreting services

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

To host this memorable event, the organisation shall also be committed to having financial responsibility in hosting the DeafNET Africa Quadrennial Conference. The level of financial contribution from DeafNET's side will be determined in discussion with the respective host. The potential host organisation is requested to provide a detailed budget for the conference and to indicate funding strategies and model.

LEGAL REQUIREMENT

DeafNET will require that the host organization and any other partners enter into a formal agreement. Such an agreement will detail all legal considerations and the roles and responsibilities of all partners.

CHECKLIST

The requirement checklist summarizes the most fundamental requirements for hosting the DeafNET Africa Quadrennial Conference. Please use the list to make sure your proposal contains all the information that the DeafNET needs to compile a short-list for submission to the DeafNET Board of Trustees. These required *criteria* may be modified to improve its relevancy and appropriateness in the decision-making process in the interest of all parties and stakeholders. **See appendix A.**

PROCESS

The proposal to host the conference and all the relevant documents must be sent to Sanjay Beepat who will acknowledge receipt at the closing date. After the closing date, all the proposals will be sent to the DeafNET Executive Committee for evaluation. The management will make the final selection in consultation with the Board of Trustees and notify the short-listed applicants. DeafNET can request further information from the short-listed applicants if necessary.

Before the final approval, DeafNET may conduct an on-site visit to the selected host. Please note that should none of the proposals received comply with the criteria, the DeafNET Executive Committee will appoint an organising committee to find a suitable venue and to organise all aspects of the conference.

BE INFORMED: DEAFNET BOARD OF TRUSTEES DECISION IS FINAL

The DeafNET Centre of Knowledge is committed to collaborating with all African countries in uniting efforts to improve the quality of life of Deaf people and their families on the African continent. Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Sanjay Beepat on africa@deafnet.org.

WEBSITE

You will find supporting documents on DeafNET website regarding previous conferences. Please visit www.deafnet.org for further information.

Thanking you in advance for supporting this united African initiative to serve the Deaf communities of Africa.

Kind Regards

Sanjay Beepat
Africa Coordinator
DeafNET Centre of Knowledge