

MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PSYCHOLOGY UNION (PAPU) HELD AT THE NKOSI LUTHULI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2014

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

At 10:00 the President of the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), Saths Cooper, welcomed delegates to the historic launch of the Pan-African Psychology Union (PAPU).

Messages from the ASEAN Regional Union of Psychology Societies (ARUPS), the Caribbean Alliance of National Psychology Associations (CANPA) and the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA) were noted (Annexed).

2. DELEGATIONS' ROLL CALL

The IUPsyS Secretary-General, Ann Watts, performed the roll call (as per the Attendance Register).

2.1 The following countries were represented:

- Botswana
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe.

It was noted that the Kenyan representative would arrive later that day.

2.2 In addition, the following participated:

Professional Board for Psychology, Health Professions Council of South Africa (Pretoria)
Medical Research Council of South Africa (Cape Town)
Kyambogo University (Kampala, Uganda)
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education (Port Harcourt, Nigeria)
University of Ghana (Legon, Accra)
University of Pretoria (Pretoria)
University of South Africa (Pretoria)
University of the Western Cape (Cape Town)
University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg)
Women's University in Africa (Harare, Zimbabwe)
Forum of African Psychology (South Africa).

2.3 The following were in attendance:

International Union of Psychological Science
International Association of Applied Psychology
British Psychological Society
Norwegian Psychological Association/International Project on Competencies in Psychology.

2.4 The following countries tendered apologies:

Egypt
Liberia
Rwanda
South Sudan.

3. FROM THE CAPE TOWN DECLARATION TO INAUGURATION

The background to the workshop of the psychology leadership of various African countries present at ICP2012 and the adoption of the Cape Town Declaration on 22 July 2012 were outlined. The continent-wide consultative workshops that were held in 2013 and the events leading to the Inaugural Assembly, which elicited unanimous support and commitment to the formation of PAPU, were noted.

The Ghana Psychological Association hosted the first workshop for North and West African national psychology associations at the University of Ghana, Legon, Accra on 26 and 27 April 2013. The national leadership present described the workshop as “momentous”, “enthusiastic engagement”, “groundbreaking event”, “landmark event, executed serenely but profoundly” showing “impeccable leadership that is so visionary”. Draft Statutes and the future vision of PAPU were considered. This momentum led into the further consultative workshops.

Andrew Zamani (Nigeria) facilitated the second workshop for Southern African national psychology associations which was hosted by the Psychological Society of South Africa

(PsySSA) at Emperors’ Palace, Johannesburg on 26 September 2013. Improvements on the draft Statutes and vision were made. The third workshop for East and Central African psychology associations and universities was held in Kampala, Uganda on 8 November 2013, during the East African Regional Conference of Psychology which was hosted by the Uganda Society of Applied Psychologists. Further enhancements to the draft Statutes and vision were made, and, despite tensions between two entities from Kenya, there was unanimous commitment to PAPU.

At each workshop country reviews on the status of psychology in the countries represented provided a framework for subsequent discussions, which strongly corroborated the vision, mission and objectives of the draft PAPU statutes. There was also synergy in terms of the key issues and challenges that emerged during these workshops and the priorities that were highlighted to address these, which included:

- The need to develop the uniquely African voice of psychology.
- The need to demonstrate the relevance of the discipline on the continent and improve its visibility and status.
- The importance of including, generating and disseminating African-centred psychological knowledge.
- Harmonisation and development of continental curricula that are contextually and culturally relevant, and which include indigenous theories, knowledge and practices.
- Research to inform and strengthen a contextualised approach to teaching and practice.
- Enhanced access to knowledge (e.g., creation of a continental psychology journal, and continental research data bases and archives to facilitate this).
- Networking and exchange (e.g., student and staff exchange).

4. THE PAPU STATUTES AND RULES

After a thorough consideration of each article of the draft Statutes and Rules, the Assembly accepted the revised article and proceeded to the next article. The Assembly had the further opportunity to review the Statutes and Rules as a whole, whereafter the Statutes and Rules of the Pan-African Psychology Union (PAPU) were unanimously adopted.

5. DETERMINING THE PAPU STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME

After the lunch break, the participants constituted break-out groups to discuss general and specific aspects of the PAPU strategy and functioning. Pam Maras (BPS) and Ann Watts collated the various reports of the break-out groups, and the former then reported on the following recommendations:

- 5.1 Dues and fees would be in US\$ as each country referenced its currency in terms of the US\$. It was noted that the fees should be informed by the range of services offered by PAPU, and that PAPU required such fees to implement its activities. The elected officers were tasked with determining the dues and fees after further consideration of the options presented.
- 5.2 Various programmatic activities were suggested and the incoming Executive Committee (EC) was tasked with prioritising these. Specifically, the focus should be on:
 - 5.2.1 Strengthening national psychology associations through effective representation, advocacy, influence, capacity-building, setting competencies and creating effective service delivery;
 - 5.2.2 Supporting the development of a continental meta code of ethics and providing a template for countries to develop their own codes of ethics;
 - 5.2.3 Enabling collaboration across countries and within the three regions by launching and hosting a continental journal of psychology, supporting a membership drive, organising a Pan-African Conference, and outreach.
- 5.3 It was recommended that the EC consider a weighted voting system along the following lines for adoption by the next Assembly:

- 5.3.1 For national members there should be a multiplier of 5, as the national members held 50% of the vote, with each country having the same vote;
- 5.3.2 For category/departmental/regulatory members there should be a multiplier of 1.5, as each class of such members held 15% of the vote, with each entity having the same vote;
- 5.3.3 For individual members there should be a multiplier of 0.5, as individual members held 5% of the vote, with each member having the same vote.

The Assembly accepted these recommendations for the action of the incoming leadership, and delegated any outstanding statutory requirement that had not been met at this Inaugural Assembly (such as the appointment of two members of the Nominations Committee and the venue of the next Assembly) to the EC for its due attention.

6. ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nigeria, supported by Cameroon and Ghana, proposed that Saths Cooper be elected President to ensure that the momentum created would be consolidated and PAPU be placed on a firm footing. A break was called and Pam Maras then assumed the chair.

There being no other nomination, the Assembly unanimously elected Saths Cooper as President, and accepted his recommendation that a President-Elect be elected. Charles Mate-Kole (Ghana) withdrew his nomination and Bame Nsamenang (Cameroon) was declared President-Elect. Charles Mate-Kole was then elected as Secretary. There being no other nomination, Ann Watts was elected Treasurer, the Assembly waiving Rule 7.6.8 which states that “No more than two persons from the same country shall serve on the Executive Committee.”

The following were elected as regular members of the EC:

Andrew Zamani (Nigeria)
Monde Kote (Botswana)
Debra Machando (Zimbabwe)
Assefach Haileselasie Reda (Ethiopia)
Lusajo Kajula (Tanzania).

7. INAUGURATION OF THE PAPU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Assembly acclaimed the first EC of PAPU, who thanked the Assembly for the confidence that it displayed in electing them to office. It was noted that the public launch of PAPU would be the following evening at the auditorium.

8. VOTE OF THANKS

The Assembly gratefully acknowledged the contributions of ICP2012, PsySSA, and Fatima Seedat, and thanked PsySSA for agreeing to accommodate the PAPU administration.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, the President adjourned the Assembly at approximately 17:00.

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