



DR VIOLET MAKUKU MAKUKU- HAQAA INITIATIVE PROJECT OFFICER ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES (AAU)

This initiative is implemented on behalf of the European and African Union Commissions by:



DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service





DR VIOLET MAKUKU

vmakuku@aau.org

vmakuku@gmail.com

+233 263 129 798

+233 270 239 439

This initiative is implemented on behalf of the European and African Union Commissions by:



DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



**UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA**



EUA
European University Association



ENQA
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE
IN HIGHER EDUCATION



TOPIC

FRAMEWORK FOR HARMONIZING THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN AFRICA THE EXAMPLE OF THE PAN AFRICAN QUALITY AFRICAN FRAMEWORK

This initiative is implemented on behalf of the European and African Union Commissions by:



DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



OBJECTIVES

- Share information on African higher education [HE] Harmonization of QA and Accreditation with and on what is happening in the African HE terrain regarding the harmonization of QA and accreditation under PAQAF
- Highlight and explain to HE stakeholders related activities as well as their contribution to African HE Harmonization of QA and Accreditation



OBJECTIVES

- **Make known and explain how the harmonization process is taking place**

DEFINING HARMONIZATION

It is the achievement of the formalization and implementation of a unified and aligned higher education QA system at institutional, national, regional and continental levels which potentially boosts student and staff access and mobility.



DEFINING HARMONIZATION

This process is being guided by the Addis Ababa Convention of December 2014, which is the revision of the Arusha Convention of December 1981. The harmonization of African HE QA and Accreditation is being done under the African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Union Commission's Strategic partnership where EU is funding a number of initiatives.



THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

**The Arusha Convention of 5
December 1981 on**

**THE RECOGNITION OF STUDIES,
CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMAS,
DEGREES AND OTHER ACADEMIC
QUALIFICATIONS IN HIGHER
EDUCATION IN AFRICAN STATES**

**Was signed 35 countries for the
Arusha Convention**



IMPORTANT CONTINENTAL DOCUMENTS

Agenda 2063 articulates what African leaders called *'The Africa we want'* and from this there are 10 year plans that have been formulated:

1. Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 2016-2025)
2. Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024)



IMPORTANT CONTINENTAL DOCUMENTS

The Addis Convention (12 December 2014) is currently not operational because the African countries need to ratify it. Only 16 out of the 54 African countries signed. It is the revised and updated version of the Arusha Convention

An Informal Working Group is being established to start preparing for the formal implementation



ONE OF THE PAQAF TOOLS

**3. Agenda 2063 is calling for more focus on Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET)-
As a result, Ghana, for example is currently turning it's Polytechnics into Technical universities.**

-

- **ONE PIECE OF ADVICE**

“The future
belongs
to those
who prepare
for it today.”

—Malcolm X



PAQAF

A Common Credit System

The Addis Ababa Convention

A Qualification Framework for the Continent

The Need for a Pan African Quality Assurance Framework Through Harmonization of Quality Assurance & Accreditation at National, Regional & Continental Levels

Intra-Africa Academic Mobility (Staff & Students)

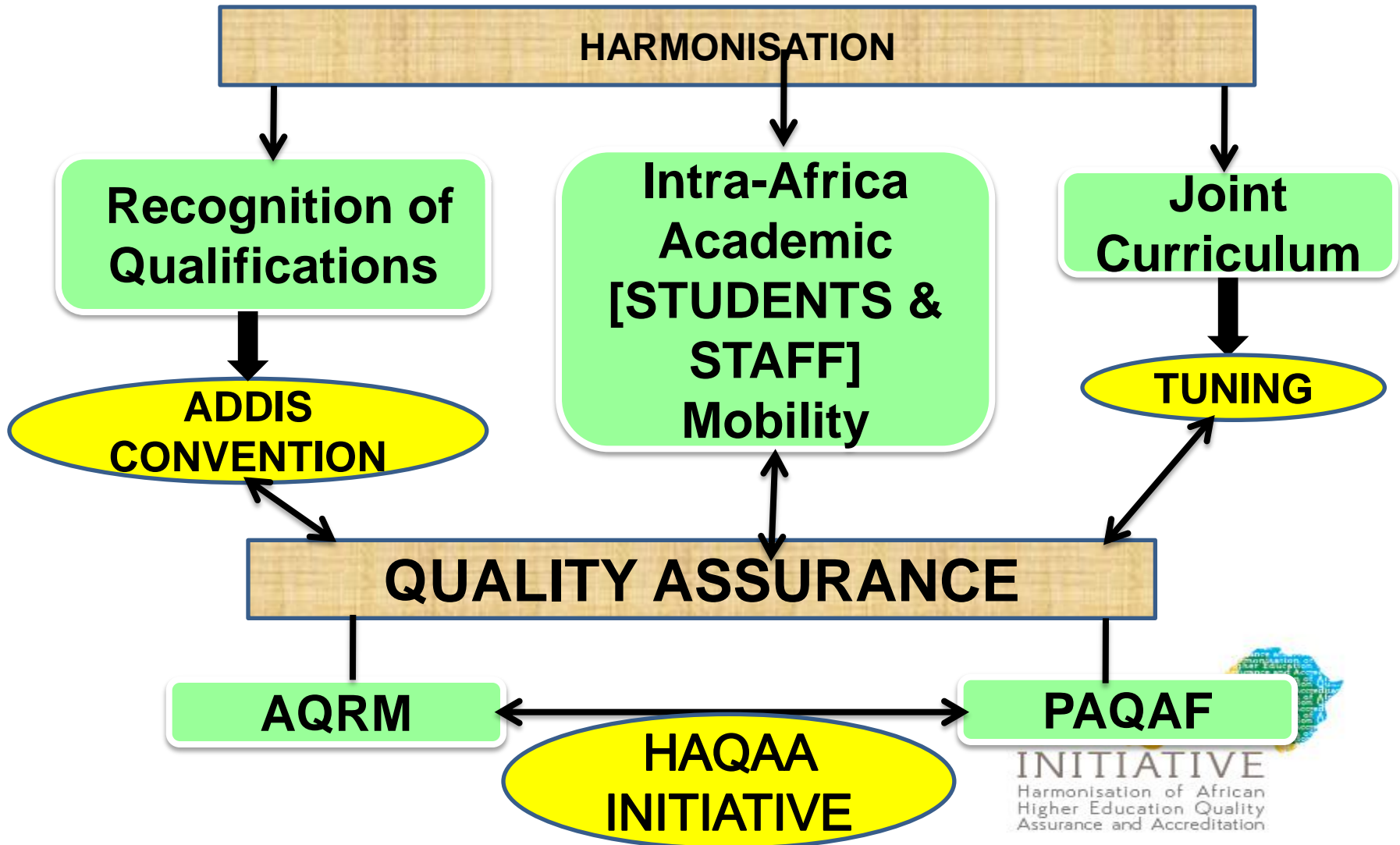
TUNING AFRICA for Joint Curricula

Harmonization of African HE QA & Accreditation

African Quality Rating Mechanism

Pan African University

HARMONIZATION OF AFRICAN QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION INITIATIVES



THE HISTORY OF PAQAF

- **Launch of the Africa-EU strategic partnership in 2007 with special emphasis on the recognition of the role of HE in human development and to also specifically enhance the mobility of students, researchers and academics across the continent. During a conference (in the partnership) to explore QA in Africa was held in Gabon in May 2013, decisions concerning the promotion of QA; harmonization of QA systems; development of guides and structures was made.**



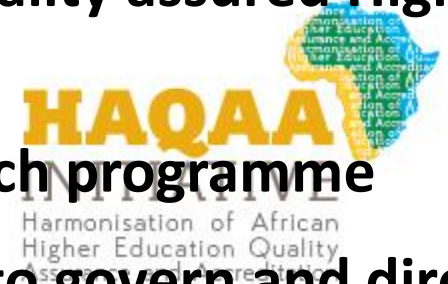
WHAT IS PAQAF?

- **Pan African Framework for Quality Assurance (QA) and accreditation is an initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC) which is meant to facilitate harmonization of QA systems in African HE and improve its quality as well as to meet the associated challenges. It was validated by national and regional QA agencies; approved by the African Ministers of HE; and adopted by the African Union Assembly**



THE KEY GOALS OF PAQAF?

- Development of a Continental Qualifications Framework
- Implementation of the Addis Ababa Convention
- Develop QA standards and guidelines for the African HE System as a reference point for national and regional systems
- Promoting the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) , a tool for institutional assessment
- Develop a system of credits (African Credit Accumulation and Transfer System)
- Create a continental register for national quality agencies (Continental Register agencies for QA and quality assured Higher Education Institutions)
- Create a minimum body of knowledge for each programme
- Establish a continental accreditation agency to govern and direct PAQAF



PAQAF: THE PROCESS OF ADOPTION

A feasibility study funded by EU was done in May 2013,

- Identification of good practices in QA**
- Recommendations for improving QA**
- Recommendations for the structure and the content of the framework**

A meeting of national and regional QA agencies to validate the implementation of PAQAF was done on July 2015 in Accra. The documents were translated into 3 languages [Arabic, French and Portuguese]

- They were approved by the Ministers of HE; and adopted by the African Union Assembly in January 2016**



PAQAF IMPLEMENTATION

PAQAF goals can be realized through the existing initiatives which include **the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM - AUC); AfriQAN - African Network for Quality Assurance (AAU); Continental register of QA agencies and accredited HEIs; The Pan African University (a trial field to various initiatives); The Harmonization of African QA and Accreditation in Africa [HAQAA] Initiative**



AAU'S CONTRIBUTION TO PAQAF

- It created and is hosting the African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN) to improve African HE QA and inter-regional cooperation of similar agencies.
- Introducing QA related training workshops to improve leaders and academics' knowledge on QA in HE (QAHEL)-2017

AAU'S CONTRIBUTION TO PAQAF

- **Training workshops on QA for personnel working in QA Units, national Accreditation Boards and National Council for Tertiary Education and their equivalence (QAHEP)-2017**
- **HAQAA project -Launched in Windhoek, Namibia in September 2016**
- **Run by a consortium of 5 member organizations**



AAU'S CONTRIBUTION TO PAQAF

Aims to develop a website on QA in Higher Education (HAQAA); creating a database of QA experts; develop the African Standards and Guidelines [AFS] for QA; carry out institutional evaluations using AQRM



THE ROLE OF THE HAQAA INITIATIVE IN PAQAF: OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthening national QA agencies
2. Improving quality management in HEIs
3. Paving the way for harmonization and coordination of existing regional QA initiatives
4. Supporting new regional QA activities
5. Providing common tools for the implementation of QA systems that comply with diversity



THE HAQAA INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTATION

Phase 1: Developing a common understanding of QA

Phase 2: Development of Standards and Guidelines for African QA

Phase 3: Consolidation of a quality culture in Africa

Phase 4: Ensuring the sustainability and development of the PAQAF

PAQAF CHALLENGES

HUMAN FACTORS

Lack of public commitment

Reluctance of regional and national agencies (fear of losing specificity)

Limited human capacity in key organizations (continental, regional and national)

Lack of coordination between different agencies



PAQAF CHALLENGES

LACK/INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES

Lack of policies or systems for promoting a continental culture

Lack of tools to compare qualifications

Financing (EU financing with the possibility of extension and after?)

- Sustainability



PAQAF: HOW TO MOVE FORWARD

- 1. Appreciation of the need for framework at national, regional and continental level**
- 2. Public commitment since it is a continental framework or the adoption by the concerned Governments**
- 3. Stakeholder support**
- 4. A high level of cooperation**
- 5. Consistency between the harmonization tools, recognition and QA**
- 6. Capacity building (already in progress)**



AAU'S CONTRIBUTION TO PAQAF

- 1. AAU creates HEIs awareness on the different aspects of QA through the development and implementation of capacity building training workshops in QA; introducing relevant programmes; facilitating and participation in workshops, conferences and other events on QA for the benefit of the African continent; supports staff exchange programmes.**

