



Niedersachsen

**Joint Declaration of Intent
on the Cooperation
between**

**the Government of the State of Lower Saxony
Federal Republic of Germany**

and

**the Government of Eastern Cape Province
Republic of South Africa**

Introduction

The Government of the State of Lower Saxony, Federal Republic of Germany, and the Government of Eastern Cape Province, Republic South Africa, have been maintaining cordial relations for many years, carrying out joint projects on the basis of the Joint Declarations dated 16th of August 1995 and 23rd of August 2004. Both sides acknowledge the success of this twenty-year cooperation in a spirit of partnership between their regions and declare their intention to further strengthen this cooperation.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Joint Declaration of Intent is to provide a broad framework for cooperation to guide its implementation so as to further strengthen the cooperation between the Eastern Cape Provincial Government and the State of Lower Saxony.

2. Objectives

This Joint Declaration aims at achieving the following objectives:

- a) To articulate the broad areas of cooperation;
- b) To provide a basis for further agreements and arrangements on cooperation;
- c) To designate the competent authorities for implementing this Joint Declaration.

3. Areas of cooperation

The sides have identified the following strategic areas for cooperation and mutual support:

- a) Socio-economic development;
- b) Agriculture and rural development;
- c) Sports, recreation, arts and culture;
- d) Police cooperation;
- e) Climate change and environmental management;
- f) Education and science;
- g) Local government/municipal cooperation;
- h) Cooperation on communicable diseases (HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis).

4. Topical Issues

The following topical issues for bilateral cooperation are envisaged:

4.1 Socio-economic development

Both sides consider direct contacts and the cooperation between business enterprises, institutions and associations in their regions desirable, in particular in the following areas:

- a) Port industries and large container shipping;
- b) Promotion of bilateral trade, investment and tourism;
- c) Geodata infrastructure.

4.2 Agriculture and rural development

- a) Exchange of technical support to implementation of research results in agriculture, rural development, veterinary services and extension services;
- b) Exchange programmes between the Eastern Cape Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection in Lower Saxony;
- c) Establishment of agricultural business pilot projects;
- d) Institutional capacity building,
- e) Cooperation on support of high ecological and social standards in agriculture and agricultural trade, among other things fostering of regional poultry business.

4.3 Sports

- a) Organisational development;
- b) Training and development measures;
- c) Social cohesion;
- d) Development-policy voluntary service in the field of sports;
- e) Youth exchange.

4.4 Arts, culture, museums and heritage preservation

- a) Research;
- b) Collections management;
- c) Exchange of knowledge and experience;
- d) Promotion of heritage preservation through exhibitions and exchange programmes;
- e) Development of arts and culture (films, music & theatre).

4.5 Police cooperation in the areas of crime fighting and crime prevention

- a) Exchange of best practices (e.g. on corruption);
- b) Vocational training and further training of the police force;
- c) Police research projects.

4.6 Education and science

- a) Support of the cooperation between vocational schools, further education and training (FET) colleges, and other players in the initial vocational training, among other things in cooperation with the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (Skills Development for a Green Economy (SD4GE) Programmes) to prepare and carry out the “Dual System Pilot Project Südafrika”;
- b) Support in the initiation of exchange and twinning arrangements between schools of general education;
- c) Cooperation between universities.

4.7 Climate change and environmental management

- a) Waste management;
- b) Greenhouse gas reduction;
- c) Renewable energy;
- d) Cooperation on environmental, climate and energy procurement issues.

4.8 Sustainable development and municipal partnerships

- a) The Government of Lower Saxony and the Government of Eastern Cape Province wish to promote fair and sustainable global development, particularly

in Lower Saxony and the Eastern Cape. They support the cooperation between non-governmental organisations (NGOs), churches, and schools, and they particularly welcome twinning arrangements at local government level.

- b) The sides jointly decide to support knowledge transfer and exchange expertise to improve governance and strengthen institutional capacity for service delivery of local government.

4.9 Cooperation on Communicable Diseases

- a) Network meetings aimed at establishing sustainable, long-term cooperation between the Eastern Cape AIDS Council (ECAC) and the Lower Saxony Aids Advisory Service (Niedersächsischer AIDS-Hilfe Landesverband e.V. (NAH));
- b) Exchange of knowledge and research on HIV / AIDS, Tuberculosis and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.
- c) Capacity building of health professionals on clinical management of HIV / AIDS, tuberculosis and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

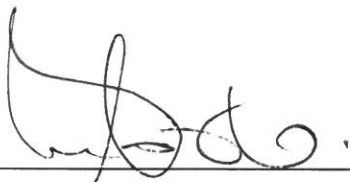
5. Costs

For visits exchanged in pursuit of this Joint Declaration of Intent, the visiting delegation is expected to bear its own costs of flights, travel insurance as well as subsistence and travel allowance for its delegates. The host party is expected to cover the costs of accommodation, meals and local transport for the incoming delegation.

6. Coordination and Implementation

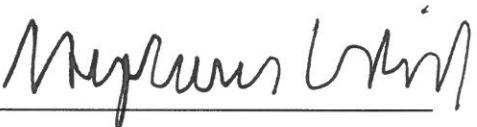
- a) The Lower Saxony State Chancellery and the Office of the Premier of Eastern Cape will be responsible for the coordination of the mutual cooperation which is specified in this Joint Declaration.
- b) To structure the relations between both sides in the best possible manner, the competent departments will be tasked with the implementation of the activities in connection with the focal areas set out in section 4.
- c) Both sides intend to exchange views on the implementation of this Joint Declaration of Intent and the sustainability of the projects on a regular basis.

Signed in Hannover and Bhisho on 15th and 20th of October 2015 respectively in the English and German languages, both texts being equivalent.



Phumulo Masualle

Honourable Premier
of the Eastern Cape Province
Republic of South Africa



Stephan Weil

Minister-President
of the State of Lower Saxony
Federal Republic of Germany