

AFRICA FORUM OF TEACHING REGULATORY AUTHORITIES (AFTRA)

MINUTES OF 1ST AFTRA STEERING COMMITTEE (SC) MEETINGS HELD ON AUGUST 22-23, 2011 AT THE TEACHERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF NIGERIA HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA

1.0 ATTENDANCE:

| SN | NAME | DESIGNATION | COUNTRY |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------|
| 1 | Maphila Lucas | Chairman | South Africa |
| 2 | Rej Brijraj | Member | South Africa |
| 3 | Thembinkosi Ndhlovu | Member | South Africa |
| 4 | Mrs. Beatrice Kabwa | Member | Uganda |
| 5 | Prof. A.M. Wokocha | Secretary | Nigeria |
| 6 | Dr. Steve Nwokeocha | Secretary | Nigeria |
| ABSENT WITH APOLOGY | | | |
| 7. | Hilary Lukhafwa | Member | Kenya |
| 8. | Kutol Kipkogei | Member | Kenya |
| SPECIAL GUEST | | | |
| 9. | Leonard Mware | Africa representing Germany Director ICWE, | Kenya |
| SECRETARIAT | | | |
| 10. | Mrs Hannatu F. Iko | | |
| | Mr Hammed Okunola | | |
| | Mr. Victor Menegbe | | |
| | Mr Mackay Kanu Eze | | |
| | Mrs. Isioma Idemudia | | |
| | Mrs. Frances Alimigbe | | |
| | Joy Enyi | | |

2.0 OPENING REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN:

The meeting commenced at 10.10am with a welcome address by the Chair of SACE, Mr. Maphila Lucas who is also the Chair of the AFTRA Steering Committee. He emphasized the importance of the work of the Steering Committee (SC) in ensuring the implementation of the 2nd AFTRA Roundtable resolutions. He stressed the need for AFTRA to be inclusive, that is, to get all African countries to become members and actively participate in AFTRA affairs.

3.0 WELCOME ADDRESS BY TRCN REGISTRAR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Registrar/Chief Executive of TRCN, Prof. Addison Mark Wokocha, welcomed the members to Abuja, Nigeria. He stated that the meeting was a resolution of the 2nd Roundtable at Durban, South Africa which set up the AFTRA Steering Committee and charged it with the responsibility of implementing AFTRA decisions. He also stated that the Hon. Minister of Education, Professor Rukayyatu Ahmed Rufai would have loved to meet members of the Steering Committee but was unavoidably absent as she travelled overseas on another official

function. He added that the Minister sent her love to members and wished them fruitful deliberations. He further stated that the SC had the responsibility of negotiating with ICWE GmbH and fashioning out strategies for the advancement of AFTRA interest.

4.0 SC CHAIRMAN'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

The Chairman restated the importance of AFTRA in promoting the professionalisation of teaching in Africa and the fact that the SC has a lot of task to make this come true. He noted that AFTRA mandated Kenya, South Africa, Uganda and Nigeria to proffer the way forward for AFTRA; to fashion out partnership with ICWE and other organisations; to domesticate the Commonwealth Teacher Recruitment Protocol; and source for funds for AFTRA administration, conference, researches and Roundtable. He stated that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a step, and that AFTRA had actually taken her first step to addressing these important issues. He commended the Registrar/Chief Executive of TRCN for his able leadership and commitment to the promotion of AFTRA activities.

5.0 SETTING OF AGENDA

The meeting adopted the following agenda:

- a) Financing of AFTRA/AFTRA Structure/SC Structure
- b) Domestication of the Commonwealth Teacher Recruitment Protocol
- c) Partnership with ICWE
- d) Inclusiveness and mobilisation of African countries
- e) Update on IFTRA 2013 Conference in Jamaica
- f) Any other business –
 - Partnership with other organisations such as African Union, Education International, etc
 - 3rd AFTRA Roundtable in Kenya (2012)
 - Next SC meeting

6.0 FINANCE

Members noted that the finance was very crucial for the success of AFTRA in respect of administration and organisation of its Roundtable and other activities. Some possible sources of funds were discussed and they included dues from member organisations, registration fees by members for the Roundtable, registration fees for Annual teaching and learning conference, sponsorships and partnerships, etc. However, the meeting agreed that stressing finance at this initial stage in the life of AFTRA could scare member organisations away especially in the face of global economic downturn.

DECISION

The meeting resolved to step down discussions about finance and rather to emphasize inclusiveness of member countries. However, the SC should send proposal for funding to certain international donor agencies like UNESCO, UNDP, DFID, ADB, etc to seek financial assistance.

7.0 INCLUSIVENESS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES

The meeting discussed various factors that might be affecting countries and discouraging them from attending and participating in AFTRA activities. Two key factors were identified and discussed. These were finance and possibly initial emphasis on the fact the AFTRA is for teaching councils. It was recalled that AFTRA in Durban had resolved to play down the stress on teaching councils and rather to open the door to all agencies in Africa that deal with teachers whether they are councils, commissions, ministries of education, etc. The meeting further resolved SC members were to be grouped into clusters to reach out effectively to other countries within their respective jurisdictions in order to encourage them to identify with AFTRA. Report of the work of the clusters should be ready for review at the next SC meeting.

DECISION:

The cluster formation was as follows:

- a. Nigeria – to cover Western/Northern Africa
- b. South Africa – to cover Southern African countries
- c. Kenya/Uganda – to cover Central/Eastern African countries

Other decisions were that:

- Each cluster is to ensure that other countries within its jurisdiction participate in the next AFTRA Roundtable and activities.
- Each cluster is to carry out advocacy for the professionalization of teaching.

8.0 COMMONWEALTH TEACHER RECRUITMENT PROTOCOL (CTRP)

There was an overview of the paper presented on the CTRP at the AFTRA Roundtable in Durban. That was to highlight the recommendations already endorsed by the Durban Roundtable. The meeting noted that several international organisations have also endorsed the CTRP among which are the African Union, Organisation of American States, Education International, International Labour Organisation, etc. In similar manner, the meeting recalled that AFTRA had endorsed the CTRP at Durban and therefore felt that it would be necessary for the SC to communicate this endorsement to the Commonwealth Secretariat in London and to intimate the Secretariat of AFTRA intention to domesticate the Protocol for practical implementation in Africa. The meeting further resolved that the CTRP be converted to electronic copy and be sent to member organisations for input after which, a purely AFTRA version of the Protocol could be developed.

The meeting also noted and endorsed other recommendations made in the CTRP presentation which amongst others included:

- advocacy for the CTRP,
- need to conduct research,
- need for collaboration by teaching regulatory authorities in terms of requesting foreign teachers to get letters of professional standing from their countries of origin, etc.

DECISION

The meeting resolved to write the Commonwealth Secretariat London to endorse the Protocol and to inform it about the intention to domesticate the Protocol. The meeting also resolved to go ahead to collect inputs from member organisations towards developing a purely AFTRA Teacher Migration Protocol based on the principles of the CTRP.

9.0 PARTNERSHIP WITH ICWE

Members officially welcomed the African representative of ICWE, Mr Leonard Mware. The Secretariat presented to the meeting correspondences with ICWE Managing Director, Rebecca Stromeyer, which indicated initial ICWE suggestion on the terms of partnership. The Secretariat also gave overview of the paper presented on ICWE at the Durban Roundtable. The presentation underscored the need for AFTRA to engage in a continental conference for the spread of AFTRA ideas and best practices. This could go on independently of the Annual AFTRA Roundtable. The presentation also stressed the benefits of partnering with a globally renowned organisation like ICWE which included massive publicity, marketing opportunity, logistical support for conference hosting, etc. The meeting recalled that AFTRA had already endorsed the proposal to partner with ICWE and the representative was asked to shed light on the envisaged partnership.

The ICWE Africa Director expressed the pleasure of his organisation to partner with AFTRA and indicated that they already have similar partnership arrangements with other international bodies. He gave the statistics of participants in ICWE eLearning Africa conference which he said usually had over 1,700 participants with more than 40% of them coming from outside Africa. The meeting resolved to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ICWE. The MOU was drafted and vetted by the meeting together with the ICWE representative.

DECISION

The meeting adopted the draft MOU subject to confirmation by the ICWE Managing Director. It was agreed both parties could start implementing the terms of the MOU once ICWE confirms through email while the physical signing of the MOU could take place at the earliest opportunity. The meeting also resolved that organisations that form the Sc should designate officers that could work specifically with ICWE to implement the terms of the MOU.

10.0 PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2013 IFTRA CONFERENCE IN JAMAICA

The SACE Registrar gave a report and update on IFTRA since SACE is currently the Chair of IFTRA Steering Committee. He stated that the IFTRA SC is liaising with all stakeholders in Jamaica towards making the conference successful. He proposed the inclusion of TRCN in the IFTRA Steering Committee and said that SACE will use its position as current Chair of IFTRA to advance this proposal.

11.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (A.O.B)

11.1 Partnership with African Union / Education International:

The meeting deliberated on the decision of AFTRA to forge strategic relationship with international organisations within and outside Africa. The meeting noted that it was the responsibility of SACE as Chair of the SC to write letters to such organisations to establish effective contacts with them while TRCN as the Secretariat should write technical proposals for funding to international donor organisations. SACE reported that it already sensitized Education International during conference of the latter in Cape Town this year regarding the existence of AFTRA and would take up the issue of establishing relationship with Education International, African Union and other bodies. The SC Chair also stressed the need to equally establish relationship with regional bodies within Africa such as ECOWAS, SATO, etc.

DECISION

The meeting requested SACE to write letters and take actions to establish strategic relationship with Education International, African Union and other similar bodies. The meeting also charge TRCN to write technical proposals to donor agencies for seek financial support for AFTRA programmes.

11.2 The 2012 AFTRA Roundtable in Kenya

The meeting read correspondences from Kenya which indicated that the Kenya SC members are seriously processing the issue of hosting the next Roundtable. The meeting therefore charged the Secretariat to contact Kenya for earliest decision on the hosting matter to avoid late decision on the issue of hosting which may adversely affect the success of the next Roundtable.

11.3 The next Steering Committee meeting

The SC Chair announced the SACE proposal to host the next SC meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, in February 2012. The proposal was endorsed. It was further agreed that the key agenda of the 2nd SC meeting will be to review progress made so far in implementing AFTRA/SC decisions and to also assist the host country in the preparation for the 3rd Roundtable.

12. CLOSING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR/ADJOURNMENT

The SC Chair expressed appreciation for work done and useful contributions by members. He also expressed optimism that the SC is capable of delivering the dreams of AFTRA. He therefore charged members to work assiduously to implement decisions that pertain to them. He acknowledged the unique hospitality of TRCN in hosting the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4.30 pm.

Mr. Magope Lucas Maphila
Steering Committee Chair

Professor Addison Mark Wokocha
Steering Committee Secretary