



Adopted at the AFCO AGM in Dar es Salaam Tanzania 11th August 2018

This Declaration forms the summary of set of values and guidelines pertaining practicing of Optometry in Africa.

It is recommended for any individual or organisation delivering optometry care in Africa be aware of these values and guidelines and be guided by them in the delivery of optometry care anywhere in the continent of Africa



Patrick Mawila
President - AFCO

Frank Magupa
General Secretary - AFCO

In one voice and accord, the member nations of the African Council of Optometry, meeting in Dar es salaam Tanzania declare on this 11th day of August 2018 that;

The continent of Africa will have unified, quality and equitable optometry care

Optometry training in Africa will;

- Enrol candidates with high achievement in the core prerequisite subjects to produce future optometrists of higher professional standards in all aspects of optometry as an autonomous profession.
- Only be upgraded and never downgraded

Optometry practice in Africa will;

- Focus on the best interest of the patient
- Commit to consistence and continuation of care
- Provide for privacy of the patient in the clinic and in all outreach programs
- Become an integral part of the National Health Systems in respective countries

Optometry practitioners will;

- Attain the minimum educational requirement to practice optometry at WCO competence IV
- Adhere to recognisable continuing profession education and have the right to access continuing professional development
- Have the right to adequate instrumentation, equipment and material
- Only practice if they have access to the minimum instrumentation as stipulated by the governing body or the recommendation of AFCO
- Be registered, licenced and follow ethical guidelines of the country in which they are practicing
- Have adequate knowledge and apply professional referrals to better serve their patients and to portray positive image of the professional to other health care personnel
- Uphold patriotism of his/her country and the continent in one way or another regardless of where he is practicing or residing in order to reduce the impact of optometrists' shortage in the continent.
- Contribute demographic data to appropriate organs for evidence-based optometric planning and advocacy at national, continent and global level.

Optometry outreach programs will;

- Be sensitive to local values
- Be reliable, affordable and sustainable
- Use supplies and products that meet minimum requirement as per AFCO recommendations

Optometry research in Africa will;

- Adhere to Helsinki Declaration of medical research on human subjects
- Address the need of the involved community

Optometry outstanding achievers will;

- Have the right to the recognition of their achievement to encourage the development of high standard optometry care in the continent

Optometry patients and clients will;

- Have the right of data privacy of their personal and clinical information
- Have the right to records that will give next optometrist adequate information for the continuation of their care.
- Have the right to access of their clinical records.
- Have equal rights to access optometry care regardless of their belief, nationality, gender or any similar status.

Optometry advertising will;

- Not be misleading or create clinically unnecessary needs
- Adhere to scope of practice of the involved practitioner

This declaration is hereby undersigned by;

The Tanzania Optometric Association

The South African Optometric Association

The Zimbabwe Optometric Association

The Optometrists Association of Uganda

The Botswana Optometric Association

The Nigeria Optometric Association

The Ghana Optometric Association

The Ethiopia Optometric Association

The Togo Optometric Association

The Cameroon Optometric Association