STEPS TO FOLLOW TO SET UP A **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION** AND A **REGULATORY BODY**

**THE KEY MANDATE OF THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION** is to develop and promote the profession of optometry.

**THE KEY MANDATE OF THE REGULATORY BODY** is to protect the public and guide the profession.

1. **Need 1 or 2 optometrists who will drive the process (OPTOMETRY ACTIVISTS)**
   - Contact and bring together other optometrists in the country.

2. **Have a Founding Meeting and formalize the OPTOMETRY ASSOCIATION.**
   - Engage a lawyer to help draft the Association Bylaws/Constitution etc.
   - Set up committees eg. membership, advocacy, CPD, finance.

3. **Do research on your health laws and develop a strategy to get formal recognition for optometry in your country.**
   - Approach the Health Ministry and other relevant government structures to begin to lobby for a legislative statute for the profession.

4. **Appoint a lawyer to draft the Optometry Act/Law. Follow all steps to legislate the profession.**
   - Appoint the Professional Regulatory Body which will draft regulations and rules for public protection and professional guidance.

5. **Set up the sub-committees of the Regulatory Body eg. professional conduct committee, education and training committee, clinical standards audit committee etc.**
   - Each committee must have their own terms of reference.