

**REMARKS BY PROFESSOR, RUQAYYATU AHMED RUFA'I
(OON), THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
NIGERIA AND COMEDAF V CHAIR AT THE THIRD PAN
AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON TEACHER DEVELOPMENT
(PACTED III) HOLDING IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, ON
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PROTOCOL,

GREETINGS

It is my great pleasure and privilege to be at this Ministerial Session of the Pan African Conference on Teacher Development (PACTED), holding at this African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In my capacity as the Chair of the Fifth Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF V), I lend voice to Togo, the Chair of PACTED and the African Union Commission (AUC) in welcoming all of you to this very important meeting. I particularly appreciate the presence of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), UNESCO, the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), UNICEF, ADB, Education International (EI) other African Union organs and partners. I felicitate with all Africans and our friends and partners for the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) which is now the African Union

(AU). Let me also congratulate the Commissioner and all the new Staff of AUC, especially those in the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology on their appointment.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, you are all aware of our commitments to our continental and global education agenda such as the AU Second Decade of Education in Africa (2006-2015), MDGs and EFA goals. At the heart of all these are issues relating to the **teacher**. Since 2011, PACTED has been a forum for information sharing and deepening of commitment by Member States towards addressing major teacher-related challenges. This forum is therefore another opportunity for us to seriously take stock of what has been done in this area and chart the way forward in order to meet the 2015 deadline.

You will agree with me that as 2015 draws near, teacher education, development, motivation and conditions of service have remained major obstacles to quality teaching and learning and achievement of educational goals at all levels in the continent. Although, a lot of efforts have been and are still being made, it is obvious that much still needs to be done if we must meet our targets. Consequently, as leaders, coordinators and partners, we must appreciate the urgency and magnitude of what needs to be done. We should exhibit the necessary political will and courage and take bold steps in building adequate and motivated teaching workforce.

Your Excellencies permit me to inform you at this juncture, that Nigeria established some institutions for handling teacher-related issues with some far-reaching efforts such as:

- Registration of over one million teachers and licensing of the registered ones;
- Engagement of employers of teachers and other stakeholders to rid the teaching profession of quacks and improve the status, image and performance of the teaching profession;
- Strengthening professional discipline among teachers through development, publication and distribution of Teachers Code of Conduct and Professional Standards and establishment of Teachers Investigating Panel across the country;
- Development, publication and distribution of a National Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Standards and capacity building in various pedagogical areas, including the use of information and communication technology; and
- Accreditation and monitoring of the newly introduced Teacher Education programmes.

In addition, Nigeria through its agency, the Teachers' Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN) is the Headquarter of the Africa Forum of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (AFTRA), which is an association of the agencies with statutory powers to regulate the teaching profession in Africa. TRCN disseminates the vision and mission of the

African Teacher Mobility Protocol among member Teaching Regulatory Authorities and other stakeholders. This has led to the development of an Africa Teacher Mobility and Development Protocol which has a wider scope and would add value to what PACTED is doing.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, while recognizing that we have still numerous constraints in the sector, such as funding, education in emergency situations, we should bear in mind that we have the onerous task of passing on to the up-coming generation of Africans, our visions, core values and principles. It is, therefore, important that we leave good footprints in the sand of time even as we deliberate on the agenda for this meeting.

Once again I welcome you all and thank you for your attention.