

## Letter of Intent for closer cooperation

### **The Republic of South Africa**

represented by the Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Dr Joseph Phaahla  
and

### **the Dutch Language Union**

represented by the Chair of the Committee of Ministers, Mrs Marja van Bijsterveldt-Vliegenthart,

whereas:

- the Dutch Language Union has maintained contact with South Africa since April 1994 aimed at the promotion of Dutch Studies;
- there is a close linguistic relationship between Afrikaans, as one of the official languages in South Africa, and Dutch;
- this linguistic relationship offers perspectives and opportunities for the exchange of expertise and experience in language-related contexts;
- these language related contexts are not only relevant for Afrikaans, but, via Afrikaans, exchange of expertise and experience can benefit other African languages;
- the Dutch language region will be able to benefit from the expertise present in South Africa regarding dealing with multilingualism,

declare their intention to jointly assess in which areas further cooperation in language-related contexts is possible, relevant and desirable.

Possible topics for consideration include, for example:

- Human Language Technology,
- literacy promotion,
- pedagogy for language and reading education,
- examination and certification of language skills,
- literary/cultural exchange,
- literature development,
- translation and editing skills,
- lexicology/lexicography,
- terminology development,
- etymology,
- language policy development.

Accordingly drawn up and signed, in Bruges, on 20 November 2010



Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture,  
dr. Joseph Phaahla



Chair of the Committee of Ministers,  
Marja van Bijsterveldt-Vliegenthart