

Personal Statement

Professor Taiwo Lateef Sheikh

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I am a Psychiatrist trained in Nigeria with over twenty five years' experience in the mental health terrain of Nigeria, the West African sub-region and continent of Africa. I have attended courses in Europe and North America, and have participated in WPA conferences in Africa, Europe and South America. I have been involved in mental health reforms in Nigeria, West Africa subregion and Africa.

Leadership

For many years I have held leadership positions in the Association of Psychiatrists in Nigeria, Biological Psychiatry Society of Nigeria and the Psychosocial Relief Society of Nigeria. I have collaborated with colleagues Psychiatrists across the world in many areas of training, research and innovations. I have mentored young psychiatrists in Nigeria and across the West Africa region.

Network

If elected, I will leverage on my existing well-established professional networks in Nigeria, West Africa, Central Africa and the entire Africa to propagate the activities of WPA within these African regions. Being a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians and having held many leadership positions in the College, I have developed professional network with colleagues across the West Africa region. I have also served in the West Africa Health Organization (WAHO) and the African Union, this has placed me in a strategic position to interface with the regional and continental body, the Psychiatrists in these countries and WPA. I will ensure adequate transmission and dissemination of information from WPA to member countries within the West Africa and central Africa regions.

International collaboration

I will encourage my colleagues through proper advocacy and well-articulated strategies to build bridges across WPA zones and zone 13, through collaborative research, meetings and conferences. I am already involved in such collaboration with colleagues in Asia, UK, South Africa, Malawi and Ethiopia through ongoing collaborative webinars and research.

Mental Health Governance

I intend to work with National Psychiatrists Associations within our region to deepen mental health leadership and governance structures within such member states, leveraging on my position as a member of African Union high level advisory committee to Africa CDC on mental health. These include guiding National Associations to take leadership positions in the development of Mental health strategic plans and new/revised mental health legislations for their countries.

Youth development

As President of Association of Psychiatrists in Nigeria, I launched the Early Career Psychiatrists group for Nigeria, this group is not only thriving through a well-coordinated and coherent leadership amongst themselves, but they are also well groomed, poised and well prepared to take over the mantle of mental health leadership in their various communities. This is well exemplified by the increased visibility of “Young Nigerian Psychiatrists” internationally.

WPA regional meetings

I will strive to encourage National Associations within zone 13 to host regional WPA conferences, and also participate in the African continental Association of Psychiatrists. Finally, I believe in collective and dynamic leadership; as such I will listen to voices of reason from National Associations with Zone 13 in order to maximize our relationship with other zones and WPA in particular.

I thank you for creating time to read this brief manifesto and I count on your support.

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Immediate Past President, Association of Psychiatrists in Nigeria.

President, Biological Psychiatry Society of Nigeria.

Immediate Past National Secretary (Nigeria), West African College of Physicians.

Member, African Union appointed Advisory Committee to Africa CDC on NCDs, mental health and injuries.