



INVITATION TO SPONSOR



UBUNTU - STRONGER TOGETHER

OVERVIEW

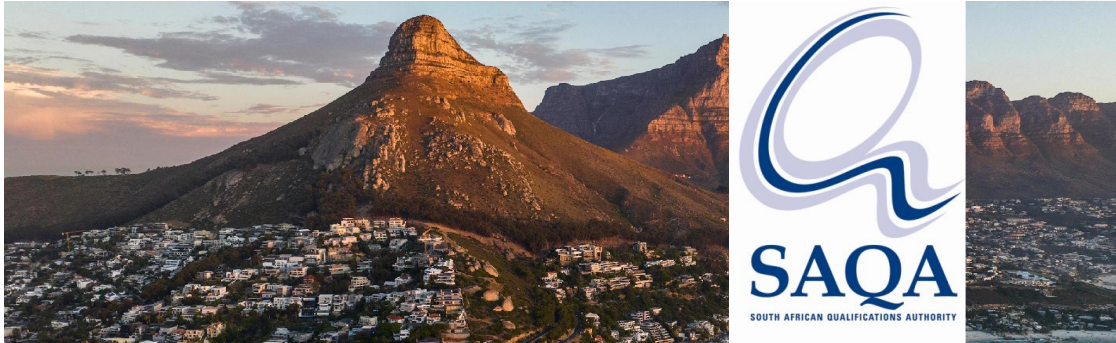
Each year, representatives from around the world gather at the Groningen Declaration Network (GDN) Annual Meeting to share, learn, and lead discussions on developing business and technical platforms to improve the policies, data interoperability, and exchange networks that support mobile learners sharing official credentials from formal, non-formal, and informal learning experiences.

The GDN Annual Meeting is a unique opportunity to engage with a vibrant network of stakeholders. Sponsorship of the 2026 GDN Annual Meeting in Cape Town will connect your organization with others who are guiding the global movement to increase respect and recognition of the currency of learning. In a rapidly expanding market, this opportunity offers a chance to strategically align your organization with the vanguard of cross-border mobility developments.

As an important contributor to the data ecosystem that fosters and supports the portability of academic credentials, **we invite you to join us** for this opportunity and to position your organization where the critical conversations begin. Connect and confer with a passionate group of world thought leaders dedicated to collaboratively delivering learner data accessibility.

In 2026, the 15th Annual Meeting will take place from October 20-22 in the beautiful city of Cape Town, South Africa. The conference will be delivered in a hybrid format allowing those not able to join us in person to participate virtually.

OVERVIEW



Annual Meeting Cape Town Co-Host – South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

The GDN is excited to announce that the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) will be co-hosting the Annual Meeting in Cape Town in October 2026. Since its establishment in 1995, SAQA has been mandated to develop, implement, and play an oversight role of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) in South Africa.

South Africa hosted the GDN convening in 2016 and looks forward to hosting the Network again ten years later at a moment of accelerated global reform. Hosting the GDN provides a strategic platform for SAQA to contribute to the co-creation of future-oriented systems for trusted digital credentials, qualifications recognition, and learner data exchange. It also creates space to advance regional and continental interoperability across the SADC region and Africa, ensuring that African perspectives actively shape emerging global solutions for mobility, equity, and trust in an increasingly interconnected education ecosystem.

ATTENDEE PROFILE

The GDN Annual Meeting attracts a variety of stakeholders in the global digital mobility ecosystem including:

- Government agency representatives and leaders
- Credential assessment and verification service providers
- Chief Executive Officers
- Chief Information/Technology Officers
- Senior higher education management
- University registrars and senior leaders, including those in IT and student affairs
- Researchers
- Product developers and industry partners
- Professors, Faculty staff
- Senior Advisors
- Program Directors
- International Education thought leaders

WHY SPONSOR?

Sponsoring the GDN Annual Meeting will:

- Build your organization's international networks and presence.
- Showcase your organization's work and achievements.
- Increase your organization's exposure through the event itself, event advertising, and media coverage.
- Give you direct access to an audience interested and aligned with your organizational objectives.
- Provide outstanding networking opportunities and shared experiences for your staff.
- Increase your knowledge of (and potentially contribute to) the latest from top thought leaders in the industry.
- Access data about attendees to inform your market intentions (within the consideration of privacy and consent).

BACKGROUND BRIEFING

The GDN Annual Meeting celebrated 10 years in 2022 and has held its annual meeting (AM) in cities around the globe, ranging from Oslo, Norway to Beijing and Washington, D.C. to Málaga, Cape Town, Melbourne, Paris, Puebla, Ottawa, Groningen, Jordan, and San Diego. The meetings have been a key catalyst to the establishment of digital learner data depositories and exchange networks in and between China, the United States, Australia and New Zealand, Africa, Canada, and numerous countries in Europe and around the world.

Created in 2012 at a historic meeting in Groningen, the Netherlands, and established legally as a European foundation in 2016, the Groningen Declaration Network (GDN) brings together key stakeholders to create an ethically centered Digital Learner Data Ecosystem. With a Board of Directors and Strategic Advisory Council representing every continent, the GDN stands as the most inclusive global effort to date aimed at enabling digital learner data mobility.

The Groningen Declaration Network (GDN) is a diverse, global, and interconnected ecosystem which includes large digital learner data depositories, educational institutions, government bodies, third-party academic data processors, and innovative companies, all seeking to facilitate educational and professional mobility. Its community is committed to learner privacy and data protection, transparent and responsible practices, and the recognition of digital learner data and qualifications. The GDN aims to ensure that citizens have access to secure digital records of their own educational achievements and can share them with whomever they choose, whenever they choose.

For those displaced by conflict, the loss of academic records presents major hurdles to relocation and the pursuit of education and skills development. The GDN has thus supported initiatives dealing with migrant data mobility, resettlement, and access to services otherwise denied. Such initiatives include the European Qualification Passport for Refugees (EQPR), the SAQA/WES Refugees Pilot Project, the African Qualifications Verification Network (AQVN), and Kiron Open Higher Education.

The goal of the GDN is a global, equitable, accessible Digital Learner Data Portability environment. One of the largest global issues to this end is a fundamental lack and imbalance of global data and digital capacity. The Annual Meeting of the GDN creates the opportunity to convene practitioners and supporters to continuously share digitalization development and use cases, strategies, and tactics that are working, expand the number of new projects moving forward globally where capacity is lacking, and continue to bring new ideas as technologies and methods evolve to the fore to help achieve the goal.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We are offering a range of sponsorship opportunities to meet your business objectives and budgets.



Platinum Sponsor

Investment €25,000

This category positions the sponsor as a champion of the Groningen Declaration Network and affords the highest exposure and acknowledgment.



Image source: Moyo Kirstenbosch, www.moyo.co.za

The GDN Annual Dinner at MOYO Kirstenbosch

The annual dinner will be held on the evening of October 21 at Moyo Kirstenbosch, situated in what is acclaimed to be one of the great botanical gardens of the world. Align your organisation with the GDN Annual Dinner featuring the wine and culinary delights of Cape Town. The organising committee will work with the dinner sponsor on all elements of the dinner to deliver an outstanding delegate experience.

Benefits Package

- Sponsor acknowledgment of the GDN Annual Dinner to be held on October 21 at Moyo Kirstenbosch
- 2x sponsor banners in main plenary conference room or foyer
- Exclusive networking opportunities with GDN Board and key stakeholders
- Opportunity to allocate two complimentary registrations to in-region African delegates, including social functions (GDN to identify and manage)
- Premium logo placement before, during, and after the event on digital and physical signage for the event
- Social media posts on LinkedIn leading up to and after the event
- Profiling in the Virtual Attendee Hub and mobile app
- Access to the on-demand video of your presentation for distribution
- Premium opportunities for delegate engagement through feature articles you produce on the GDN website and GDN LinkedIn (content approved by GDN)
- Delegate list (with consent)

Exclusive Add-On Opportunity

- Opportunity to have a booth at the GDN Learning Commons. For additional details, see Page 10. Spots are limited, so early booking is recommended.



Diamond Sponsor

Investment €15,000

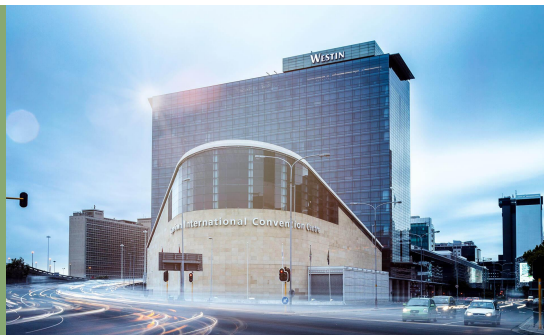


Image source: Cape Town International Convention Centre, www.cticc.co.za

Welcome Reception at the Cape Town International Convention Centre

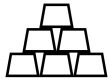
The Welcome Reception is the first time attendees come together, new friends are made, and people reconnect with international colleagues. The Welcome Reception will be held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre on the evening of October 20 in rooms beside the Main Plenary Hall in the main foyer (Orchid/Daisy/Freesia Room).

Benefits Package

- 10-minute speaking opportunity at the Welcome Reception
- Sponsor acknowledgment of the Welcome Reception to be held on October 20 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre
- Opportunity to share physical signage at the Welcome Reception
- Opportunity to allocate one complimentary registration to an in-region African delegate, including social functions (GDN to identify and manage)
- Logo placement before, during, and after the event on digital and physical signage
- Social media post on LinkedIn
- Profiling in the Virtual Attendee Hub and mobile app
- Delegate list (with consent)

Exclusive Add-On Opportunity

- Opportunity to have a booth at the GDN Learning Commons. For additional details, see Page 10. Spots are limited, so early booking is recommended.



Gold Sponsor (Non-Exclusive)

Investment €10,000

Gold Sponsors can reach the delegate group by sponsoring refreshment breaks. At a time when delegates get to network with each other, your organisation can gain brand recognition associated with the comfort of food and conversation.



Refreshment Breaks

- Morning Tea
- Lunch
- Afternoon Tea

Benefits Package

- Refreshment break of your choice: choose from morning tea, lunch, or afternoon tea
- Opportunity to share physical signage at refreshment break
- Logo placement before, during, and after the event on digital signage and conference platform
- Social media post on LinkedIn
- Profiling in the Virtual Attendee Hub and mobile app
- Delegate list (with consent)

Exclusive Add-On Opportunity

- Opportunity to have a booth at the GDN Learning Commons. For additional details, see Page 10. Spots are limited, so early booking is recommended. Additional fees apply.



Cape Town Cultural Experience

(Non-Exclusive)

Investment €5,000

Your company will be remembered for bringing the GDN Community together with a unique cultural experience in Cape Town, South Africa during the Annual Meeting. This year, the culture visit will be to the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens directly before the Gala Dinner. The funds will help cover costs towards transportation for all delegates to the location and back from the gardens.



GDN Cultural Experience at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden

The GDN Cultural Experience will take place on 21 October at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, one of the world's great botanic gardens, located on the eastern slopes of Table Mountain in Cape Town.

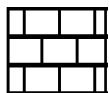
Image source: South African National Biodiversity Institute, www.sanbi.org

Benefits Package

- Logo placement before, during, and after the event on digital signage
- Social media post on LinkedIn
- Profiling in the Virtual Attendee Hub and mobile app
- Delegate list (with consent)

Exclusive Add-On Opportunity

- Opportunity to have a booth at the GDN Learning Commons. For additional details, see Page 10. Spots are limited, so early booking is recommended. Additional fees apply.



Silver Sponsor (Non-Exclusive)

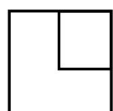
Investment €3,000 - €5,000

Silver sponsors can align themselves with Annual Meeting **Merchandise**. Extend your brand beyond the event with takeaways such as conference bags, lanyards, or delegate gifts.

Conference Bags €5,000

Benefits Package

- Merchandise sponsor acknowledgement: choose from lanyards, conference bags, or delegate gifts. *Note: Flyers and sales sheets are not allowed. Logos not allowed on the conference bags; rather, an option for a tie on exists with a QR code.*
- Logo placement before, during, and after the event on digital signage
- Social media post on LinkedIn
- Profiling in the Virtual Attendee Hub and mobile app
- Delegate list (with consent)



Bronze Sponsor (Non-Exclusive)

Investment €1,500 - €3,000

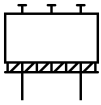
Bronze sponsors invest in the opportunity for brand recognition and reinforcement.

Bursary sponsorship for attendees including students (minimum €1,500)*

** Recipients of bursaries are selected by the GDN Network. Individuals from sponsoring organizations are not eligible.*

Benefits Package

- Logo placement before, during, and after the event on digital signage
- Social media post on LinkedIn
- Profiling in the Virtual Attendee Hub and mobile app
- Delegate list (with consent)



GDN Learning Commons

(Non-Exclusive; incl. in Platinum and Diamond)

In-region Tier

€650

(~R10,000 *ZAR)

Not-for-Profits in Africa
Limited spots available

International Tier

€1,300

(~R25,000 *ZAR)

For Profits and Not-for-Profits outside of Africa
Limited spots available

**Prices in ZAR (South African Rand) are an estimate and are subject to exchange rates.*

Like a mini exhibition stand, this opportunity allows your representatives to set up an in-person pop-up booth where you can add your marketing materials and take an opportunity to explain and demonstrate the type of thought leadership you and your organization are bringing to the digital and mobility ecosystem.

Provided: Booth, table and seating, located in the main area (Hall 8). Technology needs self-arranged directly with CTICC. Additional details will be shared separately. This event depends on uptake.

SUMMARY TABLE

	Platinum €25,000	Diamond €15,000	Gold €10,000	Silver €3,000- €5,000	Bronze €1,500- €3,000
GDN Champion Sponsor Acknowledgment	●				
Plenary Speaking Opportunity at Annual Meeting	●				
Cultural Experience Sponsor				● €5,000	
Welcome Reception		●			
Sponsor In-region Participants	● ●	●			
Refreshment Break Sponsor			●		
Merchandise Sponsor / Swag Bag Inserts	●	●	●	●	●
Logo Placement Before, During, and After the Event	●	●	●	●	●
Featured Sponsor Banner on Virtual Attendee Hub	●				
Profiling in the Virtual Attendee Hub and Mobile App	●	●	●	●	●
Social Media Post(s)	●	●	●	●	●
Delegate List (Subject to Consent)	●	●	●	●	●
Advertising Content Thought Leader Webinar after the Event	●				
Learning Commons Booth Included	●	●			
Learning Commons Booth Available as an Add-on			●	●	●

KEY CONTACTS

If you have any questions or would like to discuss tailoring your sponsorship to your objectives, please contact outreach@ groningendeclaration.org.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- A sponsorship agreement will be sent to successful applicants detailing the benefits package associated with their sponsorship.
- On return of the signed agreement, the organisation will be invoiced for the agreed sponsorship amount.
- Payment must be made within 30 days of the date of invoice.
- Sponsors will provide high-resolution images of logos to the organisers. (.eps, .png file format).
- If the event is postponed, no refund will be made.
- If the event is cancelled, a full refund will be made.