



AFRICA FORUM OF TEACHING REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

(Le Forum d' Afrique d'Enseigner Régulateur Autorités)

HEADQUARTERS: Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria

(Federal Ministry of Education)

12 Oda Crescent, off Aminu Kano Crescent Wuse 2,

PMB 567 Garki, Abuja, Nigeria

e-mail: infoaftra@trcn.gov.ng



REPORT PRESENTED BY AFTRA SECRETARY GENERAL, PROFESSOR ADDISON MARK WOKOCHA AT THE 5TH AFTRA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE MENSVIC HOTEL, EAST LEGON, ACCRA GHANA, OCTOBER 16, 2013

Here are some major developments since the AFTRA Roundtable and Conference held in June, 2013 at Mombassa Kenya:

1. AFRICAN UNION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES

The AFTRA Secretary General, Prof. Addison Mark Wokocha and Executive Director, Dr. Steve Nwokeocha attended a meeting of the African Ministers of Education held at the African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, July 14-17, 2013. The Conference was organised by the African Union and Nigeria's Minister of Education which is Chair of African Ministers of Education presided at the Conference. These two AFTRA officers attended the Conference not as AFTRA officials but accompanied the Nigerian Minister to the Conference.

African Correspondences received before the Conference showed that every important African association except AFTRA was part of the Conference, which showed that those other associations have truly earned the recognition of the African Union and are now entrenched and institutionalised by the AU. Again, the subject matters of the Conference ranging from teacher development to teacher qualification framework, teacher mobility protocol, etc were also matters that AFTRA have been dealing with.

In order to fast-track the integration of AFTRA in the African Union and the Conference of the Ministers of Education, the AFTRA Secretary General got the approval of the AFTRA Chair to write the African Union Commission and its relevant organs to inform the about the existence and mandates of AFTRA. These letters were personally delivered by the Secretary General at the African Union (AU). However, the relevant AU organs could not take action stating that the later came to late to the Conference and also due process had not been followed by AFTRA to seek recognition of the AU. The due process was to pay a high-level visit to the leadership of the AU interaction and specific request for recognition. Thereafter, AFTRA may be given opportunity to be part of the relevant AU organs and Conferences. This will give AFTRA opportunity and advance notice to freely circulate its information materials and address the relevant AU Conferences.

However, the Secretary General was able to mount pressure and succeeded in addressing the AU Conference of Ministers of Education on behalf of AFTRA. The Secretary General further approached the international bodies at the Conference for one-on-one contact and discussions. Following the great success of these manoeuvres at the Conference, AFTRA is now very well known at the level of the AU which is a very important development. Also some of the international bodies have entered into correspondence with AFTRA since that time and some these correspondences are presented in this meeting. Among the international bodies (working with the AU) which are now corresponding with AFTRA are:

- *UNESCO International Task Force on Teachers for EFA based in Paris, France – This UNESCO body is now taking up the case of getting UNESCO to approve AFTRA as a member of the International Task Force. It has invited AFTRA to attend its Conference/Dialogue in Kinshasa, DRC, in the week of November 25, 2013 where the Executive Officials of the UNESCO Task Force are expected to take decision about AFTRA membership.*
- Africa Council for Distance Education (ADCE) with Headquarters in Kenya – This body has requested AFTRA to formally become its member and has sent its constitution, and relevant information which are attached to this report.
- UNESCO Office for Teacher Development and Education Policies based in Dakar, Senegal – This organisation has formally request AFTRA to join it in the execution of important assignments given to it by the AU Ministers of Education, which includes development of Teacher Qualification Framework and related matters.
- Education International based in Accra Ghana
- UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICA) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- The Tuning Project with Headquarters at the University of Pretoria, South Africa.
- Permanent Delegation of Nigeria to UNESCO based in Paris, France.
- Department of Education, Culture, Science and Technology, Economic Community of West Africa

The Secretary General at the AU meeting also interacted with several Ministers of Education and Teachers Union, intimating them about the importance of AFTRA. It was based on the good relationship established there with the General Secretary of the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) and the Ghana Deputy Minister of Education that AFTRA decided to hold this Steering Committee meeting in Ghana with the logistical support of GNAT.

Finally, the General Secretary has sought approval of the AFTRA Chair to concretize relationship with the African Union Commission (AUC) by arranging AFTRA Steering Committee courtesy call on the AUC leadership as advised at the AU meeting last JULY. The courtesy call is proposed for November 26-27, 2013.

2. DISEMINATION OF AFTRA 2013 ROUNDTABLE & CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUES

On return from the June 2013 AFTRA Roundtable and Conference, AFTRA Secretary General has translated the communiqués of those two events to French and mailed both the English and French versions to all Ministers of Education in Africa and all other relevant Teaching Regulatory bodies in Africa whose contact are within our reach. The mails also included a special brief on AFTRA, AFTRA Roundtable and Conference Brochures and proceedings; and other materials. The letter requested that the Ministers and Teaching Regulatory bodies should put AFTRA on their mailing list and also to designate an officer as AFTRA Desk Officer and send particulars of the person to us. All these mails were sent by courier, and later again electronic copies of all the letters were sent by email. Though so much effort and money were spent on organising and getting the mails couriered, there has not been corresponding appreciable response in this particular case. But AFTRA Secretary and his team will not relent in the efforts to get the name of AFTRA across to the rest of the world.

3. CAMEROON AS HOST OF 2014 AFTRA EVENTS

AFTRA Secretary General has followed up Mr Julius Nuh who represented the Ministry of Basic Education, Cameroon at the 2013 Roundtable where he pledged to get his Ministry to host the 2014 events. Couriers have been used to send all relevant letters, AFTRA brochures and conference proceedings and other relevant briefings to the Minister through Mr. Nuh. However, till this time, Mr. Nuh indicated that the political situation in Cameroon has not allowed the Minister to take a decision; Mr Nuh continued asking for more time. He was also invited to this Steering Committee meeting as the next host but he said he could not attend. We therefore strongly advise that the Steering Committee decide an alternative hosting country in this meeting to avoid delay that may

make next year's events impossible. Cameroon may still be given the opportunity in future to host when it is ready.

4. THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN GHANA

As stated earlier, Ghana was chosen to host the Steering Committee meeting as a result of the good relationship established with GNAT and the Ministry of Education. To further the relationship, the Committee scheduled courtesy calls on the following offices in Ghana:

- Minister of Education
- Ghana National Association of Teachers
- Ghana Education Service
- Ghana Teachers Professional Agency, and
- Education International.

Each of these offices have been written officially and couriered directly from AFTRA Headquarters in Abuja to them. Copy of the letters were also sent to the General Secretary of GNAT who is the Facilitator of the Steering Committee meeting and logistics here in Ghana. The GNAT made good progress but the whole arrangement was disrupted by the public holiday which was declared in Ghana for October 15, 2013 being the date slated for the courtesy calls. The new option is for the Steering Committee to hold its meeting on October 16, 2013 and also use part of the day to pay courtesy call on any of the offices that give clearance.

5. AFTRA JOURNAL

At the last Roundtable, decision was taken to establish the publication of AFTRA International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Africa. To this effect, each AFTRA Steering Committee member was requested to forward to AFTRA Headquarters the name and curriculum vitae of one nominee who must be a Professor of Education to enable the constitution of Editorial Consultants for the journal. Several reminders have been sent to members but only the TSC Kenya had sent its nominee. The Kenya nominee has also been issued letter of appointment as she accepted to serve.

Furthermore, we request the AFTRA Chair to use his good offices to secure ISSN from South Africa to give the journal the international nature it deserves rather than concentrating most of its features in Nigeria. We shall need the ISSN as soon as possible because the journal is billed to be presented at the AFTRA events and has several due processes to go through.

6. APPRECIATION TO GNAT

The GNAT Secretary General, Ms. Irene Duncan-Adanusa, used her good offices to facilitate this meeting and make all necessary contacts and follow up on behalf of AFTRA. We therefore recommend that the Chair should commend her spirit of solidarity and support possibly in writing.

7. OTHER DOCUMENTS

Other documents attached to this report are:

- Minutes of the 4th AFTRA Steering Committee held April 10-11, 2013 in Kenya
- Resolutions of the 4th AFTRA Steering Committee held April 10-11, 2013 in Kenya
- Communique (English and French) of the 4th AFTRA Roundtable (Kenya 2013)
- Communique (English and French) of the 2nd AFTRA Teaching and Learning in Africa Conference (Kenya 2013)
- Minutes of the 4th AFTRA Roundtable (Kenya 2013)
- Other correspondences with international bodies.

PROFESSOR ADDISON MARK WOKOCHA
AFTRA SECRETARY GENERAL