



Joint Declaration of Intent

**Between the Rhineland-Palatinate and Republic of Rwanda
On intensifying the Cooperation in the Field of People with Disabilities**



The Ministry of the Interior, Sports and Infrastructure of Rhineland-Palatinate,
the Advisory Committee for the Participation of People with Disabilities Rhineland-
Palatinate

LAG Selbsthilfe Behinderter (self-help of people with disabilities) Rheinland-Pfalz

and



the Ministry of Local Government of Rwanda,
the National Council of Persons with Disabilities of Rwanda
the National Union of Disabilities Organizations of Rwanda - NUDOR

have come to the following understanding:

For more than 32 years, Rwanda and Rhineland-Palatinate have enjoyed a sound and stable bond which has strengthened the partnership as well as the cooperation and support for and from the citizens of both states. Part of this bond is the cooperation in the field of people with disabilities. Based on the UN-Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD), the joint understanding is that participation, self-determination, and equality of people with disabilities are a matter of human rights. The guiding principle is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity (CRPD Article 1 and 32).

In the future the partners want to strengthen the partnership even further in order to empower and support people with disabilities and their organisations and services according to the guideline of "Living like everyone else – Inclusion right from the start". This guideline of inclusion should have a strong impact for the partnership and the grass-root cooperation with partners in public administration, political decision makers, and civil society in both states.

The undersigned of this Joint Declaration of Intent in Rhineland-Palatinate and Rwanda declare their intention to support measures and activities for and by people with disabilities in the partnership:

1. We want to exchange our experiences and best practice examples in the implementation of the CRPD in both states – especially regarding the execution of strategic and action plans (CRPD Article 4) and of an effective monitoring mechanism (CRPD Article 33).
2. In all our activities we want to place a specific focus on the needs and equal rights of girls and women with disabilities (CRPD Article 6).
3. Education of children and youth with disabilities is the key to a self-determined life and inclusion in society. We want to implement education and training programs for teachers and support students with disabilities to be involved in vocational training and education programs (CRPD Article 4 and 27).

4. We encourage schools to cooperate in direct partnerships with the goal to support each other in achieving inclusive education (CRPD Article 24).
5. Habilitation and rehabilitation are key factors to achieve health and a self-determined life for people with disabilities. Hence, we encourage direct partnerships and exchange programs of rehabilitation centres, especially for children with disabilities (CRPD Article 26 and 30).
6. To empower people with disabilities and to raise participation in society we want to support direct partnerships and exchange activities between organisations for and by people with disabilities in Rwanda and Rhineland-Palatinate. We regard the exchange and implementation of peer support and peer counselling activities as a key issue in this field (CRPD Article 29).
7. The partnership will promote the participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure, and sports (Article 30).
8. By way of media and information activities, the partners undertake to enhance an increase in awareness of inclusion and equal rights for people with disabilities as being a matter of human rights a and cross-sectional task (CRPD Article 8).

This Joint Declaration of Intent will be operationalized through the public institutions and civil society organizations working in the area of disability in both states. To implement the Joint Declaration of Intent, the undersigned declare to develop and to resolve on an operational plan once every three years in the field of people with disabilities in the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland-Palatinate. The operational plan shall identify measures, partners, and responsibilities in both states. This goal should be accomplished within six months after signing.

The undersigned concur that a group of experts with representatives of the signing organisations will accompany the implementation of the Joint Declaration of Intent and will be responsible for the operational plan.

h

The operational plan shall also contain short-term activities which the partners in Rwanda and Rhineland-Palatinate consider instrumental in implementing cooperation projects in the field of early support for children with disabilities and vocational projects.

Signed in Kigali / Rwanda, 21st October 2014



Alvera Mukabaramba

Dr. Alvera Mukabaramba
Minister of State in Charge of
Community Development and Social
Affairs;
Ministry of Local Government



Roger Lewentz

Roger Lewentz
Minister of the Interior, Sports and
Infrastructure of Rhineland-Palatinate

Emmanuel Ndayisaba

Emmanuel Ndayisaba
National Council of Persons with
Disabilities of Rwanda - NCPD

Matthias Rösch

Matthias Rösch
Advisory Committee for the Participation
of People with Disabilities Rhineland-
Palatinate

Dominique BIZIMANA

Dominique BIZIMANA
The National Union of Disabilities

Paul Haubrich

Paul Haubrich
LAG Selbsthilfe Behinderter Rheinland-