



SESSION 16 - 17

ACQF AG: role, activities.

**Towards an African NQF
Network**

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*“Validation of ACQF Policy
Document and Inaugural event
ACQF-II”*

Addis, 11-13 July 2023

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**Session 16: Role,
activities of ACQF AG**

3.7 As a public policy instrument underpinned by AU policies, governance of the ACQF is based on the following principles:

- No country is left behind: All AU member countries are invited to participate in the activities on equal footing. Such ACQF activities notably include referencing to the ACQF, peer reviews, deliberations in the context of the governing structure, capacity-development programmes, dissemination and outreach, and collaboration on the ACQF Qualifications Platform (database).
- The AUC provides political support and steering and participates in the ACQF governing setting.
- **The ACQF Advisory Group will be furthered as main platform for stakeholders' consultation and cooperation.**
- Technical implementation is assured by a competent unit responsible for ACQF functions and operations.
- Networking and collaboration between African national qualifications entities, social partners, professional associations, recognition centres, students' unions, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Governance and management are based on accountability and integrity.
- The ACQF process is supported by monitoring and evaluation.



Members: 40 (NQF bodies; Ministries; social partners; AASU; AAU; ACA; AFTRA; OATUU; RECs)

Mission: The ACQF AG represents the core modality and instrument for systematic stakeholders' consultation and involvement throughout the ACQF-development process.

Chair: AUC / ESTI – Education division; **Co-chairs:** 1 country and 1 REC



1. Governance

- AUC HRST chairs the ACQF AG meetings.
- Two members of ACQF AG act as co-chairs, for one-year period, on a rotating basis.
- The team of ACQF project supports the AG governance team through thematic expertise, content management, liaison with the AG members and co-chairs, secretarial tasks (agendas, reports), and assistance to coordination and organization of the key activities.
- Decisions of the AG are reached by consensus.

2. Main functions of the ACQF AG

- Contribute to build a common understanding on the vision, objectives, scope and main functions of the future ACQF
- Provide advice and guidance on the overall strategy of the ACQF development project
- Contribute to discussion and review the key deliverables of the ACQF development project
- Facilitate and support the conduction of key ACQF-development activities, namely communication and dissemination of information, data collection and liaison with the constituencies
- Share up-to-date information on new developments relevant for the ACQF development
- AG members will be regularly informed on the key milestones of the ACQF project and invited to consultation meetings and activities.

ACQF ACQF AG – Terms of Reference (2)

3. Role of the co-chairs

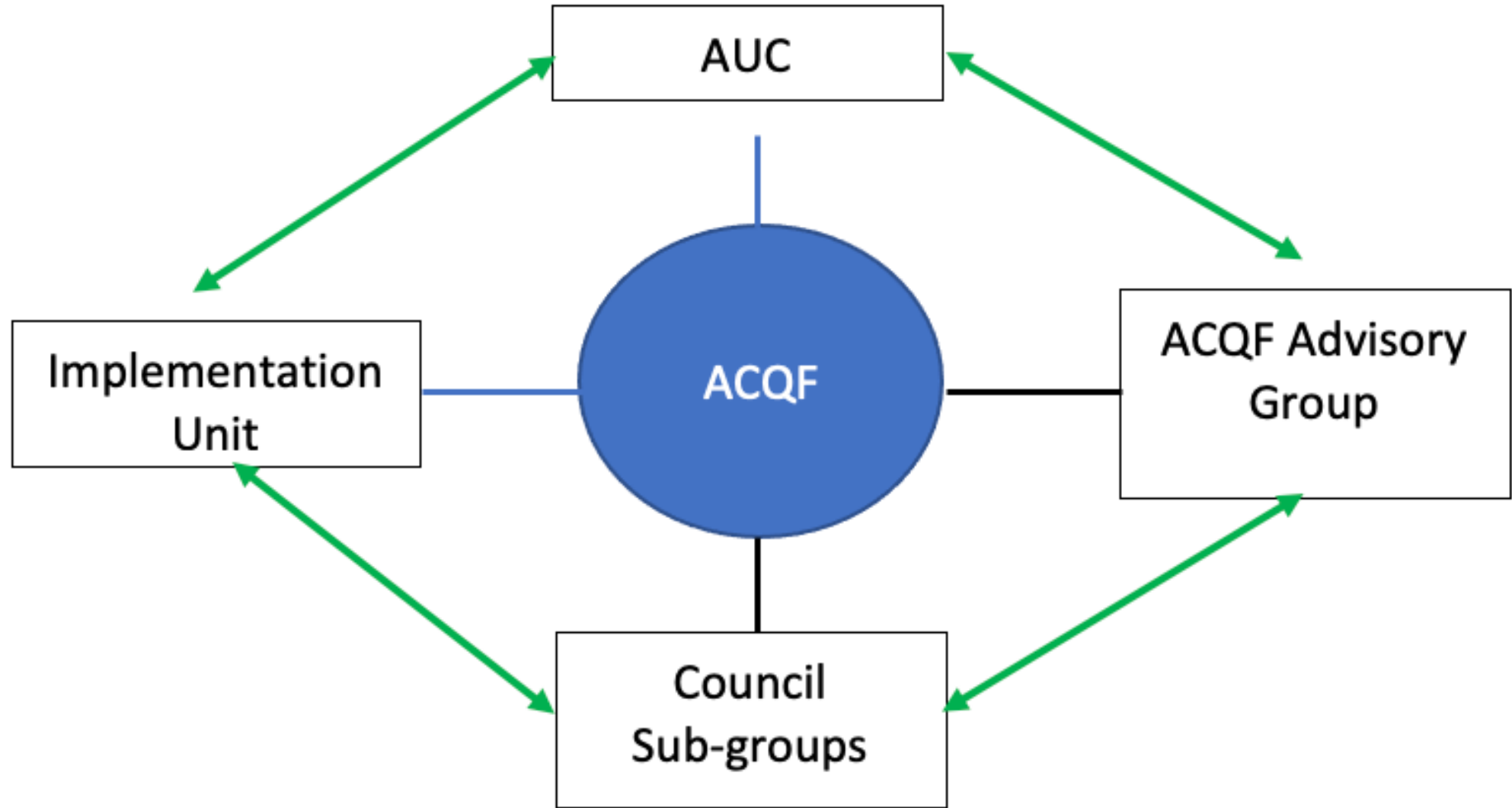
- Collaborate with the AG Secretariat function in convening AG meetings
- Review and approve minutes of the AG meetings prepared by AG Secretariat
- Maintain communication with AUC HRST and AG Secretariat (supported by ACQF project)
- Support the Chairperson and ensure smooth functioning and productive discussions in the AG meetings.

4. Role of the members of the ACQF AG

- Participate in AG meetings and contribute to debate and discussion of the ACQF development process
- Provide inputs, thematic contribution and recommendations related with the deliverables and activities for ACQF development, as adequate
- Members of the ACQF AG communicate with the AG governance team and AG Secretariat on all matters related with their participation in the meetings and throughout the process.



Option 1 ACQF gov : continuity



- ACQF AG: pertinence and adequacy of the mission and functions. What else? Your views?

- ACQF AG structure: plenary. What else: A) Thematic commissions? B) More members?



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**Session 17: Governance of
ACQF – new perspectives.
Towards a network of NQFs**

Aims of Regional Qualifications Frameworks (RQF)

RQFs, have grown out of communities of countries with an aim 'to facilitate mutual trust in qualifications and promote student and worker mobility; therefore, they are linked to other initiatives related to mutual recognition of qualifications, of goods and of services'.

To develop a common understanding and strengthen transparency of member country qualifications.

Seek commonalities and clarify differences.

Build mutual trust across the community of countries.

Countries that have a regional, economic or social identity, or wish to see one develop, have cooperated in the development of regional qualifications frameworks (RQFs).

Regional Qualifications Framework

- A broad structure of levels of learning outcomes that is agreed by countries in a geographical region.
- A means of enabling one national framework of qualifications to relate to another and, subsequently, for a qualification in one country to be compared to a qualification from another country.
- Referencing
- Development, support to countries
- Qualifications DB



- Option formulated in the ACQF feasibility study (2021). Supported by study. Proposal legal charter, organisation.
- To ensure that implementation and management of ACQF operations are based on tangible technical competence and understanding of NQF policy, it is recommended to involve the existing and interested African NQF agencies (of different legal statutes) – into a network (association) of African NQF agencies.
- This network could become the focal point supporting implementation of the ACQF, working with the AUC (political lead), with the countries and regions (stakeholders and users of the ACQF) and other agencies (quality assurance, RPL, labour market information, social partners and students).
- The association should have a legal status, membership, a board tasked with planning and accountability functions, and an efficient management and technical team to carry out operations.

ACQF Network of African NQFs

- This option has the advantage to involve existing African NQF expertise embodied in the national institutions leading and coordinating NQFs and the associated areas of competence.
- Moreover, this approach fosters bonds and a common agenda between NQF agencies across the continent.
- Finally, this option empowers the countries and the NQFs in co-implementing the ACQF, and acts through a bottom-up dynamic that holds promise.
- Different funding and financing for sustainability mechanisms are possible, spanning from membership contributions to technical assistance projects, international donors and African sponsors. In the medium-term, the African NQF Network (association), in partnership with AUC / ACQF AG can engage in private-public partnerships with African and international medium and large enterprises, in projects addressing development of new types of qualifications for the continent, digitalisation of qualifications systems and frameworks, and recognition of skills of workers and migrants, amongst others.

Option

- **African NQF Network:** established by Statute
- A memorandum of cooperation with AUC should lay the foundations and institutional basis for planning and carrying out ACQF operations, based on accountability towards the AU.

From the governance options study (2022)

The Network will comprise:

- A strengthened Secretariat encompassing the Implementation Unit – working within the Network – with technical experts to ensure implementation regarding the areas of activities of the ACQF and sustainability. The Secretariat also exercises the functions of management and coordination.
- A Council tasked with providing strategic direction, oversight, and accountability. The council will be made up of adequate number of members drawn from the regional blocks of the continent and key stakeholder groups. The members will serve on a rotational basis to facilitate the participation of all member states.
- A General Assembly made up of a membership including: all NQFs, qualification institutions, professional/sectoral organizations, student bodies, African social partners, QA bodies, RECs, RQFs, and international partners.
- Like in Option 1, the AUC will maintain the political lead, steering and will support the ACQF Network

Exploring...

- Such a Network of African NQFs:
 - NQF bodies – at all stages of NQF development (3 - 5)
 - Other stakeholders: employers, trade unions, students, teacher associations, curriculum associations, employment agencies, QA agencies

- Your views?
- Interested to participate / contribute?
- Sustainability?