



**Agreement
between
the Government of the Republic of South Africa
and
the Government of Flanders
on Cooperation**

The Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of Flanders,
(hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Parties" and in the singular as a "Party");

DRAWING ON the friendly ties and cooperation between their peoples, the mutual trust
and belief in the common values of freedom, democracy, justice and solidarity;

CONSIDERING the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of South
Africa and the Government of Flanders in the fields of Education, Arts, Culture, Science,
Technology and Sport, that was signed in Pretoria on 26th October 1996;

WISHING to confirm the existing cooperation;

INTENDING the extension of this cooperation to new areas such as determined in this
Agreement, in so far as these areas are within the scope of the Parties, in order to contribute
to establishing closer bonds between Flanders and The Republic of South Africa;

HEREBY AGREE as follows:

Article 1.

- (1.) The existing Agreements between the Parties on areas of cooperation shall be
conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.
- (2.) In the event of a conflict, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.

Article 2.

FIELDS OF COOPERATION

- (1.) The Parties shall intensify their cooperation in such fields as development
cooperation, economy, welfare policy, housing, the environment, town and
country planning, infrastructure, transport policy, agriculture and agro industry,
vocational training and employment, tourism, telecommunication and media
policy as well as the cooperation in the fields of education, arts, culture, science,
technology and sport.
- (2.) The Parties shall encourage the exchange of experience in the fields of technical
and technological know how, public administration and management.

Article 3.

- (1.) The Parties shall in accordance with the aims of this Agreement encourage the
establishment of contact and cooperation between interested institutions, the
organisations and persons in the Republic of South Africa and Flanders in the
fields covered by this Agreement.
- (2.) In the implementation of the provisions of this Agreement due regard shall be
given to the autonomy of the relevant institutions and bodies. Their freedom to
enter into and maintain mutual relations and agreements shall be recognized,
subject to the domestic law of the Republic of South Africa and the Kingdom of
Belgium.

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Article 4.

The Parties shall endeavor to extend their cooperation in the field of development cooperation. They shall encourage cooperation with respect for the policies and priorities of both Governments in this respect.

Article 5.

The Parties shall endeavor to extend their mutual economic relations. To this end the Parties shall promote the exchange of managers and experts specialized in establishing structures for small and medium sized companies and management programs for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) managers.

Article 6.

The Parties shall stimulate cooperation and exchange between public and private bodies in the field of basic and applied scientific research and technology development. They shall determine at regular intervals which sections have priority in the field of scientific and technological development.

Article 7.

- (1.) The Parties shall encourage cooperation and exchange in the cultural field and shall support priority actions contributing to cultural development and the propagation of their respective languages and cultures in the other country.
- (2.) Matters pertaining to the promotion and teaching of the Dutch language in South Africa have been delegated to the Nederlandse Taalunie (N.T.U) an intergovernmental organisation set up by Belgium and the Netherlands in 1980 to promote the Dutch language in the broadest sense.
- (3.) The Parties shall support exchanges in the field of art and culture and join in protecting this cultural heritage
- (4.) The Parties shall promote exchanges in the audio visual field

Article 8.

- (1.) The Parties shall support and promote the cooperation and exchange in the field of education.
- (2.) The Parties shall encourage direct cooperation and contacts between universities, the exchange of educators, the exchange of information, teaching experience,

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expert and research findings, and the exchange of documentation and publications in the field of education..

Article 9.

- (1.) The Parties shall support and promote cooperation in the field of tourism.
- (2.) To that end they shall promote the exchange of experts and the exchange of experience and information on tourism policies.

Article 10.

- (1.) The Parties shall support and promote the cooperation in the field of sports.
- (2.) The Parties shall encourage cooperation between sports organisations, exchange of sports teams and sports persons and participation in the sports events in both countries.

Article 11.

The Parties shall work together in the social field and the field of labour and employment finding, more specifically as vocational training, labour relations and social bargaining, family policy, social welfare, special youth assistance, social integration of the handicapped and care for the elderly.

Article 12.

The Parties shall work together in the field of public health. Special attention shall be paid to medical care, health education and preventative health care.

Article 13.

- (1.) The Parties shall encourage cooperation and exchanges in the fields of the environment, rural development, town and country planning, housing, infrastructure, transport policy and telecommunication.
- (2.) The Parties shall promote the exchange of scientific, technical and statistical information, and also technology transfer, especially regarding environmental protection and rehabilitation.

Article 14.

- (1.) The Parties shall encourage cooperation and exchange in the field of agriculture.
- (2.) The Parties encourage the exchange of scientific, technical and statistical information as well as technology in the field, mentioned in Sub Paragraph (1).

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Article 15.

- (1.) In the fields covered by this Agreement, the Parties shall strive for cooperation in the framework of international organisations. To that end the Parties can inform each other on their respective positions and, more generally, consult each other.
- (2.) The Parties shall cooperate in the framework of programs of international organisations in the fields mentioned in Article 1, expressing their special ties of friendship and partnership.

Article 16.

- (1.) For purposes of implementation of this Agreement, a Joint South Africa / Flemish Committee shall be established which shall meet at least every two years or as otherwise agreed upon by the Parties.
The Joint Committee can set up Sub Committees as the need arises.
- (2.) Meetings of the Committee shall be held alternately in the Republic of South Africa and Flanders, in order to discuss programs of cooperation.
- (3.) If approved by the Parties, the programs of cooperation mentioned in Sub Paragraph (2), shall be valid for a specific period and shall include concrete forms of cooperation, events and financial conditions for this implementation.
- (4.) The programs agreed upon by the Sub Committees are an integral part of the programs of cooperation.

Article 17.

All activities carried out in terms of this Agreement shall be subject to the applicable domestic law of the respective Parties.

Article 18.

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled amicably through consultations and negotiations between the Parties.

Article 19.

COMPETENT AUTHORITY

The competent authorities responsible for the implementation of this agreement shall be —

- (a) on behalf of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the Department of Foreign Affairs;
- (b) on behalf of the Government of Flanders, the Foreign Relations Administration of the Ministry of the Flemish Community

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Article 20.
AMENDMENT

This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties through an exchange of notes between the Parties through the diplomatic channel.

Article 21.
ENTRY INTO FORCE

- (1) This Agreement shall enter into force on a date on which each Party has notified the other in writing through the diplomatic channel that its respective constitutional requirements necessary for the implementation of this Agreement have been complied with. The date of entry into force shall be the date of the last notification.
- (2) This shall remain in force in terms of Article 22

Article 22.
TERMINATION

- (1) This Agreement shall remain in force for an unspecified period but can be terminated by either Party giving three months written notice in advance through the diplomatic channel of its intention to terminate this Agreement.
- (2) Termination of this Agreement shall not affect any programs undertaken prior to the termination of this Agreement, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed and sealed this Agreement in two originals in the English and Dutch languages, both texts being equally authentic.

Pretoria on 27 November 2000

DONE at Brussels on 22 January 2002

This.....day of

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FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Adriaan van der Merwe
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FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE NETHERLANDS

Stefaan Van Mulders
afdelingshoofd