



NATIONAL
LAUNCH AND ONE-DAY INTERACTIVE SESSION
ON THE COMMONWEALTH TEACHER RECRUITMENT PROTOCOL

Garki, Abuja, Nigeria
July 29, 2008

Senior officials and education stakeholders meeting here in Abuja, Nigeria, at United Nations House through the collaboration of the UNESCO Nigeria country office and the Commonwealth Secretariat identified and shared common issues in relation to the quality and status of teachers in Nigeria. They expressed deep concern about the erosion of the teaching profession, in quantity, through loss of teachers and lecturers at tertiary levels and, in quality, through lack of their employment and retention in the education system. This situation has been exacerbated through their recruitment and migration to other professions and other countries. Lack of their retention in a Nigerian education system struggling to achieve EFA Goals was particularly noted.

We discussed the provisions of the Commonwealth Teacher Recruitment Protocol in relation to the rights and responsibilities of the Source Country, the Recruiting Country and the Teacher being recruited. Through close examination of the existing document our meeting arrived at a consensus specifically to:

- Extend knowledge about the Commonwealth Teacher Recruitment Protocol (CTRP) to teachers and education authorities as to how it may be implemented in the national context in Nigeria.
- Address the issue of recognition and transferability of Teacher Qualifications and Professional Registration in West African countries
- Propose modifications to the current content of the Protocol as part of the review process being undertaken in time for the 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in 2009

In light of our deliberations, we recommend that complementary to the Protocol being implemented in Nigeria that:

- the Teachers Code of Ethics which has already been developed should be widely publicised.
- there is a need for mandatory continuing professional development for all categories of teachers.
- there should be pre-registration assessment of all prospective professional teachers
- countries in the West African sub-region should set up Teachers Regulatory Councils prior to the establishment of a West Africa Teachers' Regulatory Commission
- Teacher Qualification/Regulatory Agencies should embark on periodic review of teacher curriculum in collaboration with relevant professional bodies
- a regional benchmark for teacher education should be put in place to enhance the mobility of teachers in the West Africa region

We close by expressing appreciation to the UNESCO Office in Nigeria for hosting and coordinating this launch.

Special request of meeting: That all correspondence to the Federal Ministry of Education of Nigeria should at the same time be copied to the UNESCO Nigeria Office for follow-up.

Agreed this 29th day of July, 2008

By representatives of:

Federal Ministry of Education
Federal Ministry of Labour
Federal Capital Territory Universal Basic Education Board
International Labour Organization
National Commission for Colleges of Education
National Commission for UNESCO Nigeria
National Teachers' Institute
National Universities Commission
Nigeria Union of Teachers
Teacher's Registration Council of Nigeria
The World Bank
UNESCO Nigeria
UNICEF Nigeria
Universal Basic Education Commission
USAID/ ENHANSE
Voluntary Services Overseas