

# European Autism Congress

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## **Planning mental health delivery service in Africa: contextual issues, constraints and opportunities**

The paper examines the socio-cultural, political and professional context for the planning of mental health delivery service in Africa. It is argued that these perspectives determine the nature of policy formulation, legislation and provision of services. In addition, the contiguous issues of factors which determine access and health care utilization are critically examined within the framework of national planning indices, manpower and the national health care scheme structures. In so doing the relevance of comparative cross-cultural models and guidelines for mental health care services by the World Health Organizations and cardinal United Nations Agencies will be appraised. The paper concludes with an advocacy for the integration of community and primary health care response systems to mitigate the burden of mental disorders on the continent. In addition, the opportunities for specialist trainings in core disciplines of psychiatry, psychology and social works will be highlighted and emphasized as the panacea for actualizing the integration.

### **Biography**

Andrew Ezadueyan Zamani is a Professor and Clinical Psychologist at the Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nigeria and is the Immediate Past President of the Nigerian Psychological Association. He has diverse working experience in tertiary educational institutions and applied mental health settings mainly in North Central Nigeria. He has offered consultancy services to several Ministries, Departments and Agencies in Nigeria covering Health, Social Development, Education and Security sectors. He has provided consultancy services to UNODC, the ECOWAS Commission and the European Union on drug abuse, human development and deradicalization capacity enhancement. He is the current Director of Quality Assurance of his University.

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