

The Role of IFTRA

Now and in the Future

IFTRA

International Forum of Teacher Regulatory Authorities

Gary Brace

Edinburgh

2005

Melbourne

2006

Cardiff

2009

Durban

2011

Toronto

2014

International Forum of Teacher Regulatory Authorities



The logo for the International Forum of Teacher Regulatory Authorities (IFTRA) is positioned in the background. It features the acronym 'IFTRA' in large, grey, sans-serif capital letters. To the right of the letters is a stylized graphic of two green figures sitting on a green base, with two yellow circles above them representing heads. The entire logo is semi-transparent.

We have made some important
early steps together...

International Forum of Teacher Regulatory Authorities

The Edinburgh Declaration

(15 June 2005)

The 1st International Conference of Teaching Councils resolved that, in the interests of supporting the learning and development of all students and pupils, the safeguarding of all students and pupils, and the promotion of the status of the teaching profession, internationally, these Councils will:

- 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 a global employment market; and
- Promote, internationally, the high standards and shared values of the teaching profession, in the interests 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 world, in particular supporting new and emerging Councils to develop appropriate models of professionally-led regulation.

The Cardiff Commitment

(26 June 2009)

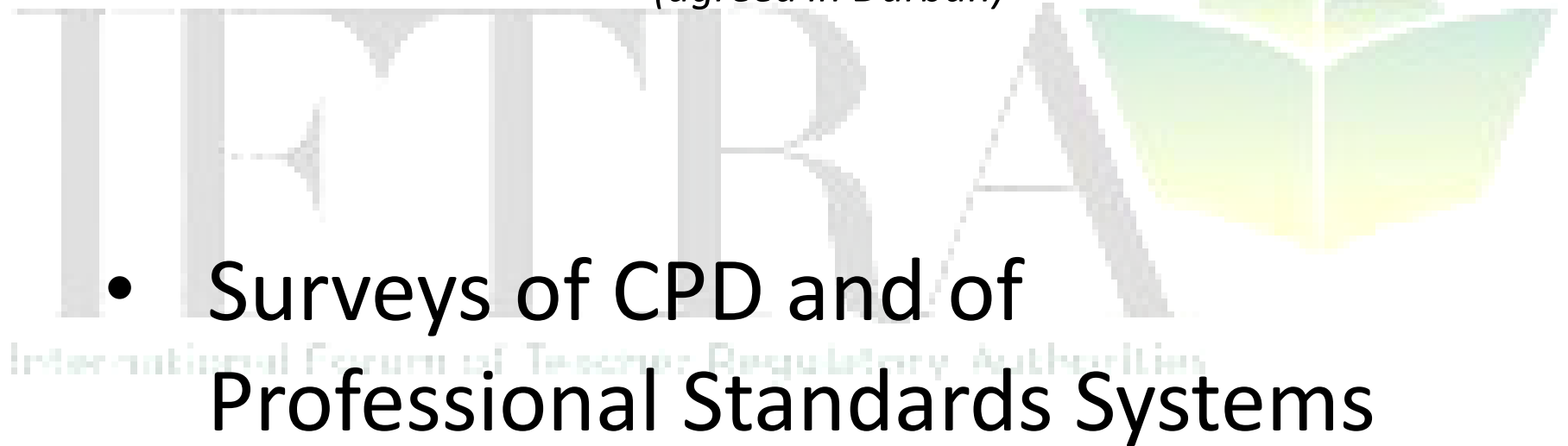
Meeting in Cardiff, Wales and building on the principles agreed in the Edinburgh Declaration in June 2005, we, the professionally-led regulatory bodies for teaching, commit ourselves to:

- 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;
- promote the benefits of professionally-led registration and regulation by developing a 'Charter for Teaching Councils' that sets out the principles behind and the responsibilities of teaching councils, in order to help others in the establishment of new professionally-led regulatory bodies;
- meet on an international basis biennially.

- The Charter for Teaching Councils

(agreed in Durban)

- Surveys of CPD and of Professional Standards Systems



IFTRA in the future – some proposals

1. Better working together on some big issues:

- Teacher qualifications / registration and international teacher mobility

“Where is our ‘missionary’ work to extend professional regulation?”

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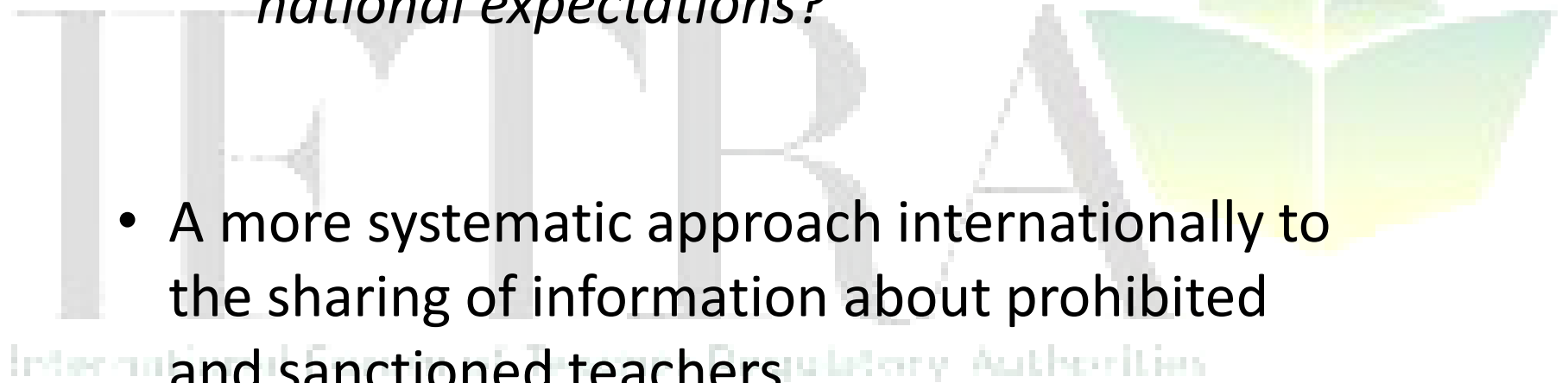
- The UN debate about post-2015 ‘Education for All’ goals

“Where is the teacher regulator’s voice in the teacher target?”

- Our CPD surveys

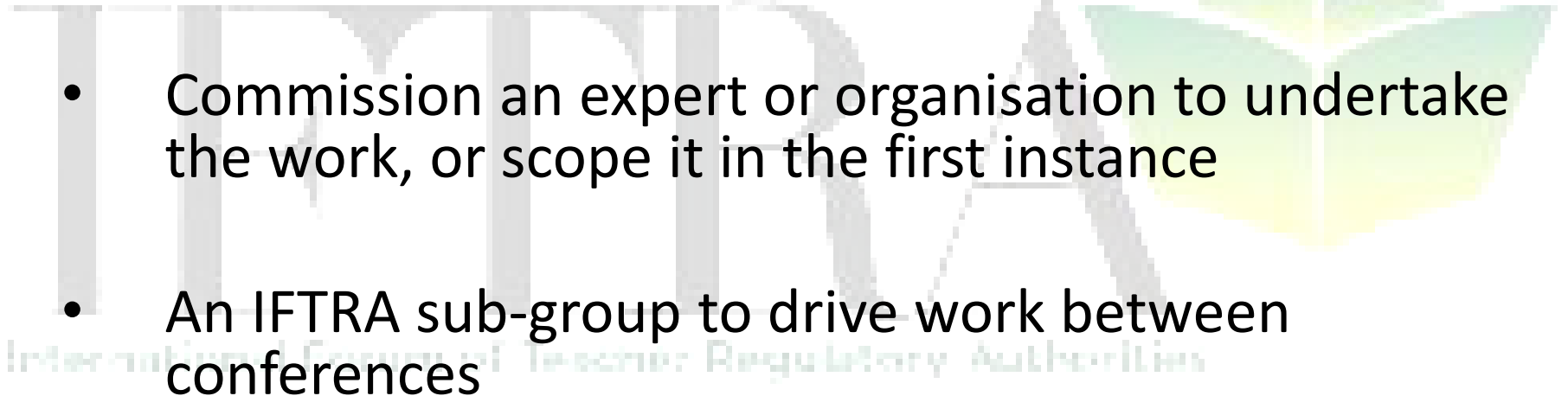
*“Is it time for an overview report on progress?
How might such a report be used to raise
national expectations?”*

- A more systematic approach internationally to the sharing of information about prohibited and sanctioned teachers.



How might we do these things better?

- Each regulator to allocate small budget and pool the resource for an agreed priority
- Commission an expert or organisation to undertake the work, or scope it in the first instance
- An IFTRA sub-group to drive work between conferences
- On-line meetings to make progress – Skype, video conference, Webinar



2. Developing IFTRA as an organisation

Is it time to turn the 'F' of
'Forum' into 'Federation'?

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- Could help teacher regulators to:

- speak with greater authority
- Establish international partnerships

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- Expect a place at the international table e.g. as a UNESCO observer



Possible steps:

- Small working groups to look at this
- A recommendation to the next IFTRA conference
- A commitment to establish a Federation under a particular country's law





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