



## **INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF TEACHER REGULATORY AUTHORITIES**

**Forum international des autorités de réglementation des enseignants**

**Fórum Internacional de Autoridades Reguladoras de Profesores**

<https://www.iftra.org/>, emails: [convenor@iftra.org](mailto:convenor@iftra.org)

***Announcement of the  
IFTRA 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial World Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa,  
June 17-19, 2026***

- IFTRA is the global body of the *Teaching Regulatory Authorities*.
- Request for invitation or enquiries, please email [convenor@iftra.org](mailto:convenor@iftra.org) and copy [drsteve44@gmail.com](mailto:drsteve44@gmail.com)
- Translations will be available at the Conference in three languages - English, French, & Portuguese.



## **REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR**

**Siviwe Gwarube**

Minister of Basic Education, South Africa



**Venue: Birchwood Hotel & O.R. Tambo Conference Centre, Boksburg, Johannesburg, South Africa.**

## ABOUT IFTRA

IFTRA is the global forum that brings together teacher regulatory authorities around the world to collaborate and exchange best practices. It was first convened by the General Teaching Council for Scotland [GTCS] in 2007 in collaboration with other teacher regulatory authorities in Europe, North America, Africa, Caribbean, and Australasia.

Besides Scotland, several other countries and regions had hosted including the General Teaching Council for Wales [2009]; South African Council for Educators [2011]; Ontario College of Teachers [2014], Teaching Council of Ireland [2016], Teaching Council of New Zealand [2018], and Australasia Teacher Regulatory Authorities [ATRA] hosted by the Queensland College of Teachers, Australia [2024]. IFTRA comprises delegates of member organisations which are continental, national and subnational teacher regulatory agencies. Thus, IFTRA has only organisations as members and delegates must be accredited by such organisations.

### Host



**AFRICA FEDERATION OF TEACHING REGULATORY AUTHORITIES**  
**Fédération Africaine des Agences de Régulation de l'Enseignement**  
**Federação Africana de Autoridades Reguladoras do Ensino**

[www.africateaching-authorities.org](http://www.africateaching-authorities.org) Email: [info@africateaching-authorities.org](mailto:info@africateaching-authorities.org) Tel: +2349128804289

### Co-Host



**South African Council for Educators**

240 Lenchen Avenue, Centurion 0183, South Africa.

<https://www.sace.org.za> Email: [info@sace.org.za](mailto:info@sace.org.za), Tel: +27 12 663 9517

### Programme Overview

16	17	18	19	20
Arrival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministerial Opening &amp; Cultural Entertainment</li> <li>Keynote</li> <li>Lead Speaker</li> <li>Guest Speakers 1, 2 &amp; 3</li> <li>Panel 1</li> <li>Parallel Session</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Visits</li> <li>Guest Speakers 4 &amp; 5</li> <li>Panels 2, 3 &amp; 4</li> <li>Closing Plenary</li> <li>Dinner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Working Group Meeting</li> <li>Guided Tour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Departure</li> </ul>

## Conference Theme

### *Strengthening the Teaching Profession and Teaching Councils*

## Sub-Themes

1. *Governance Models of the Teaching Councils*
2. *Empowering the Leadership of the Teaching Councils*
3. *Data Collection and Sharing to support the system*
4. *IFTRA and Strategic Partners: Enhancing the Synergy*
5. *The interconnection between Teacher Policy and Regulation*
6. *Artificial intelligence and its application to the teaching profession.*
7. *Teachers and Quality Foundational Learning*

## Conference Fee – 500 US Dollars

- IFTRA member organisations are to send a list of their delegates using the prescribed template, together with the evidence of payment of the conference fee, five hundred US Dollar [\$500] per delegate, to the IFTRA 2026 Conference host via [convenor@iftra.org](mailto:convenor@iftra.org) and copy [drsteve44@gmail.com](mailto:drsteve44@gmail.com).
- Invitation letter will then be issued to those delegates.
- Deadline for receiving the list of delegates: April 30, 2026.
- The five hundred US Dollar conference fee covers: the conference bag, welcome pack, conference proceedings, tea, lunch, school visits, farewell dinner, city tour, and attendance certificate. Payment is in United States Dollar only, by inter-bank transfer using the details provided below.
- In due course, a travel advisory will also be published to ease visa, hotel and flight arrangements by delegates.

## AFTRA USD BANK ACCOUNT FOR TRANSFERS

### **CORRESPONDING BANK**

Bank Name: Standard Chartered Bank, New York

Swift Code: SCBLUS33

ABA NO.: 026002561

### **BENEFICIARY BANK**

Bank Name: First Bank Nigeria Plc, Nigeria

Swift Code: FBNINGLA

Account No.: 3582-059974-001

### **BENEFICIARY ACCOUNT**

Account Name: Africa Federation of Teaching Regulatory Authorities

Account No: 2033683427

Sort Code: 011150000

- Delegates in Nigeria should visit any FIRST BANK Branch and deposit USD cash into Africa Federation of Teaching Regulatory Authorities [AFTRA], Account No. 2033683427.

## PROGRAMMES

JUNE 17, 2026		
8.00-9.00 AM	Arrival & registration at the conference venue.	
9.00-10.30 AM	<p><b><u>Opening Speeches &amp; Cultural Entertainment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SACE CEO &amp; IFTRA Co-Convenor</li> <li>▪ IFTRA Convenor</li> <li>▪ AFTRA President</li> <li>▪ Goodwill messages from strategic partners &amp; Ministers</li> <li>▪ Minister of Basic Education, South Africa – Declares conference open</li> <li>▪ Cultural entertainment</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Keynote</u></b>  <b><i>Recasting Teaching as a Collaborative Profession: The Role of Teachers' Councils.</i></b>  <u>Moderator:</u> Lesley Hoskin, Tumu Whakarae   Chief Executive, Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand, New Zealand.  <u>Speaker:</u> Dr Carlos Vargas-Tamez, Chief of the Teacher Development Unit, UNESCO &amp; Head, International Task Force on Teachers, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France.</p>	
10.30-11.00 AM	Group photograph/Tea break	
11.00-11.40 AM	<p><b><u>Lead speaker</u></b>  <b><i>Overview of the Conference Theme: Strengthening the Teaching Profession and Teaching Councils.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Ella Mokgalane, Chief Executive Officer, South African Council for Educators; Secretary General, AFTRA &amp; IFTRA Co-Convenor.</li> </ul> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Dr. Linda Lacroix, Chief Executive &amp; Registrar, Ontario College of Teachers, Canada.</p>	
11.40-12.10 PM	<p><b><u>Guest Speaker 1</u></b>  <b><i>The Teaching Profession in the Context of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa [CESA 2026-35].</i></b>  <u>Moderator:</u> Sangeeta Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Fiji Teachers Registration Authority, Fiji.  <u>Speaker:</u> Mrs. Sophia Ashipala, Head Education Division, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.</p>	
12.10-1.40 PM	<p><b><u>Panel 1</u></b>  <b><i>Governance Models of the Teaching Councils; Empowering the Leadership of the Teaching Councils.</i></b>  <u>Moderator:</u> Deanne Fishburn.  <u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deanne Fishburn, Convenor, Australasian Teacher Regulatory Authorities (ATRA) and Director (CEO), Queensland College of Teachers, Australia.</li> <li>▪ Dr Ebby Mubanga, President, AFTRA &amp; Registrar, Teaching Council of Zambia.</li> <li>▪ Linda Lacroix, Chief Executive &amp; Registrar, Ontario College of Teachers, Canada.</li> <li>▪ Chief Executive Officer, Education Workforce Council, Wales, UK.</li> <li>▪ Dr. Ronke Soyombo, Registrar/Chief Executive, Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria.</li> </ul>	
1.40-2.30 PM	Lunch break	
2.30-3.20 PM	<p><b><u>Guest Speaker 2</u></b>  <b><i>What Works in Teacher Professional Development: UNESCO IICBA's Experience in Africa.</i></b>  <u>Moderator:</u> Phil Fox, Director, Teaching Council, Ireland.  <u>Speaker:</u> Dr Quentin Wodon, Director, UNESCO International Institute for</p>	

	Capacity Building in Africa [IICBA], Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  <b><u>Guest Speaker 3</u></b> <b><i>Optimising the Regional Teachers Initiative for Africa [RTIA] – a partnership between the European Union, EU member states (France, Belgium, and Finland), UNESCO, and the African Union.</i></b> <b><u>Moderator:</u></b> Professor Steve Nwokeocha, Convenor, IFTRA & Executive Director [Academics], AFTRA. <b><u>Speaker:</u></b> Dr. Thomas Poirier, Project Team Leader, European Union/African Union Regional Teachers Initiative for Africa [RTIA].	
3.20-5.00 PM	<b><u>Parallel Sessions</u></b> <b><u>Moderators:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dr Christian Addai-Poku, Deputy President, AFTRA &amp; Registrar, National Teaching Council, Ghana.</li> <li>▪ Ms. Ella Mokgalane, Chief Executive Officer, South African Council for Educators; Secretary General, AFTRA &amp; IFTRA Co-Convenor.</li> <li>▪ Chief Executive Officer, Education Workforce Council, Wales, UK.</li> <li>▪ Dr. Winsome Gordon, Chairman, Jamaican Teaching Council.</li> </ul> <b><i>Authors of accepted papers will make their presentations in the parallel sessions assigned to them.</i></b>	
5.00-5.30 PM	<b><i>Plenary - Moderators will present the outcomes of the parallel sessions /Adjournment.</i></b>	
<b>JUNE 18, 2026</b>		
8.30-10.00 AM	School visits – A public school of specialisation in Katlehong township [Ekurhuleni South Education District] and 1 independent school.	
10.00-11.00 AM	Return to the conference venue & tea break	
11.00-12.00 PM	<b><u>Guest Speaker 4</u></b> <b><i>Artificial Intelligence Applied to the Teaching Profession.</i></b> <b><u>Moderator:</u></b> Dr Raphael Dingalo, Registrar, Botswana Teaching Professionals Council. <b><u>Speaker:</u></b> Dr Sara Ratner, Department of Education, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.  <b><u>Guest Speaker 5</u></b> <b><i>On Regulatory Capture</i></b> <b><u>Moderator:</u></b> Richard Miles, Director [Teacher Registration], Department of Education, Western Australia. <b><u>Speaker:</u></b> Dr Eva Heims, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of York, York  <b><u>Guest Speaker 6</u></b> <b><i>Teacher Unions and the Regulation of Teaching</i></b> <b><u>Moderator:</u></b> Paul Martin, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Education Standards Authority, Australia. <b><u>Speaker:</u></b> Dr Dennis Sinyolo, Regional Director, Education International Africa Region, Accra, Ghana.	
12.30-2.00 PM	<b><u>Panel 2</u></b> <b><i>Data Collection and Sharing to Support the System; IFTRA and Strategic Partners: Enhancing the Synergy.</i></b> <b><u>Moderator:</u></b> Dr. Pauline Stephen. <b><u>Speakers:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dr. Pauline Stephen, Chief Executive, General Teaching Council for Scotland, UK.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul Martin, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Education Standards Authority, Australia.</li> <li>Ms. Ella Mokgalane, Chief Executive Officer, South African Council for Educators; Secretary General, AFTRA &amp; IFTRA Co-Convenor.</li> <li>Phil Fox, Director, Teaching Council, Ireland</li> <li>Dr Raphael Dingalo, Registrar, Botswana Teaching Professionals Council</li> </ul>	
2.00-2.30 PM	Lunch break	
2.30-4.00 PM	<p><b>Panel 3</b></p> <p><b><i>The Interconnection Between Teacher Policy and Regulation; Artificial intelligence and its application to the teaching profession.</i></b></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Dr Ebby Mubanga.</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr Ebby Mubanga, President, AFTRA &amp; Registrar, Teaching Council of Zambia.</li> <li>Lesley Hoskin, Tumu Whakarae   Chief Executive, Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand, New Zealand.</li> <li>Sangeeta Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Fiji Teachers Registration Authority, Fiji</li> <li>Dr Christian Addai-Poku, Deputy President, AFTRA &amp; Registrar, National Teaching Council, Ghana.</li> <li>Dr. Winsome Gordon, Chairman, Jamaican Teaching Council.</li> <li>Richard Miles, Director [Teacher Registration], Department of Education, Western Australia.</li> </ul>	
4.00-5.10 PM	<p><b>Panel 4</b></p> <p><b><i>Teachers and Quality Foundational Learning.</i></b></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Dr. Ronke Soyombo.</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Ronke Soyombo, Registrar/Chief Executive, Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria.</li> <li>Mr. Enoch Rabotapi, Deputy Director General for Teachers, Ministry of Basic Education, South Africa.</li> <li>Deanne Fishburn, Convenor, Australasian Teacher Regulatory Authorities (ATRA) and Director (CEO), Queensland College of Teachers, Australia.</li> <li>Mr. Kayode Adewale [Nigeria], Global Teacher Ambassador</li> <li>Ms. Ntombozuko Mkizwana Zuki [South Africa], African Union Continental Teacher Prize Winner, 2025.</li> <li>Sally Adwoa Bafour Awuah, Managing Director, Bridge4Education, UK &amp; Ghana.</li> <li>Professor Margery McMahon, University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK; Chair of the Global Deans of Education.</li> </ul>	
5.10-5.40 PM	<p><b>Closing Plenary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recap of the Conference</li> <li>Vote of Thanks by the Convenor</li> <li>Valedictory Speech by the AFTRA President</li> <li>Speech by the 2028 host</li> </ul>	
7.00-9.00 PM	<b>Dinner</b>	
<b>JUNE 19, 2026</b>		
8.30-10.30 AM	Meeting of the International Working Group [IWG]	
10.00-5.00 PM	Guided city tour. Lunch will be taken during the tour	
<b>JUNE 20, 2026</b>		
Departure of all delegates		



## Paper Presentation

### **Panellists**

- All panellists will submit a technical paper [Word version] on the topics assigned to the panel ahead of the conference for publication in the conference proceedings. Specifications of the paper: A4 size, maximum six pages including references; Font Arial; Font size 11; one and half spacing; American Psychological Association [APA] citation and referencing style. All cited authorities must be included in the references.
- The panellists will each make a ten-minute PowerPoint presentation.
- Questions from the moderator and audience will be directed to the panellists only after all ten-minute PowerPoint presentations have been concluded.
- Submission of papers by panellists - MS Word version + headshot + 100-word bio: March 31, 2026; PowerPoint: May 15, 2026.

### **Special Speakers**

- Keynote, Lead Speaker, and Guest Speakers are to submit their papers (Word version) + headshot + 100-word bio by March 31, 2026 and PowerPoint by May 15, 2026. The papers should comply with the specifications above.

### **The Parallel Sessions**

- IFTRA delegates are free to submit papers [conforming to the above specifications] on any of the conference sub-themes. Only accepted papers will be presented at the parallel sessions.
- Each author in a parallel session will have ten minutes to make a PowerPoint presentation.
- Questions from the moderator and audience will be directed to the authors only after all ten-minute PowerPoint presentations have been concluded.
- The plenary will reconvene immediately after the parallel sessions so the Moderators can present the outcomes of their respective parallel sessions.
- Submission of full paper [not abstract] MS Word version by authors: February 20, 2026. Feedback to authors: March 20, 2026.

**Email all papers to:** [convenor@iftra.org](mailto:convenor@iftra.org) and copy [drsteve44@gmail.com](mailto:drsteve44@gmail.com).

## **PAST HOSTS OF IFTRA CONFERENCE**

- 2007: General Teaching Council for Scotland, United Kingdom;
- 2009: General Teaching Council for Wales, now the Education Workforce Council;
- 2011: South African Council for Educators;
- 2014: Ontario College of Teachers, Canada;
- 2016: The Teaching Council of Ireland;
- 2018: Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand;
- 2021: General Teaching Council for Scotland; and
- 2024: Australasian Teacher Regulatory Authorities @ Brisbane, Australia

### **Visit**

<https://www.iftra.org>, <https://www.africateaching-authorities.org>

## **Announcers**

### **IFTRA Convenor**

Professor Steve Nwokeocha  
Executive Director [Academics]  
Africa Federation of Teaching Regulatory  
Authorities [AFTRA], Abuja, Nigeria

### **IFTRA Co-Convenor**

Ms. Ella Mokgalane  
Chief Executive Officer  
South African Council for Educators,  
Centurion, South Africa

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### **IFTRA Convenor**

Africa Federation of Teaching Regulatory Authorities [AFTRA]  
Federal Ministry of Education [Annex], 245 Samuel Ademulegan Street, Abuja, Nigeria.  
Tel.: +234 912 880 4289. Email: [convenor@iftra.org](mailto:convenor@iftra.org)  
URL: <https://www.iftra.org/>

### **IFTRA International Offices**

South African Council for Educators, 240 Lenchen Avenue, Centurion 0183, South Africa.  
Tel.: +27 12 663 9517. Email: [info@sace.org.za](mailto:info@sace.org.za), URL: <https://www.sace.org.za/>

Queensland College of Teachers, Level 5, 601 Coronation Drive, Toowong QLD 4066, Australia.  
Tel.: +61 7 3377 4777. Email: [enquiries@qct.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@qct.edu.au), URL: <https://www.qct.edu.au/>

Ontario College of Teachers, 101 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON, M5S 0A1, Canada  
Tel.: +1 437 880 3000, Email: [info@oct.ca](mailto:info@oct.ca), URL: <https://www.oct.ca/>

General Teaching Council for Scotland, Clerwood House, 96 Clermiston Road, Edinburgh EH12 6UT, UK.  
Tel.: +44 (0)131 314 6000, Email: [gtcs@gtcs.org.uk](mailto:gtcs@gtcs.org.uk), URL: <https://www.gtcs.org.uk/>