



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF



Co-operation Agreement between World Federation of the Deaf and the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People

Preamble

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

and

The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (hereinafter referred to as IFHOH)

(The two entities are hereinafter referred to as the "Parties.")

This agreement signifies that WFD and IFHOH seek to co-ordinate their efforts within the framework of their respective mandates.

Mandate of WFD: 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 and other general acts and recommendations of the UN and its specialised agencies. Its aims are:

- a) 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;
- b) To promote the establishment of local, national and regional organisations of deaf people and to guide and support activities of all its members;
- c) 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.

Mandate of IFHOH: IFHOH aims to promote the fundamental human rights of hard of hearing persons worldwide and to enable their full participation in all of society in keeping with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As set out in its constitution IFHOH aims are:

- a) To promote hearing accessibility for hard of hearing people, in particular with regard to technical aids, noise control, communication systems, architectural design, and other services and facilities.

- b) To inform and educate the public about the special problems hard of hearing people encounter in everyday life, as well as by participating in the work of international organisations and bodies.
- c) To promote the prevention and management of hearing loss and the preservation of hearing. To generate a better understanding and a positive attitude towards hard of hearing people.
- d) To promote research for the development of technical devices for noise control, communication systems, and for other aids.
- e) To promote research in the area of hearing loss, hearing disability, and hearing-related disabilities, as well as encouraging hard of hearing people to personally participate in such research or to support it.

Recognising that WFD and IFHOH are independent international non-governmental and non-profit-making organisations.

Noting that the official language for written communication of WFD and IFHOH is English.

The Parties therefore agree as follows:

Article 1 - General Provisions

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

Article 2 - Terminology

Both organisations recognise and respect the right of individuals with hearing losses ranging from mild to severe to profound to regard themselves as either “deaf” or “hard of hearing” and both organisations agree to recognise the terms “deaf” and “hard of hearing” in their official terminologies. Both organisations agree that the term “hearing impaired” is not an appropriate term and that deaf and hard of hearing individuals should not be identified under this single category.

Article 3 - Areas of co-operation

Co-operation between both Parties will focus on but are not limited to the following areas of work:

- Promotion of human rights in any area regarding deaf and hard of hearing people’s rights within the framework of the UN Human Rights system, paying particular attention to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- **Sign languages.** WFD and IFHOH reaffirm their commitment to full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by all UN member states. Both organisations note the importance of implementation of the Articles dealing with sign languages.
- **Captioning.** In particular it is recognised that the two sectors share concerns related to captioning on all forms of television and media broadcasting along with the Internet and DVDs and also live subtitling at meetings and agree to the further development of a mutually agreed framework for co-operation on these matters.
- Areas of support and promotion as agreed to by the two organisations.

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 discuss mutual areas of agreement and co-operation.

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 invite each other to send observers to each other's Annual/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. Any accessibility costs will be borne by the attendee although the inviting party will make every effort to facilitate access. Registration fees for conferences will be waived for the official delegate.

Article 4 - Representation

Each Party will represent its constituency in the following forums at the international level:

- United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), its functional and regional commissions as well as specialised agencies, such as
 - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
 - International Labour Organization (ILO);
 - World Health Organization (WHO);
 - World Bank (Global Partnership for Disability and Development, GPDD);
 - International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- United Nations Secretariat and its offices and departments, such as
 - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
 - Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA);
 - Department of Public Information (DPI).
- United Nations programmes and funds, such as
 - 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 (UN CRPD Committee)
- International Disability Alliance (IDA)
- Panel of Experts supporting the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Disability.

The above is not an exclusive list as other organisations and forums may be identified in which involvement is desirable.

Article 5 - Revisions

1. The provisions of this co-operation agreement may be amended at any time, upon written agreement between the parties.
2. Either of the Parties may request (external) consultations with the intention of amending this Co-operation Agreement.

Article 6 - Commitment, Settlement of Disputes, and Termination

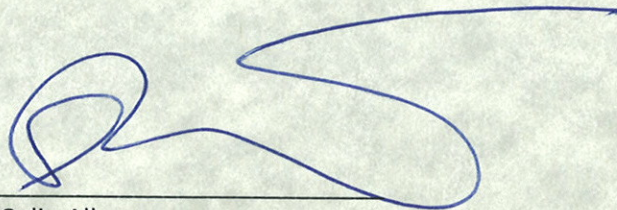
1. It is recognised that each sector may have different views on certain issues and so WFD and IFHOH agree to disagree with mutual respect and tolerance, and that these differences will not over-shadow the important areas of agreement and cooperation between WFD and IFHOH.
2. WFD and IFHOH confirm they are committed to co-operate and work together as much as possible in the fields mentioned above.
3. All disputes which may emerge in relation to the interpretation or application of the present Co-operation Agreement shall be settled by means of consultations and negotiations between representatives of WFD and IFHOH.
4. 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

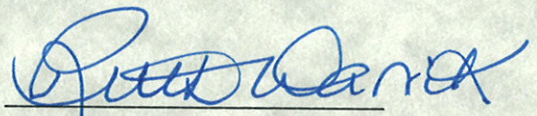
This Co-operation Agreement enters into force on the day on which it is signed by both Parties below.

This Co-operation 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.

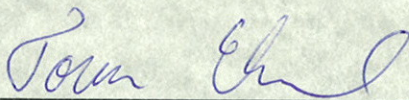
Signed at Wesley Conference Centre
Sydney, Australia on the 18th day of October 2013



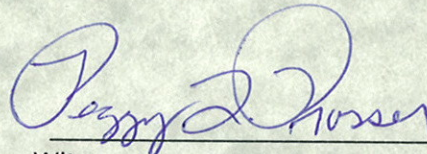
Mr Colin Allen
WFD President



Dr Ruth Warick
IFHOH President



Witness



Witness