

**Athens Declaration on Access for Deaf Participants at
the International Congress on the Education of the Deaf (ICED)
8 July, 2015**

Whereas, ICED is a valuable conference for researchers, academics, parents, administrators, and advocates;

Whereas, Deaf educators and academics make important contributions to the field of Deaf education;

Whereas, exchange within the scientific community at ICED between Deaf and hearing participants is the bedrock of a successful ICED;

Whereas, budget constrictions and conference planning have resulted in the lack of International Sign interpreters at a majority of breakout sessions at the 22nd ICED;

Whereas, this has resulted in limitations on Deaf participants' communication access and opportunities for professional and academic growth;

Whereas, both hearing and Deaf participants have been affected and grieved due to decreased collaboration between hearing and Deaf participants;

Therefore, be it resolved that members of ICED organizing committees henceforth will ensure the provision of universal language access for all participants in International Sign and English (printed, captioned, and spoken).

Therefore, be it further resolved that membership of ICED organizing committees henceforth will include Deaf individuals, representing Deaf communities.

Therefore, be it further resolved that members of the ICED Host Selection Committee will immediately develop guidelines for future conferences to ensure universal language access in International Sign and English (printed, captioned, and spoken), including guidelines for scheduling of, budgeting for, and recruitment of qualified interpreters.

Therefore, be it further resolved that such guidelines will be created in conformity with "Guidelines on Fees and Conditions for International Sign Interpreters Working for the World Federation of the Deaf," published by the World Federation of the Deaf and the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters, 13 March 2013¹, and "Perspectives on the Concept and Definition of International Sign," published by the World Federation of the Deaf, May 2010.²

[Signed by 312 ICED delegates]

¹ <http://wfdeaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/International-Sign-Fee-Guidelines-for-WFD-Events-Approved-March-2015.pdf>

² http://www.wfdeaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Perspectives-on-the-Concept-and-Definition-of-IS_Mesch-FINAL.pdf.