

PANEL DISCUSSION:

ETHICAL
CONSIDERATIONS IN OT
PRACTICE IN THE
AFRICAN CONTEXT.

Africa

- Is a continent that is both developing and in transition.
- It consists of many countries each with its own history, socio political framework, state of development, financial and human resources, geography, educational system and value of human rights.
- It is multi cultural, multi lingual and has a multitude of different world views.

It is uniquely different to the western world.

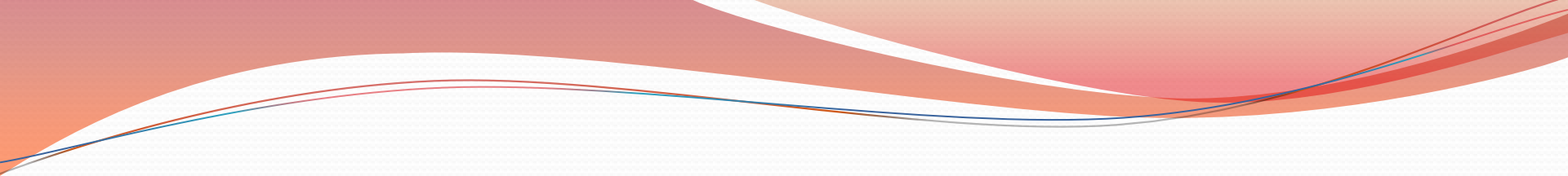
- In the beliefs around health, disease and disability and local health practices.
- Burden of disease and disability.
- Social support and health care provision.
- Resources for treatment and management of all manner of occupational performance problems in all sectors of health care and disability management.

Our relative disadvantage creates many opportunities:

- To be creative and think of unique and lasting solutions to very complex problems in a comparatively short time frame. The controls and protocols are much less restrictive.
- We are never short of new jobs and challenges- in fact prioritizing the jobs and therefore peoples needs is the name of the game.
- To work at the “grass roots” with the day to day occupations of our patients and their families without the assistance of hi - tech equipment and manufactured devices although we acknowledge that they may be useful, they are beyond our financial resources.
- To make big differences by quite small interventions.

These opportunities carry some ethical responsibility:

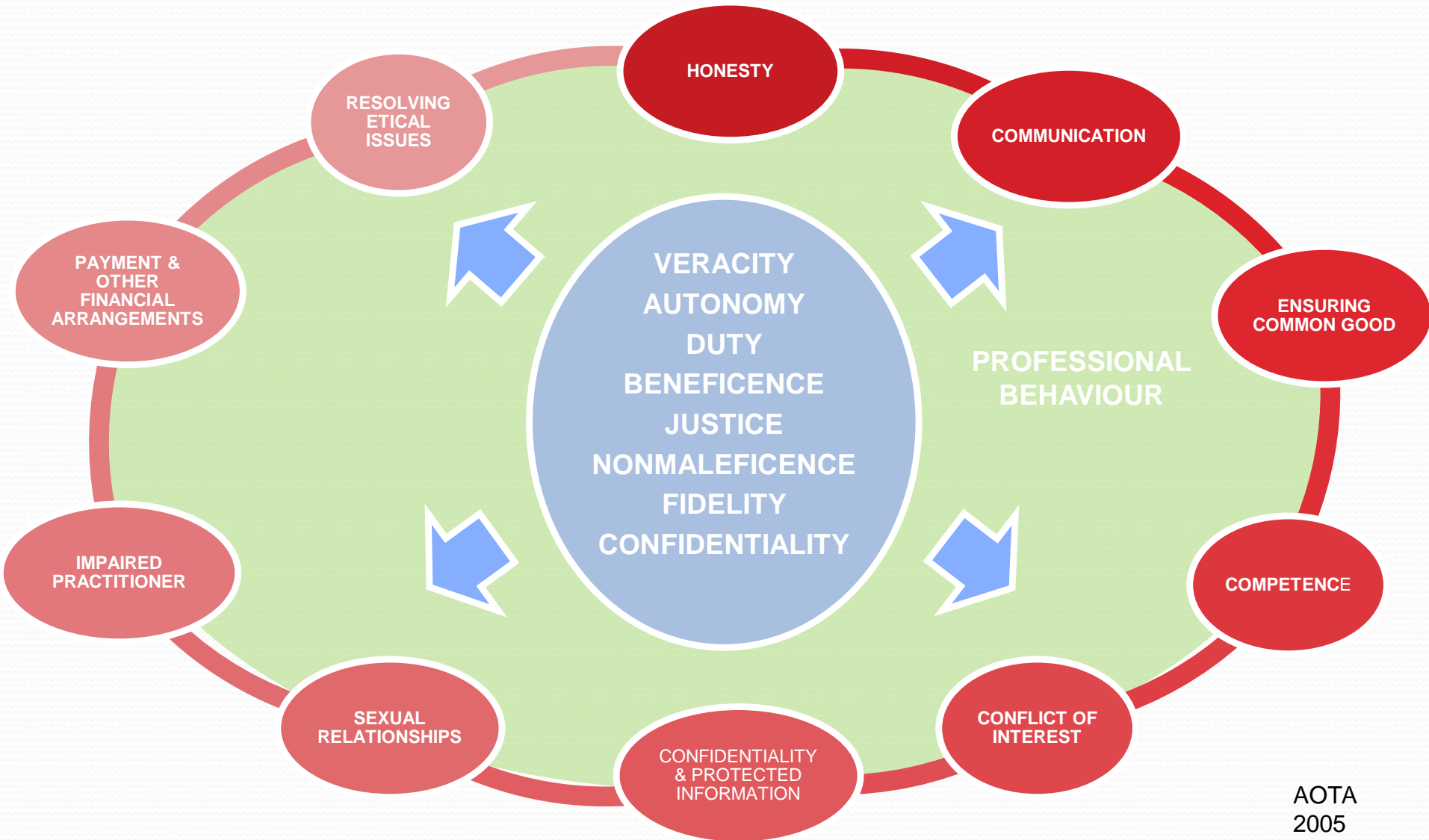
- Work within the scope of the profession and to do what we were trained to do.
- To be accountable to our employers, to those we serve and to the development of the profession.
- To be reflective and critical of our practice.
- To do the very best for those we serve.



WFOT dictates that “each member country has to have a detailed ethical code particular to its needs.”

- Personal attributes.
- Responsibility to the recipient of an OT service.
- Professional conduct in collaborative practice.
- Developing professional knowledge.
- Promotion and development. Of the profession.

GUIDELINES TO THE OT CODE OF ETHICS INCLUDE:





Purpose of the group discussion is to:

- Examine if and how African values, beliefs, customs, socio-political systems, resource availability and context influence the ethics of practice and research in our continent.