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Framework Agreement between Germany and South Africa on Inter-University Cooperation

A new framework agreement on cooperation between the universities in South Africa and Germany has been signed by the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) and the Higher Education South Africa (HESA), the voice of 23 public universities in South Africa. German universities are invited to join this bilateral agreement.

The agreement includes recommendations on the form of cooperation between the universities of both countries in the fields of teaching, study and research, as well as on continuing professional training and the transfer of knowledge and technology. "The agreement will help to simplify the mutual recognition of academic qualifications and the admission of German and South African students to master programmes and doctoral studies," said HRK President Professor Horst Hippler.

The academic cooperation between South Africa and Germany has had a long history. At present, there are 153 cooperation links between universities of these two countries on record at the HRK Higher Education Compass, far more than anywhere else in Africa.

In 2012-2013, the German-South African Year of Science, the HRK organized a forum at the University of Leipzig, which was attended by over 50 German and South African university leaders. It is hoped that the agreement will further strengthen the relationship between the universities in the two countries. A working group from German and South African universities will develop and oversee bilateral research projects.

Text of the Framework Agreement