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**DECLARATIONS FROM THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DEAFNET<sup>1</sup> AFRICA CONFERENCE ON THE THEME "DEAF EDUCATION:-EMPOWERING DEAF PERSONS IN AFRICA THROUGH KNOWLEDGE", HELD IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA FROM 26<sup>TH</sup> TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016.**

**DeafNET Africa Conference Declaration 2016**

In alignment with:

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Development Goal on ensuring inclusive, quality education for all and lifelong learning,

Article 24 (3) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which states that State Parties shall enable persons with disabilities to learn life and social development skills to facilitate their full and equal participation in education and as members of the community, and

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Article 25 (b) that encourages governments to provide those health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities, including early identification and intervention as appropriate, and services designed to minimize and prevent further disabilities, including among children and older persons;

Rigorous presentations and discussions took place during the 4<sup>th</sup> DeafNET Africa conference in Johannesburg from the 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The following declaration statements were concluded:

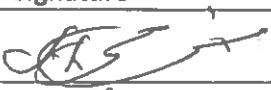











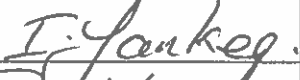



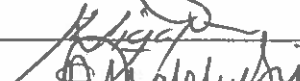
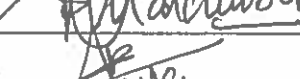



1. The conference wishes to join hands with all parents of deaf children, deaf people, NGOs and DPOs to lobby their governments to invest in early identification assessments and interventions including early childhood education for deaf children.
2. The conference acknowledges the critical role played by parents of deaf children within early childhood development and thus, advocates for the establishment and empowerment of parents to promote their involvement in the education of the deaf children through strategies like counselling, training and role modelling.
3. The conference encourages DeafNET member countries to collate evidence on deaf people and their status with regards to early, adult education and training needs so as to influence policy planning, formulation and budgeting.
4. The conference calls for governments to increase budget dedicated to quality education to address all forms of accessibility in schools for deaf children.
5. The conference advocates for the promotion of competency in sign language amongst teachers, learners and families.
6. The conference encourages the formation of partnerships and sharing of information and other resources across Africa for experiential learning on issues of deaf education

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<sup>1</sup> Deaf in document refers to all variations of deafness including deaf-blind.

7. The conference encourages all countries to promote contextualised training of sign language interpreters to meet the cultural opportunities and demands of African countries.
8. The conference encourages deaf people to enroll for deaf interpreter courses and encourages all countries to advocate for inclusion of sign language interpreting at higher institutions of learning.
9. The conference encourages the National Institute of the Deaf to improve their qualifications in order to gain more recognition across Africa
10. The conference encourages DeafNET to support the replication of the Red Star Model in other African Countries
11. The conference advocates for the recognition of sign languages in the national legislations and the training of health professionals in sign language to minimize the communication gaps hindering deaf people from realizing their right to health care and related services.
12. The conference supports and encourages the African governments to make periodic reporting of the implementation status of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
13. The conference encourages the establishment of partnerships to foster development of deaf communities across Africa.

Endorsed by the delegates attending the 4<sup>th</sup> DeafNET Centre of Knowledge conference, on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Johannesburg,

No	Names of delegates	Country	Signature
1.	Mohamed BENSARI	ALGERIA	
2.	Balla Keita	MALI	
3.	FANNY SINGINI	MALAWI	
4.	BWIRE EDGAR	UGANDA	
5.	JOHN J. MAUKIRI	TANZANIA	
6.	fojil komdiny	Ethiopia	
7.	ALI BAKAR ALI	ZANZIBAR	
8.	ROPERANTO Dany S.	MADAGASCAR	
9.	ALPHA BOUBACAR BIDP	GUINEA	
10.	MANASSOU THIAM	MAURITANIA	
11.	Assi Abdelou	MOROCCO	
12.	Rhana David	Seycelles	
13.	Irani Jankeo	Mauritius	
14.	INOCENT DIONTHE	CATHERDIN	
15.	SIETY BLANDINE	GABON	
16.	BEOSSO YVES	Chad	
17.	<del>Jonathan Xaluxh</del>	<del>GHANA</del>	
18.	Mathosini P. Mathubu	Swaziland	
19.	MUKHMA CHIKWATA	ZAMBIA	
20.	Poloko Qabosi	BOTSWANA	
21.	Andriamampana Bramonaka Amata	MADAGASCAR	

22.	Mary Chipoka	Zimbabwe	<del>cap.</del>
23.	Tshepo Maseko	South Africa	<del>Ames</del>
24.	SILVIA BATHLOMBUS	NAMIBIA	<del>Bad</del>
25.	Marie Louise KANDA	DRC	<del>Hadu</del>
26.	Loraise Clair	Rodrigues	Melice
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