



1st Roundtable of Teaching Regulatory Authorities in Africa (Abuja 2010)



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COMMUNIQUE OF THE 1ST ROUNDTABLE OF TEACHING REGULATORY AUTHORITIES IN AFRICA, HELD OCTOBER 11-14, 2010 AT THE NICON LUXURY HOTEL, ABUJA NIGERIA

1. Preamble: The Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN) and the South African Council for Educators (SACE) with support from UNESCO NIGERIA convened the 1st Roundtable of Teaching Regulatory Authorities in Africa at the Nicon Luxury Hotel, Abuja Nigeria, from 11th to 14th of October 2010. The Roundtable was organised under the mandate of the International Forum of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (IFTRA) which has its headquarters at the General Teaching Council for Wales, Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom. IFTRA is the world body of Teaching Councils in all the continents of the world. The key aims of IFTRA are to promote the professionalisation of teaching globally, set international standards for the profession and facilitate co-operation among member nations for the benefit of the education systems of the various countries.

The theme of the African Roundtable is **“The Role of the African Nations in the Globalisation of the Teaching Profession.”** The countries that attended the Roundtable are Nigeria, South Africa, Gabon, Kenya, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Uganda as well as the several non-governmental organisations under the auspices of the Teachers Without Borders, an international non-governmental organisation.

2. Opening Ceremony: The Roundtable was declared open by the Minister of Education of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Professor (Mrs.) Ruqqayatu Ahmed Rufa’i (OON) and Mr. Haroon Mahomed who represented the South African Minister of Basic Education. The Opening Ceremony was chaired by the President of the Association of African Universities, Professor Is’haq Oloyede, represented by Professor Olubamiro Jegede, the Vice Chancellor of the National Open University of Nigeria, and other dignitaries.

3. Plenary Sessions: The Plenary Sessions were chaired by Professor Kabiru Isyaku, a former Executive Secretary of Nigeria’s National Commission for Colleges of Education and currently Dean of Faculty of Education, Umaru Yar’adua University, Katsina State. The Plenary Sessions featured situation reports about the Teaching Profession in the African countries and thorough discussion of the speeches and addresses of the following officers: Mrs. Angela Jardine, the Chairperson of the General Teaching Council for Wales and Representative of IFTRA; Professor (Mrs.) Ruqqayatu Ahmed Rufa’i (OON) , Nigeria’s Minister of Education; Professor Addison

Mark Wokocha, TRCN Registrar/Chief Executive; Rej Brijraj, SACE Chief Executive Officer; and Dr Joseph Ngu, UNESCO Director in Nigeria. The Sessions further discussed the IFTRA Declarations in Edinburgh 2005 and IFTRA Commitment at Cardiff (United Kingdom), 2009.

4. Endorsements:

The Roundtable unanimously endorsed the following

1. The IFTRA Edinburgh Declaration of 2005.
2. The IFTRA Cardiff Commitment of 2009.

5. Agreements:

The Roundtable reached the following agreements, that:

1. There should be a law establishing Teachers Regulatory Authority (TRA) in each African country.
2. The law should apply to each country and be governed by the laws of the country.
3. The law should apply to all learning/educational Institutions, public and private.
4. There should be registration and licensing of teachers.
5. The Teachers Regulatory Authority has to ensure Quality Assurance and Standards in Teacher Education.
6. There should be a Code of Conduct and Ethics for all teachers.
7. There should be Continuous Professional Development of Teachers.
8. The African Roundtable be institutionalised and to hold annually.
9. Sudan shall host the next African Roundtable in 2011.
10. TRCN, Nigeria shall host the Secretariat of the African Roundtable.
11. The Secretariat shall work out modalities for involving more non-governmental organisations that has primary interest in Teacher Education and practice in the African Roundtable.

Areas for future discussion: The Roundtable agreed to discuss the following issues in the 2011 Roundtable with a view to finding solutions and common positions.

- i. Employer versus Regulator: The case of Teaching Regulatory Authorities that are both employers of teachers and regulators of the teaching profession at the same time.
- ii. Funding versus Autonomy: The case of Government funding of Teaching Regulatory Authorities and possibility of political interference in the regulatory functions of the Authorities.
- iii. The application of the Teacher Recruitment Protocol (2004) of the Commonwealth Ministers of Education, for instance with respect to Comparability of Teacher Qualifications and Recognition.

The Roundtable therefore called on all African countries to submit position papers to the IFTRA Secretariat at TRCN on the issues for discussion at the 2011 Roundtable at Sudan.

FOOTNOTE

The IFTRA DECLARATION AT EDINBURGH 2005

In the Edinburgh Declaration of 2005, the teaching councils committed themselves to:

- Work together to develop, promote and implement protocols that support effective sharing of relevant information where teachers and educators have been barred from working with pupils, students and young people.
- Share research and evidence in respect of effective ways of ensuring that teachers and educators can engage in career-long professional training and development.
- Develop protocols that support the appropriate mutual recognition of initial teacher education programmes and qualifications and examine the associated ethical issues that inform the portability of teaching qualifications in African employment market, and
 - Promote, internationally, the high standards and shared values of the teaching profession, in the interest of the public.

In working towards these goals, the Councils will always seek to support the diversity of students, pupils and teachers. We will seek to work in an inclusive way with other similar bodies around the continent, in particular supporting new and emerging Councils to develop appropriate models of professionally-led regulation.

The IFTRA Commitment at Cardiff 2009.

The teaching Councils made commitment in Cardiff in 2009 to:

- set up an international forum of teaching councils with a presence on the world wide web and an associated identity and logo;
- share information of common interest - including about respective teaching council responsibilities, research relevant to teaching, and issues of mutual recognition - by developing templates, populating them and hosting the information on a website or websites;
- develop a 'Charter for Teaching Councils' setting out the principles behind and the responsibilities of teaching councils, in order to help others in the establishment of new professionally-led regulatory bodies; and to meet on an international basis biennially.

The councils pledged to make these commitments a reality and to report progress at the next international conference in 2011.