



African Continental
Qualifications Framework

The Review of the Zambia National Qualifications Framework

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Like living beings NQFs evolve over time.

Zambia National Qualification Framework

The Zambia NQF was established through the Zambia Qualifications Authority Act No. 13 of 2011.

Implementation of the NQF began in 2015

2019 stakeholder engagements began on the need to review the NQF

Why the Review



Emerging challenges in evaluation of qualifications.

Notably some qualifications were not catered for in the framework making it difficult to appropriately place them on the NQF upon evaluation e.g Advanced “A” Level Certificate in General Education, some Trade Test levels in the Trades and Occupations as well as Honours Bachelor’s Degrees in the Higher Education sub-Frameworks.

Need to Keep the Framework current and in line with global trends

To align the Zambian NQF to the regional framework SADCQF

National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom (UK NARIC) downgraded Zambian Bachelors Degree Qualifications citing ‘O’ levels as opposed to the ‘A’ levels used as entry qualification to university education. This has prompted Zambia to consider reintroducing policy on A Level certification in secondary school education.

Stakeholders who provided comments during the Review of Zambia NQF

Government Ministries
and Departments

Zambia Federation of
Employers

The Labour Movement

Selected Training
Institutions in various
Ministries

Universities

Industry

Professional bodies

Eminent Educationists

Local Training Quality Assurance bodies

International Quality Assurance Bodies and
Institutions (South African Qualifications Authority
(SAQA), Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in
Education (NOKUT), Qualifications Quality Ireland
(QQI), UK-NARIC) etc

Aspect of the NQF targeted for Review

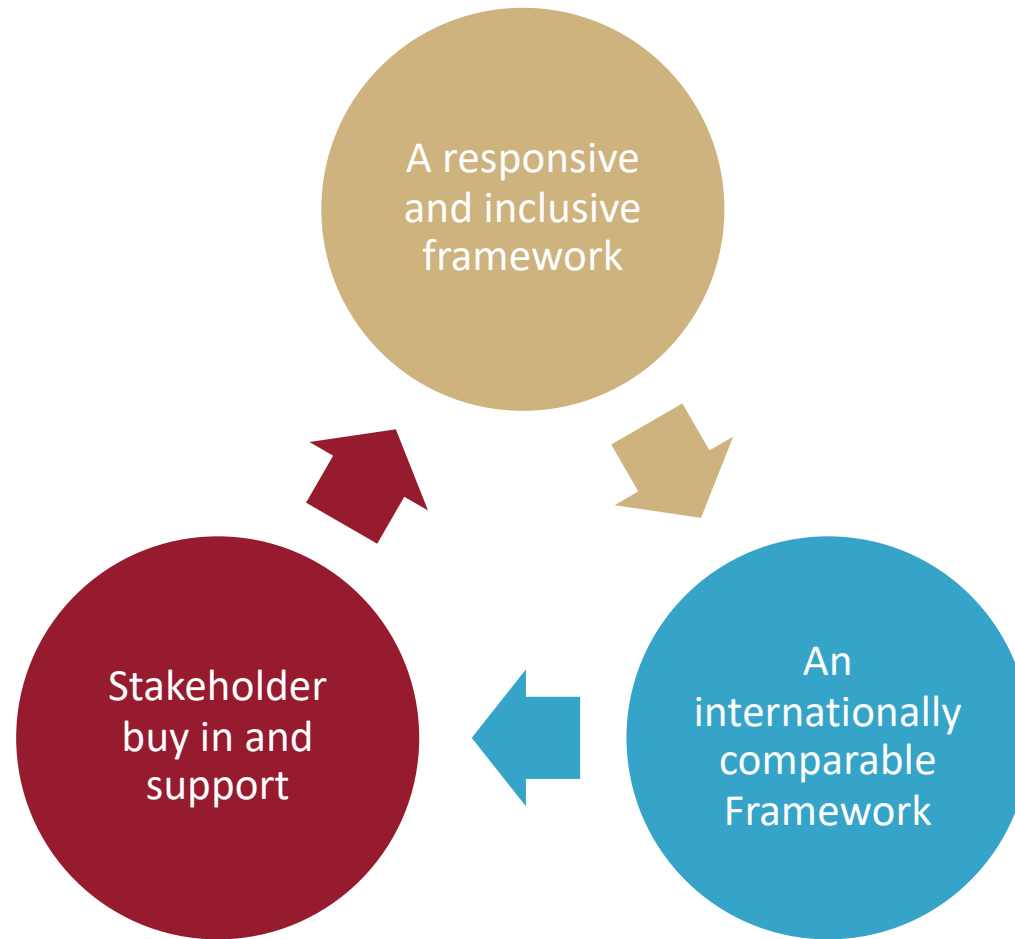
The structure and content of the level descriptors. This meant reviewing existing level descriptors as well as developing Level Descriptors for the “A” Level Certificate, Trade Testing Certificates and Bachelors Honours Degree.

Changing the structural design of the Framework to cyclical design(half moon) from the vertical design;

Developing National Credit Accumulation and Transfer System guidelines and incorporating Credits for all Level of the Framework

A comprehensive review of the ZAQA Act No. 13 of 2011 to strengthen the legal framework for effective implementation of the NQF.

OUTCOME OF THE NQF REVIEW PROCESS



Issues and Challenges

- ✓ Limited understanding on the operations of Qualifications Frameworks by some stakeholders leading to low quality input to the process of consultation.
- ✓ The review process becomes lengthy as consensus is sought from all Key stakeholders on the proposed changes to the NQF
- ✓ Resistance to change by some Stakeholders

THANK YOU