



Summary of Deliberations

Meeting of the SADC Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation (TCCA) held on 16-17 May 2019 in Johannesburg, South Africa



1. The SADC Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation (TCCA) held a meeting from 16-17 May 2019 in Johannesburg, South Africa and was chaired by Namibia. The meeting was preceded by the Third meeting of the SADC Qualifications Verification Network (SADCQVN) on 15th May 2019.
2. Both meetings were attended by Chief Executive Officers and Directors of national institutions responsible for certification and accreditation of education and skills training, from the following Member States: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the SADC Secretariat.
3. The SADCQVN meeting considered a proposal for renaming of the Verification Programme to encompass recognition and the meeting resolved that the name remains unchanged. The meeting further reviewed the Terms of Reference for SADCQVN.
4. With respect to mobility statistics, the meeting received a presentation from South Africa covering a period of four years (2015 to 2019). It was indicated that only eight Member States responded and some highlighted increase and whilst others recorded a decrease in the number of qualifications evaluated.
5. The meeting considered the updated SADCQVN booklet which provides information on national bodies responsible for verification of qualifications.
6. The meeting also noted the SADCQF brochure presented by South Africa.
7. The meeting noted progress towards the implementation of the e-Certificate by four pilot countries (Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia). The meeting furthermore noted that out of the four pilot countries, only South Africa was progressing well with the project.
8. The meeting noted an update on progress on the finalisation of the Recognition Manual from Eswatini and the SADC Secretariat. The purpose of the Recognition Manual is to facilitate mechanisms for comparability and recognition of full qualifications.
9. The meeting reviewed progress on the nine (9) steps towards ratification of the Addis Convention and further noted that only two countries namely Mauritius and South Africa have ratified the Addis Convention.
10. The meeting was updated on the African Qualifications Verification Network (AQVN) by the Vice Chairperson from Botswana. The meeting noted that the AQVN held its first conference from the 29– 30 October 2018 in Accra, Ghana. The conference among others highlighted the following: Innovative Practices in Verification and Evaluation of Qualifications, Implications of the Addis Convention and other global Conventions, and Digitization in Verification of Qualifications: Digital Local Services.

11. During the TCCA meeting held from 16 to 17 May 2019, members considered the updated Funding Proposal that intends to facilitate mobilisation of financial resources to implement the SADC Qualifications Framework.

12. The meeting also noted progress on the six implementation programmes of the SADC Qualifications Framework namely:

a) **Governance:** The meeting noted that Botswana came on board to support the SADC Secretariat from 1st April 2019 in the implementation of the SADCQF. The meeting commended the achievements by other Member States which have supported the Secretariat being South Africa and Zambia.

b) **Alignment:** South Africa presented the Alignment Report and the meeting noted that so far two Member States had submitted their National Alignment Reports being South Africa and Seychelles. Member States further considered that this marks the end of the alignment pilot and commencement of the roll-out to the rest of the Member States. The meeting considered the adjudication report for South Africa and endorsed the alignment report for South Africa. The meeting agreed that the Seychelles report will be considered at the next TCCA EXCO meeting of June 2019.

c) **Quality Assurance:** Botswana presented the Quality Assurance Report and the meeting noted that eight Member States participated in the pilot. The meeting further noted the capacity building workshop sponsored by UNESCO held from 3-5th April 2019 in Lusaka, Zambia. The meeting resolved that Member States will be given an opportunity to update the questionnaires and re-submit. Another analysis report will be presented at the September 2019 TCCA meeting.

d) **Verification:** Eswatini presented an update on the verification activities and the meeting noted reports on Mobility Statistics, e-Certificate, SADCQVN Booklet and the SADCQF brochure.

e) **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CATS) and Articulation:** Namibia presented a comprehensive progress report on the status of RPL, CATS and Articulation in the eight Member States which had responded to the RPL, Credit Accumulation and Transfer Systems (CATS) and Articulation questionnaire.

f) **Advocacy and Communication:** Zambia provided an update on the advocacy and communication programme aimed at creating awareness and publicity of the SADCQF. The meeting also urged Member States to continuously provide updates and information to create awareness on the SADCQF. It was resolved that the SADCQF Communication Strategy needs to be updated with an Annexure of calendar of events/activities to be undertaken. The meeting also urged Member States to share information on advocacy and communication activities being undertaken at national level.

13. The meeting noted that the incoming Chairperson of the TCCA will be United Republic of Tanzania and further resolved that they be engaged to be brought on board during the upcoming Ministers' meeting in Namibia, in June 2019.

14. The meeting noted that Zimbabwe volunteered to be the country supporting the Secretariat after Botswana for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

15. The meeting also considered matters to be tabled at the upcoming SADC Ministers' meeting for Education and Training; and Science, Technology and Innovation to be convened in Windhoek, Namibia 17-21 June 2019.

16. The meeting noted the following upcoming workshops:

a) The Learning Outcomes Workshop 24-25 June 2019 in South Africa.

b) Face to face training session for the External Quality Assurance in Higher Education 8-12th July 2019.

17. The meeting agreed on the schedule of meetings for 2020 for TCCA and TCCA EXCO as follows:

- 6th May 2020 SADCQVN

- 7 – 8th May 2020 TCCA in South Africa.

- 24 – 25th September 2020 TCCA in South Africa; and

- TCCA Executive (EXCO) Meetings: 6th December 2019 in South Africa, 12th June 2020 in Tanzania and 4th December 2020 in South Africa.

**Meeting statement issued by the TCCA and SADC Secretariat
2019-05-17**