



AFRICA FORUM OF TEACHING REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

OVERVIEW OF 2010 AFTRA ROUNDTABLE HELD AT ABUJA NIGERIA

(OCTOBER 11-14)



Presented by

Professor Addison Mark Wokocha

Registrar/Chief Executive

And

Dr. Steve Nwokeocha

Director of Professional Operations

Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria

(AFTRA HEADQUARTERS)

**At the AFTRA Roundtable and World Conference of the International
Forum of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (IFTRA)
in Durban, South Africa
July 8-14, 2011**



NICON LUXURY HOTEL ABUJA, VENUE OF THE 2010 AFTRA ROUNDTABLE



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**AFTRA 2011 ROUNDTABLE WAS CONVENED BY THE
TEACHERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (TRCN) AND
SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR EDUCATORS SACE)**



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BACKGROUND OF THE AFTRA ROUNDTABLE

- The AFTRA Roundtable was convened by TRCN and SACE. The two teaching councils were inspired by the Vision and Mission of the International Forum of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (IFTRA) which seeks to promote *internationalisation* of the teaching profession, the formation of teaching councils for all countries and collaboration among the councils.
- Also, IFTRA at its 2009 World Conference at Cardiff Wales, United Kingdom changed its World Conference from Annual to Biennial and called on the different region of the world to use the “free” years to mobilise and hold regional summits and advance intra-regional co-operation. TRCN and SACE being the only teaching councils in Africa (and the only African members of IFTRA) felt challenged to bring the African countries together to raise the awareness and to take collective action.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ROUNDTABLE

- TRCN and SACE received strong support from the General Teaching Council for Wales, Cardiff, Wales in the United Kingdom (IFTRA Headquarters) and UNESCO, Abuja, Nigeria.
- The Chairperson of the General Teaching Council for Wales, Mrs. Angela Jardine, was invited to the Roundtable as Keynote Speaker, though she was unable to attend due to inability to obtain Nigerian visa before the date of event.
- TRCN and SACE were further backed by the Ministers of Education of their countries and the Association of African Universities.
- The theme of the Roundtable was **“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 several non-governmental organisations under the auspices of the Teachers Without Borders, an international non-governmental organisation.
- The Roundtable had four major segments as follows:
 - Opening Ceremony*
 - Technical Sessions*
 - Tours*
 - Cultural Entertainment Night*



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.



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 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.



ENDORSEMENTS

The Roundtable unanimously endorsed the following documents:

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



AGREEMENTS

The Roundtable reached the following agreements:

- 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 serve as the Headquarters of AFTRA*
- 11. The Secretariat shall work out modalities for involving more non-governmental organisations that have primary interest in Teacher Education and practice in the African Roundtable.*



ISSUES FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

The Roundtable agreed to discuss the following issues in the 2011 Roundtable with a view to finding solutions and common positions:

- *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.*
- *Funding versus Autonomy: The case of Government funding of Teaching Regulatory Authorities and possibility of political interference in the regulatory functions of the Authorities.*
- *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 AFTRA Headquarters on the issues for discussion at the 2011 Roundtable.



NOTES

- South African Council for Educators graciously accepted to co-locate the 2011 AFTRA Roundtable and 2011 IFTRA World Conference to make it convenient for AFTRA members to attend both events and as Sudan's political situation did not permit it to host the 2011 AFTRA Roundtable.



REQUEST

•All AFTRA and IFTRA member organisations are requested to put AFTRA Headquarters on their mailing list for regular updates of relevant events that require collaboration and participation of AFTRA member organisations.

•Address:

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PHOTOS



Nigeria's Minister of Education, Prof (Mrs.) Rukayat AhmedRufai, addressing delegates.

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DELEGATES AT THE OPENING CEREMONY



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PLENARY SESSION



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TECHNICAL SESSIONS



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TECHNICAL SESSIONS



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COMMUNIQUE DRAFTING TEAM



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DELEGATES AT NIGERIA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ABUJA BEING BRIEFED BY THE CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY



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NIGERIAN TROUPES AT THE CULTURAL NIGHT FOR DELEGATES



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THANK YOU

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