



AFRICA FORUM OF TEACHING REGULATORY AUTHORITIES
(Le Forum d' Afrique d'Enseigner Régulateur Autorités)

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COMMUNIQUE

**OF THE 3rd ROUNDTABLE OF THE AFRICA FORUM OF TEACHING
REGULATORY AUTHORITIES HELD OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 1, 2012
AT THE CORRIDOR SPRINGS HOTEL, ARUSHA, TANZANIA**

1. PREAMBLE

The Roundtable was the 3rd edition of (AFTRA) Roundtable after the inaugural edition held in Abuja, Nigeria, October 11-14, 2010. AFTRA is a subset of the International Forum of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (IFTRA) which is a global association of agencies regulating the teaching profession.

The theme of the Roundtable was **"Uniting Africa for the Internationalization of the Teaching Profession"**. The countries that attended the Roundtable are Kenya, Rwanda, Nigeria, South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania (Mainland) and Zanzibar as well as several Non Governmental Organizations. The Tanzania Teachers Union (**CHAMA CHA WALIMU**) hosted the Roundtable.

2. PRE-ROUNDTABLE EVENT (CAUCUS MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF EAST AFRICAN TEACHERS UNIONS)

The Roundtable was preceded a day earlier (October 29, 2012) by a meeting of the caucus of the Federation of East African Teachers Unions held primarily to discuss the professionalisation of teaching in the East Africa sub-region and the roles of the teachers unions and governments of the East African countries towards the establishment of teaching councils or other appropriate models of professional regulation. The AFTRA Chair, Rej Brijraj and AFTRA Secretary, Professor Addison Mark Wokocha among other officials attended and made inputs at the meeting. The meeting resolved to give full support to AFTRA through active participation in AFTRA programmes and also to dialogue with governments towards finding the best options for professional regulation of teaching in their countries.

3. OPENING CEREMONY

The Roundtable was officially declared open on October 30, 2012 by Hon. Dr. Shukuru Kawambwa, Minister of Education and Vocational Training, Tanzania. The Opening ceremony was chaired by Professor Ralph Masenge of Tanzania. Speakers at the Opening ceremony included the President of Tanzania Teachers Union, Taifa-Gratian Mukoba; AFTRA Chair, Rej Brijraj; AFTRA Secretary, Professor Addison Mark Wokocha; Secretary/Chief Executive of Kenya Teachers Service Commission, Gabriel Lengoboni; Deputy Minister of Education of Mozambique, Professor Goncalo Chilundo; and Minister of Education and Vocational Training of Tanzania, Hon. Shukuru Kawambwa, among others. There was very high consensus among speakers that teachers and teacher regulatory organisations in Africa should collaborate to improve the quality and status of the teaching profession in the continent. Most speakers called on African countries to use AFTRA as a platform for exchange of best practices and boosting of the African voice at the inter-continental level, particularly at the International (World) Forum of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (IFTRA).

The Opening ceremony also showcased the rich culture of Tanzania displayed by entertaining cultural troupes.

4. TECHNICAL SESSION

The technical session reviewed the Communiqué and Minutes of the 2nd AFTRA Roundtable held in 2011 in Durban South Africa, Reports of the past AFTRA Steering Committee meetings held at various times in Nigeria, South Africa and the Republic of Benin as well as the Report of the 1st AFTRA Teaching and Learning in Africa Conference held in May 23-25, 2012 in Cotonou, Republic of Benin.

Further, each country gave a brief country report which basically updated the Roundtable regarding the structure/regulation of the teaching profession, prospects, challenges and special areas of concern for the teaching profession in the various countries. Among other presentations, the Secretary/Chief Executive of the Teachers Service Commission Kenya, Gabriel Lengoboni, gave highlights of his Commission's achievements and operations. In his brief, he spoke of the new look of the Teachers Service Commission, its functions and its role as a Regulatory Authority. He also donated the Teachers' Image magazine and the Teachers Service Commission Act 2012 to AFTRA members.

The Deputy Minister of Education of Mozambique, Professor Goncalo Chilundo, also briefed the Roundtable on efforts of the country to reposition the teaching profession.

5. KEY RESOLUTIONS OF THE ROUNDTABLE

(i) The establishment African Forum for Teaching Regulatory Authorities (AFTRA) was reaffirmed.

(ii) The existence of the AFTRA Steering Committee, consisting of Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria, South Africa Council for Educators, Teachers Service Commission, Kenya and Education Service Commission, Uganda was also reaffirmed and the Tanzania Teachers Union was co-opted to serve on the Steering Committee.

(iii) AFTRA once again endorsed the 2004 Commonwealth Teacher Recruitment Protocol and charged the Steering Committee to come up with a blueprint document that could help AFTRA members domesticate the provisions of the Protocol.

(iv) AFTRA resolved to co-locate its Roundtable and the Teaching and Learning Conference with effect from 2013.

(v) Kenya was unanimously endorsed to host the 4th AFTRA Roundtable and 2nd Teaching and Learning in Africa Conference in 2013.

(vi) Kenya was also endorsed to host the next meeting of the AFTRA Steering Committee in November or December 2012.

(vii) Starting with the 4th Roundtable in Kenya (2013), AFTRA member organisations shall be formally and ceremonially issued AFTRA membership certificates.

(viii) Membership of AFTRA remains open to all teaching councils, national teaching or education service commissions or other national/provincial agencies regulating the teaching profession on full membership basis while membership remains open to national teachers unions in Africa on observer status/basis. All organisations concerned are encouraged to identify with AFTRA in the interest of education and the teaching profession in Africa.

Rej Brijraj
AFTRA Chair and
Chief Executive
South Africa Council for Educators

Professor Addison Mark Wokocha
AFTRA Secretary and
Registrar/Chief Executive
Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria