



# **Co-operation Agreement between The World Federation of the Deaf and International Committee of Sports for the Deaf**

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## **Preamble**

**The World Federation of the Deaf** (hereinafter referred to as WFD)

And

**International Committee of Sports for the Deaf** (hereinafter referred to as ICSD)

(hereinafter the "Parties")

**Rationale :** The WFD works towards the global achievement of human rights for all deaf people and develops its activities towards the goal of equalisation of opportunities and full participation in society by deaf individuals in every country in accordance with the principles and objectives of the United Nations (UN) Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and other general acts and recommendations of the UN and its specialised agencies.

Its aims are:

- To advocate for an accessible society, including a bilingual educational environment as well as services and information provided in sign language, where deaf people can enjoy the same human rights as all other people.
- To promote the establishment of local, national and regional organisations of deaf people and to guide and support activities of all its members.
- To ensure that deaf people in every country have the right to promote and preserve their own sign languages and receive support for the advancement of their cultural and linguistic identities

**Rationale:** The ICSD works towards the global achievement of sporting rights for all deaf people and develops its activities towards the goal of equalisation of sporting opportunities and full participation in society by deaf individuals in every country in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Olympic Movement, as governed by the International Olympics Committee (IO).

Its aims are:

- To work with WFD to lead the issues related to sports at the UN level.
- To advocate for an accessible society, within the framework of Sports including a bilingual environment as well as services and information provided in sign language, where deaf people can enjoy the same human rights as all other people.
- To promote the establishment of local, national and regional sporting organisations of deaf people and to guide and support activities of all its members.
- To ensure that deaf people in every country have the right to promote and preserve their own sign languages and receive support for the advancement of their cultural and linguistic identities.

**Recalling** that WFD and ICSD are independent international non-governmental, non-profit-making organisations of deaf people.

**Recognising** that WFD and ICSD share common values on the rights of deaf people throughout the world as upheld in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and to co-ordinate their efforts within the framework of their respective mandates.

**Noting** that the official languages for communication, both in person and in writing between WFD and ICSD are International Sign and English.

**Have therefore agreed** on the following:

#### **Article 1 - General provision**

The purpose of this co-operation agreement is to establish to establish a formal framework for co-operation between WFD and ICSD and to reduce duplication of services and resources in the achievement of common objectives.

#### **Article 2 - Areas of co-operation**

Cooperation between both Parties will focus on the following areas of work:

- Encourage collaborative agreements and activities between National Associations of the Deaf and National Deaf Sports Associations
- Promotion of human rights in any area regarding deaf people's rights within the framework of the United Nations Human Rights Convention
- Promotion and support towards the recognition of national sign languages

#### **Article 3 - Consultation and exchange of information**

The Parties shall, on a regular basis, keep each other informed of and consult on matters of common interest, which in their opinion are likely to require mutual collaboration.

Regular meetings shall be convened between representatives of both Parties to coordinate work planning and projects so as to avoid duplication of services and resources.

Consultation and exchange of information and documents under this Article shall be without prejudice to arrangements which may be required to safeguard the confidential and restricted character of certain information and documents.

The Parties shall recognise and promote each organisation through their respective websites.

The Parties shall invite each other to send observers to the WFD / ICSD General Assemblies and General Meetings as well as to meetings and conferences convened by them or under their auspices in which, in the opinion of either Party, the other may have an interest. Any fees or travel costs related to the attendance of the observer from a Party shall be covered by its own respective organisation and shall not be claimed to the inviting Party.

#### **Article 4 - Representation**

As both Parties represent the deaf community at international meetings and conferences, clear delineation of the roles of both Parties is required as to avoid duplication of services and resources and to ensure full representation of deaf community in any meeting and conference.

Each Party shall respect the scope of representation of the other Party.

Both Parties recognise the primacy of WFD to advance political, cultural, educational and sign language rights of deaf people throughout the world.

Both Parties also recognise the primacy of ICSD to advance all matters related to sports and deaf sports.

Each Party shall inform the other Party if they are unable to attend a meeting or conference that relates to its scope of representation. In this case, it may delegate its mandate to the other Party for the meeting or conference concerned.

The WFD shall represent the deaf community, participate in the work of and/or cooperate with the following institutions/ organisations concerned.

- United Nations Treaty based Bodies, such as the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee)
- United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), its functional and regional commissions as well as specialised agencies, such as
  - o United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
  - o International Labour Organization (ILO)
  - o World Health Organization (WHO)
  - o World Bank (Global Partnership for Disability and Development, GPDD)
  - o International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- United Nations Secretariat and its offices and departments, such as
  - o Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
  - o Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
  - o Department of Public Information (DPI)
- United Nations programmes and funds, such as
  - o United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) through its special procedures and Universal Periodic Review (UPR)
- United Nations Treaty based Bodies, such as the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee)
- Council of Europe (CoE)
- World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI)
- International Congress on the Education of the Deaf (ICED)
- International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD)
- International Disability Alliance (IDA)

The ICSD shall represent the deaf community to participate in the work of and/or cooperate with the following institutions/ organisations at the international level in relation to sports

- International Olympic Committee (IOC)
- International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
- All other international sports governing bodies, including the International Sports Federations (IAAF for athletics, etc.), the World Anti-Doping Agency, etc.

#### **Article 5 – Revisions**

1. This agreement Supersedes any / all previous agreements
2. The provisions of this cooperation agreement may be amended at any time, upon written agreement between the parties.
3. Either of the Parties may request consultations with the intention of amending this Cooperation Agreement.
4. This Cooperation Agreement shall be reviewed every four years.

#### **Article 6 - Commitment, Settlement of Disputes and Termination**

1. WFD and ICSD confirm they are committed to cooperate and to work together as much as possible in the fields mentioned above.
2. All disputes which may emerge in relation to the interpretation or application of the present Cooperation Agreement shall be settled by means of consultations and negotiations between representatives of the WFD and the ICSD.


3. Either of the Parties may terminate the present Agreement by means of written notification to the other Party. The termination enters into force after the period of 30 days that starts on the first day of the month following the month in which the other Party received the written notification of termination.

#### **Article 7 - Entry into Force and Duration**

Cooperation Agreement enters into force on the day on which it is signed by both Parties below.

This Cooperation Agreement contains the entire understanding between the parties in relation to its subject matter. There are no express or implied conditions, warranties, promises, representations or obligations, written or oral, or signed in relation to this agreement other than those expressly stated in it or necessarily implied by international law.

Signed at ICSD Congress (Sofia) on the 25th day of July 2013



Mr Colin Allen  
WFD President



Mr Craig Crowley  
ICSD President



Witness

Name: Terry Riley



Witness

Name: Vanessa Miglioni