



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Roundtable of the Africa Forum of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (Durban 2011)**

# **COMMUNIQUE**

### **OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> ROUNDTABLE OF THE AFRICA FORUM OF TEACHING REGULATORY AUTHORITIES HELD JULY 8-10, 2011 AT THE SOUTHERN SUN NORTH BEACH HOTEL, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA**

**1. PREAMBLE:** The Roundtable was the second edition of AFTRA Roundtable after the maiden edition held at Abuja Nigeria, October 11-14, 2010. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Roundtable was hosted by the South African Council for Educators (SACE). AFTRA is a subset of IFTRA - the International Forum of Teaching Regulatory Authorities which is a global association of agencies regulating the teaching profession.

The theme of the African Roundtable was **"The Role of the African Nations in the Globalisation of the Teaching Profession."** The countries that attended the Roundtable were South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda and Kenya as well as several non-governmental organisations and Teachers' Unions. Gabon and Sierra Leone were absent with excuse.

**2. OPENING CEREMONY:** The Roundtable was declared open by the Chief Executive Officer of the South African Council for Educators, Mr. Rej Brijraj. The Opening Ceremony was chaired by the Chair of SACE Professional Development Committee, Professor Nomathemba Magi and the Registrar/Chief Executive of Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN), Professor Addison Mark Wokocha.

**3. PLENARY SESSION:** The Plenary Session reviewed the decisions of the 2010 Roundtable and matters arising there-from. The following papers were also presented: (1) 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, by Mr. Haroon Mahommed, Director at the South African Department of Basic Education; (2) Funding versus Autonomy: The case of Government funding of Teaching Regulatory Authorities and possibility of political interference in the regulatory functions of the Authorities by Mr. Mugwena Maluleke, the General Secretary of the South African Democratic Teachers Union; and (3) 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, by Dr. Steve Nwokeocha, Director of Professional Operations, Teachers Registration Council of




Nigeria. There was also a proposal from AFTRA Headquarters for a partnership with ICWE a German-based reputable international firm with track record of organizing mega international conferences.

#### **4. DECLARATIONS:**

The Roundtable made the following declarations that:

- 1. The establishment of AFTRA at Abuja in 2010 stands.**
- 2. The membership of AFTRA consists of all Teaching Regulatory Authorities in Africa and they are encouraged to participate actively in AFTRA affairs.**
- 3. TRCN maintains the responsibility of AFTRA Secretariat and a Steering Committee is formed with SACE as Chair to work with TRCN, Teachers Service Commission, Kenya and Education Service Commission, Uganda to develop AFTRA Action Plan and implement AFTRA decisions.**
- 4. SACE should market AFTRA at IFTRA World Conference 2011 in Durban and Education International Conference 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa.**
- 5. AFTRA should enter into a partnership with ICWE; the Steering Committee to conclude negotiations with ICWE and commence AFTRA Annual Teaching and Learning Conference as may be agreed with ICWE from 2012.**
- 6. AFTRA endorses the following financial principles:**
  - a. A regulatory authority should utilize a hybrid of funding mechanisms, whereby the authority receives funding from diverse sources; partially from appropriations and partially from a variety of fees, assessments, and taxes.*
  - b. A hybrid of funding mechanism should reflect both the short- and long-term goals of the regulatory authority. There should be a correlation between the authority's funding mechanisms and its future plans.*
  - c. The funding mechanisms should have sound legal basis for the funding process to be efficient.*
  - d. Regulatory effectiveness, and thus investor and consumer confidence, would increase if allocated funds are made available to the regulatory authority on a predictable and stable basis so that key short term and long-term financial decisions can be devised and implemented.*
- 7. The Steering Committee should come up with a plan to source funding for the administration and conferences of AFTRA.**
- 8. AFTRA endorses the 2004 Commonwealth Teacher Recruitment Protocol and charges the Steering Committee to domesticate it to the African continent.**
- 9. AFTRA endorses the proposal that Kenya hosts the 2012 AFTRA Roundtable.**
- 10. The Steering Committee should establish partnership with the African Union and other relevant bodies within and outside Africa.**

  
**Mr. Rej Brijraj**  
Chief Executive, SACE

  
**Prof. A.M. Wokocha**  
Registrar/CEO TRCN