

Celebrating 16 Years
2006 - 2022

DEAFNET
AFRICA CONFERENCE
21 - 24 November 2022



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FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

5th DEAFNET AFRICA CONFERENCE

The 5th DeafNET Africa Conference will be held from 21 - 24 November 2022, at the Premier Hotel, Johannesburg South Africa. DeafNET Centre of Knowledge will organise and host the conference. Please take note that the Covid-19 protocols will be followed. The theme of the conference will be: “**Capacity building initiatives within the Deaf Communities**”

BACKGROUND

The DeafNET Centre of Knowledge (DeafNET) has over the past 16 years provided a platform and voice for networking of knowledge and expertise. Its main objective is to exchange and disseminate knowledge and skills to empower Deaf persons on the African continent, to achieve their full potential through training and development, to take their rightful place in society, to be valued citizens of their country, to advance self-representation and to implementing programs that promote awareness of and respect for D/deaf persons’ language and culture.

Building on the successful 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th DeafNET Quadrennial Conference held in 2004, 2005, 2011, and 2016 in South Africa and Swaziland, the 5th DeafNET Africa Conference will be held in partnership with De Stichting Vrienden van Effatha (SVE). This event provides an important space to debate, share best practices and plan how to address the pressing challenges and explore opportunities for working with DeafNET and different country participants to enhance cohesion, sustainability, and capacity for improved livelihoods for Deaf persons.

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PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE IS:

- To explore new initiatives and align projects and activities with the Conference theme
- To identify areas of personal and community development, mobilize community partnership to give impetus to projects
- To raise awareness in the private and public sectors of society of Deaf human and civilian rights including access to equal Education on all levels.
- To develop entrepreneurial capacities and mindsets
- To advocate and promote Sign Language as a tutoring language for SL users on all levels of Education.
- Adopting Resolutions and a Conference Declaration as guiding documents

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

International Sign (IS), and South African Sign Language (SASL)

Written and spoken languages: English and French

Translation/interpreting service: Spoken English to French and French to English

FORMAT

The conference includes plenary sessions and interactive panels with questions and answers from the floor and workshops.

The workshops will include the following focus groups:

- Leadership by Deaf Persons
- Education and Training
- Health and Wellbeing Awareness
- Recognising SL as a language on equal standing with other languages in countries
- Entrepreneurship

TARGET GROUPS

National Associations of the Deaf, National Associations of the DeafBlind, Schools for the Deaf. professionals working in the field of deafness, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, Parents of Children who are deaf, children of Deaf parents (s) – CODA's, teachers of the Deaf, SLIs, pastors, spiritual workers, community workers, care workers, and service users.

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PROGRAMME

The full program will be available on the website of DeafNET (www.deafnet.org)

REGISTRATION

Deadline for registration: 01 October 2022. Registration documents will be e-mailed and will be available on the website.

OUTCOMES

Key outcomes of this Africa Conference will be that delegates will be equipped with knowledge and skills to:

- ❖ be effective leaders in their communities and organizations
- ❖ disseminate knowledge and skills obtained to empower communities and colleagues
- ❖ sensitize the private and public sectors of the access needs of deaf people in the socio-economic environment in alignment with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and SDGs
- ❖ promote self-representation
- ❖ sensitize organizations working with persons with disabilities to the specific barriers faced by Deaf Persons
- ❖ motivate Deaf persons towards entrepreneurship and desirability to be self-employed
- ❖ Implement the resolution of the conference through organisations of/for the Deaf and use the conference declaration to inform the public and private sectors on the right and needs of Deaf individuals and communities

ABSTRACTS

You are invited to submit abstracts for approval. The deadline for submissions is 15 August 2022. Abstracts should be no longer than 300 words. The scientific committee will select abstracts to be presented and all will be notified of the outcome of their submission by 25 August 2022. The abstracts should be relevant to the overall theme or either of the aforementioned focus groups. All abstracts should be sent to DeafNET. Please complete the abstract submission form and return it to conference@deafnet.org before 10 August 2022.

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VISAS

Please consult your closest South African Embassy two months in advance regarding visa requirements. Once you have paid your registration fees, a letter of invitation will be sent to you and the South African Embassy in your country will be notified of your participation in the conference. It is your responsibility to submit all required documentation to the South African Embassy in your country for your visa application. Please make sure you are updated on travel restrictions and new measures due to Covid-19.

SPONSORSHIP

Only one delegate per country will be sponsored. Use the application form on the website to apply for sponsorship or request an application form from: conference@deafnet.org. All applications received will be forwarded to the Scientific Committee for evaluation. All applications will be assessed based on criteria put forward by DeafNET. You will be informed if your sponsorship was successful. For this conference, DeafNET will only sponsor the successful Deaf applicants. DeafNET will cover flight tickets, accommodation as well as meals. **All sponsored delegates will have to pay registration fees.** Unsuccessful applicants will be invited to participate at their own cost.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSFERS

The Organizing Committee has negotiated favorable rates for the Conference at the Premier, hotel. To register for the workshop and reserve accommodation, please complete the registration form and email it to: conference@deafnet.org. There will be a shuttle between Oliver Tambo Airport to the Premier Hotel and back. Transfers are included in the registration fees. For further information contact:

Name: Lavirne Fortuin Tel: + 27 23 342 4003 Email: conference@deafnet.org

Any general inquiries: conference@deafnet.org

The organizing committee looks forward to seeing you at the conference!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sanjay Beepat
Manager DeafNET Centre of Knowledge

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