



AFRICA FEDERATION OF TEACHING REGULATORY AUTHORITIES
Fédération Africaine des Agences de Régulation de l'Enseignement

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COMMUNIQUE

THE 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND 8th TEACHING AND LEARNING IN AFRICA CONFERENCE HELD AT THE MANTHABISENG CONVENTION CENTRE, MASERU, LESOTHO, MAY 13-15, 2019

THEME

“TEACHING AND LEARNING IN AFRICA FOR GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS”

I. PREAMBLE

1. The 10th AFTRA Anniversary and 8th Teaching and Learning in Africa Conference was held in Maseru from 13th to 15th May, 2019. The Anniversary marked ten years of the inauguration of AFTRA on October 12, 2010 in Abuja, Nigeria by the Ministers of Education. The Conference, organized annually since 2012 by AFTRA, brings together strategic stakeholders in Africa and other continents to share research knowledge on teaching and learning in Africa; strengthen the voice of teachers in policy making at the national, regional and continental levels; interface with Ministers of Education and other top government functionaries; evaluate the progress made in the professionalization of teaching in Africa; and to promote professional networking, among others.
2. AFTRA is a coalition of statutory organisations regulating teaching in African countries, and has headquarters in South Africa and Nigeria as well as offices in Zambia. Membership includes ministries of education; national teaching regulatory agencies; teaching service commissions; education service commissions; universities; faculties, institutes and colleges of education; teachers unions; international development partners; and civil society organisations. AFTRA is also the Africa regional branch of the International (World) Forum of Teaching Regulatory Authorities, IFTRA; member of the African Union Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) Teacher development and Curriculum Clusters; and the UN Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030. It has UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) as a strategic partner and collaborates with the UNESCO regional offices, Education International and others.
3. The AFTRA 10th Anniversary and 8th Conference was hosted by Professor Prof Ntoi Rapapa, Minister of Education and Training, Lesotho, supported by Mabutho Cele, President of AFTRA and other AFTRA Management and Executive Board officials.
4. Dr. Motsoahae Thomas Thabane, The Right Honourable, Prime Minister of Lesotho graced the occasion along with Professor Laurent Serge Etoundi Ngoa, Minister of Basic Education, Cameroon who represented His Excellency, Paul Biya, President of Cameroon; Mrs. Angelina

Matsie Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education, South Africa; Hon. David Mabumba, Minister of General Education, Zambia; and Her Excellency, Professor Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner of Human Resources, Science and Technology, African Union, and others. Permanent Secretaries of Ministers of Education, Chief Executive Officers of national regulatory agencies, and delegates and participants from countries across Africa participated. High-level officials of the following international organisations also participated - African Union; UNESCO-International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa; Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education; Southern Africa Development Community (SADC); Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); Education International Africa Region; and Africa Deans of Education Forum. Professor H.B. Patel, Dean of Education, Central University, Gujarat, India was the intercontinental keynote speaker at the conference.

II. OPENING CEREMONY

5. The very colourful opening ceremony featured musicals by the military band and display of Lesotho cultural dances. Two institutions were inducted as Associate Members of AFTRA - College of Education, Billiri, Gombe State, Nigeria and Coalition of Concerned Teachers, Ghana. Nine persons were conferred with the Fellowship of AFTRA – Mrs. Angelina Matsie Motshekga (South Africa); Dr Ebby Mubanga (Zambia); Dr Evelyn Oduro (Ghana) Michael Olukoya-Alogba (Nigeria); Elijah Ogoti Ongarora (Kenya); Dr. Mamocheta C. Makara (Lesotho); Dr Beatrice Khamati Njenga (Continental); Prof Is-haq O. OLOYEDE (Continental) and David Wahome Kibui (Continental).
6. The opening ceremony was declared open by Dr. Motsoahae Thomas Thabane, The Right Honourable Prime Minister of Lesotho. That was followed by the cutting of the 10th Anniversary cake by the Prime Minister and for the first time, the award of the AFTRA MEDAL OF HONOUR to the Prime Minister and His Excellency, Paul Biya, President of Cameroon. The MEDAL is reserved for African Presidents and Heads of State with distinction in the promotion of the teaching profession in their countries and Africa.

III. ANNIVERSARY MINISTERIAL SESSION

7. A Special Anniversary Ministerial Session chaired by Prof. Ntoi Rapapa, Minister of Education and Training, Lesotho and Hon. David Mabumba, Minister of General Education, Zambia, as co-chair. Her Excellency, Prof Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner of HRST, African Union Commission, was the Rapporteur.
8. The Session was held to update the Ministers of Education and distinguished conferees of the key activities, programmes, successes and challenges of four continental organisations that are leading the professionalization of Teaching in Africa.
9. Therefore, the following officers of the organisations made presentations:
 - i. Prof Steve Nwokeocha, Executive Director Academics, AFTRA, Abuja, Nigeria;
 - ii. Dr. Beatrice Khamati Njenga, Head of Education Division, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
 - iii. Saliou Sall, Senior Programme Coordinator, UNESCO-International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and
 - iv. Ms. Assibi Napoe, Chief Regional Coordinator, Africa Regional Office, Education International, Accra Ghana.

IV. INTER-CONTINENTAL KEYNOTE

10. Professor H.B. Patel, Dean of Education, Central University, Gujarat, India gave the inter-continental keynote.

V. INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON TEACHERS/SADC SESSION

11. A special plenary session was further held in honour of the International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030 to review some of its programmes in the SADC region. Accordingly, the following officers anchoring the Task Force programmes in SADC made presentations:

- i. Mr. T.E. Rabotapi, International Task Force, SADC Focal Point & Chief Director NICPD, Department of Basic Education, South Africa;
- ii. Prof Imma Eloff, Past Chair, Africa Deans of Education Forum/Faculty of Education University of Pretoria, South Africa;
- iii. Prof Antonio Cipriano Parafino Goncalves, Current Chair, Africa Deans of Education Forum, Dean/Eduardo Mondiano University, Maputo, Mozambique; and
- iv. Mrs. Phaeë Monaheng Mariti, Director Teaching Services Department, Ministry of Education and Training, Lesotho.

VI. SYNDICATE SESSIONS

12. AFTRA received forty (40) papers on topics related to the conference theme. The papers were of very high quality and were scholarly presented at the various syndicate sessions of the conference.

VII. ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING

13. From the presentations and lively discussions in every session, the following were the key issues and recommendations agreed.

SN	ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION BY
i	The professionalisation of teaching in Africa should be pursued with vigour, including the development and implementation of the relevant continental teacher and teaching frameworks.	AU, AFTRA, UNESCO-IICBA, EI, AU Member states, etc
ii	There is need for clear policy on teacher recruitment and deployment; and for facilitating phasing out of untrained/ unqualified teachers.	AU, AFTRA, UNESCO-IICBA, EI, AU Member states, etc
iii	Professional development should be enforced and used in upgrading, and renewal of teaching license.	AU member states
iv	Develop in-service training packages based on reality on the ground.	AU member states and international development partners.
v	Use of emerging methodological frameworks for professional development should be explored.	AU, AFTRA, UNESCO-IICBA, EI, AU Member states, etc
vi	Minimum requirements for teaching have to be established by governments involving teaching regulatory agencies.	AU, AFTRA, UNESCO-IICBA, EI, AU Member states, etc
vii	Government should regularize Open and Distance Education policy and recognize ODE certification.	AU, AFTRA, UNESCO-IICBA, EI, AU Member states, etc
viii	Address technophobia, capacity of teachers and availability of new technology- as a multi-sectoral challenge for pre-training, in-service training, and relevant infrastructure and utility service provision.	AU member states
ix	Curriculum reform is necessary for education to competently address	AU, AFTRA, UNESCO-

	development and emerging needs and aspirations, and must ensure active involvement of teachers.	IICBA, EI, AU Member states, etc
x	Teacher Development must be led by government, in spite of partnership with external and other agencies. Governments have to put measures in place to ensure protection of intellectual property rights.	AU member states
xi	Prioritize preparation for STEM education to ensure that teachers have the needed skills, and benefit from supportive leadership and linkage with the industry.	CEMASTEA, AU member states
xii	Governments should develop policies to support and encourage education innovation.	AU member states
xiii	Corporal punishment must be outlawed in line with existing law on child protection; while innovative disciplinary measures should be developed.	AU, AFTRA, UNESCO-IICBA, EI, AU Member states, etc
xiv	Teacher motivation should include better working and living conditions; and celebration/reward of commitment, creativity and innovation.	AU, AFTRA, UNESCO-IICBA, EI, AU Member states, etc
xv	Higher and strategic investment in education is necessary especially for infrastructure and teaching and learning materials. There is also need to ensure counselling services.	AU member states

14. It was noted that every AFTRA conference ends with important recommendations, for which there is need to assign responsibility for action and for follow up.
15. In order for the voice of the AFTRA community to influence policy and make a difference in the African education system, the African Union Commission is requested to facilitate presentation of the recommendations of the AFTRA conference to the statutory meeting of Ministers responsible for education in Africa. ECOWAS and other Regional Economic Communities should also do the same.

VIII CLOSING SESSION

16. The communique was read and adopted by participants.
17. In his closing remarks, Mabutho Cele, President of AFTRA, expressed appreciation to the government and people of Lesotho, the Ministers and AUC Commissioner, partner agencies, paper presenters and all participants; as well as the AFTRA board and Executive Directors for the preparations, including those working in the background.



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