



In cooperation with the Project ACQF-II

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Southern African Development Community (SADC)

SADC Qualifications Framework (SADCQF)

Meeting of the Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation (TCCA)

Date: 09-10 May 2024

**At: Radisson Blu Sandton – Room JSE 3
Johannesburg**

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1 Context

1.1 SADCQF - new roadmap 2023-2026

The SADCQF is a regional mechanism for comparability and recognition of full qualifications, credit transfer, creation of regional standards and facilitation of quality assurance (QA). It consists of a set of agreed principles, practices, procedures and standardised terminology intended to meet the five purposes of the SADCQF:

1. Providing a mechanism for comparability and recognition of qualifications in SADC.
2. Facilitating mutual recognition of qualifications in all member states.
3. Harmonising qualifications wherever possible.
4. Promoting the transfer of credits within and among member states and even beyond.
5. Creating SADC regional standards where appropriate.

In the six years of its implementation, started in 2017, the SADCQF implementation model showed resilience in the face of challenges and resource limitations and was able to deliver tangible contributions on some of the defined purposes. However, after this initial phase of testing and piloting, SADCQF needs capacities to advance on the defined purposes and generate impact.

The TCCA proposed on 11-12 May 2023 a new SADCQF roadmap for the period 2023-2026, in accordance with the recommendations of the Report “Review of implementation and way forward”, which was adopted by the Joint Meeting of ESTI Ministers, held in Malawi, June 2022¹.

The summary report of the TCCA meeting of 11-12 May 2023² defines the concise roadmap 2023-2026 as follows.

¹ ACQF. 2023. SADCQF – Review of implementation and way forward. <https://acgf.africa/capacity-development-programme/support-to-countries/southern-african-development-community-sadc/sadcqf-review-and-way-forward-updated-2023>

² SADC. 2023. Summary report of the special TCCA meeting. SADCQF – new impetus and roadmap. Author: E. Castel-Branco, ACQF-II. https://acgf.africa/capacity-development-programme/support-to-countries/southern-african-development-community-sadc/special-tcca-meeting-may-2023_summary-report_22052023_final-to-sadc-secr_web.pdf/view

Table 1: Summarised high-level proposals for the roadmap, by themes

Theme	Main actions / áreas	Milestones and observations
1. SADCQF Guidelines and Manuals on RPL, CAT, Recognition (& other themes)	<p>Review, update, edit, layout and disseminate. Publish through ACQF website, until the SADC website is able to accommodate these guidelines. Through the websites of SADC Member States Meetings, webinars, workshops to present the guidelines and handbooks to different stakeholders, TCCA members.</p>	2023 to 04/2024
2. Alignment / referencing: support, reactivate	<p>Move to a referencing approach: streamlined criteria and process; based on peer dialogue and learning between countries; oriented to self-assessment and self-improvement; visibility and communication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Streamline and review the referencing criteria. - Cooperate with ACQF-II project, for support to all SADC countries on matters of referencing. - Contribute to regular ACQF NQF updates – in a centralised manner, managed by SADC. - Plan referencing to SADCQF as a simultaneous process with referencing to ACQF. 	<p>2023 to 04/2024 2023 to 12/2026 2023 to 2026 2023</p>
3. Follow-up to alignment / referencing: publication of reports; use SADCQF levels on qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a common approach for SADCQF on principles, key requirements and main elements of the follow-up to referencing, especially as regards use of SADCQF levels on newly issued qualifications and dissemination of referencing reports of all SADC countries. Other elements to be considered: action plans to address issues and development needs identified by the referencing reports. - Develop national roadmaps to address the follow-up steps, in coherence with the national referencing processes. 	<p>2024 2024-2025</p>
4. New developments: digitalisation, micro-credentials, common profiles of qualifications	<p>a) Digitisation of qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roadmap at regional level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop instrument / guidelines. • Capacity development of Member States - Implementation by Member States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States digitisation policies developed with reference to SADC guideline. • Member States domesticate: upload qualifications • Hardware / software <p>b) Micro-credentials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Start conversations on open platforms at regional level, involve industry and youth. - SADC: start work on regulation. - SADC position on micro-credentials (in 2 years) - Develop national plans to operationalise micro-credentials in a period up to 3 years. <p>c) Common profiles of qualifications (CPQs)</p>	<p>2023-2024 2023-2024 2025 2024-2025 2025 2023-2025</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop regional guidelines for CQPs with technical and financial support; - Member States domesticate the CPQs - Member States upload CPQs to the national databases - Enforce CPQs (pilot certain qualifications) - Policy learning, sharing / Forum 	
5. Capacity development related with NQF/RQFs themes / needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Define needs and capacity development by country grouping / beneficiaries / target groups b) Conduct advocacy activities. c) Dissemination: tools, initiatives, good practice d) Meetings of different countries: peer-sharing, mutual support and learning e) Research: baseline study on mobility, tracer studies f) Main themes for capacity development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Articulation - Connecting NQFs-RQF (ACQF, EQF) - Referencing - Comparability of qualifications 	2023-2024 2024-2025
6. Interplay and cooperation with other RQFs: ACQF, EQF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Platform for sharing and comparison between RQFs - Model NARIC (UK) for SADC: Information Centres / documents for competent authorities / higher education institutions 	
7.and 8. Monitoring and evaluation; governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) M&E: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peer evaluation by Member States – streamlined, focus on mobility. b) Governance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More inclusive governance setting; - Review EXCO composition and ToR 	2025 2024
1. Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revisit and update: the SADCQF Booklet, including the level descriptors and 16 Quality assurance guidelines. 	06/2023 to 04/2024

To note significant progress in the range of activities and the cooperation of SADCQF with two major regional qualifications frameworks: a) ACQF and b) EQF. This cooperation addressed the following topics and areas:

- a) ACQF: a) support to countries in developing policies and tools related to NQF and connected areas. Countries involved: Angola, D R Congo, Eswatini, Mozambique and Seychelles; b) surveys on RPL and micro-credentials; c) registers of qualifications under the umbrella of ACQF QCP; d) websites of qualifications authorities.
- b) EQF: comparison EQF-SADCQF. Report completed.

1.2 Organisation of the TCCA meeting

- **Initiative and invitations:** SADC Secretariat
- **Technical and financial support:** ACQF-II
- **Venue of meetings:** Radisson Blu Hotel, Sandton, Johannesburg
- **Participants:** Delegates of SADC Member States, SADC Secretariat, experts, ACQF-II coordinator

2 Agenda of the meeting

2.1 Objectives of the meeting

1. Update information on the state-of-play of development, implementation and review of Member States' National Qualifications Frameworks and related policies and instruments (e.g. Recognition of Prior Learning, Credit Accumulation and Transfer Policies, digitalisation of NQF functions and registers, communication, and visibility).
2. Roadmap SADCQF 2023-2026: overview of activities, progress and plans. Discussion and clarification on scope, timelines, and resources.
3. Overview of cooperation with ACQF-II. Activities and plans with SADC countries. Support to NQFs and related policies. Qualifications and credentials platform – progress report. Micro-credentials – analytical report, inventory, handbook, training workshop. Common profiles of qualifications based on data driven approach – presentation of results and methodological approach. Plan of international workshops 2024.
4. New development: African Qualifications Network – sustainable home for ACQF and African NQFs and RQFs.
5. SADCQF-EQF comparison: presentation of the report. Comments, questions, validation.

2.2 Detailed Agenda

Day 1 (09 May): 09.00-17.30

Agenda:

- **Session 1:** 09.00-09.30: Opening, welcome remarks. Objectives of TCCA meeting. Introduction of the participants.
Chair: Representative of the Presidency Member State (Angola). SADC Secretariat.
- **Session 2-1:** 09.30-11.15: Member States updates on developments and plans related to NQF and connected policies. Up to 15 min per country. Part I – in alphabetic order: Angola, Botswana, D R Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi.
- 11.15-11.45: coffee break
- **Session 2-2:** 11.45-13.30: Member States updates on developments and plans related to NQF and connected policies. Up to 15 min per country. Part II: Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
- 13.30-14.30: lunch break
- **Session 3:** 14.30-15.50: SADCQF – Roadmap 2023-2025. Overview of conducted activities. Areas and outputs for further discussion: TCCA, guidelines, referencing and follow-up actions, interplay of referencing to SADCQF and to ACQF.
Facilitated: Eduarda Castel-Branco
- **Session 4:** 15.50-16.30: New development – African Qualifications Network. Sustainable future for ACQF, and African NQFs and RQFs.
Facilitated: Laurent Ndaywel, DR Congo
- **Session 5: 16.30-17.30:** EQF-SADCQF comparison. Brief presentation. Discussion, validation.

Facilitated: Fiona Ernesta (CEO SQA, Seychelles), Eduarda Castel-Branco (EQF, ACQF-II); SADC Secretariat.

- Coffee break

Day 2 (10 May): 09.00-16.30

Agenda:

- **Session 6:** 09.00-09.30: Opening and agenda. Brief recapitulation of main debates and conclusions of day 1.
Chair: Representative of the Presidency Member State (Angola). SADC Secretariat.
- **Session 7:** 09.30-10.15: Micro-credentials project SADC (Erasmus+).
Speaker: James Keevy – JET Education Services
- **Session 8-1:** 10.15-11.00: ACQF-II – progress report first year implementation. Focus on activities with SADC countries.
Facilitator: Eduarda Castel-Branco, ACQF-II coordinator
- 11.00-11.30: coffee break
- **Session 8-2:** 11.30-13.00: ACQF-II – progress and plans. Focus on new developments: Qualifications and Credentials platform (QCP), micro-credentials, programme of workshops and webinars. RPL Campaign.
Speaker: Eduarda Castel-Branco, ACQF-II coordinator
- 13.00-14.00: lunch break
- **Session 9:** 14.00-14.45: Common profiles of qualifications – a data driven approach. Presentation of results and visualisation tool.
Speaker: Mauro Pelucchi (online)
- **Session 10:** 14.45-15.30: Digitalisation of NQF processes and tools. Examples: Angola, Eswatini, Botswana, South Africa.
- **Session 11:** 15.30-16.15: SADC – further developments and plans on policies related to SADCQF, e.g. migration, employment, ODL, innovation, sector qualifications. Interplay SADCQF-ACQF-EQF – proposals.
Facilitators: Prof. Raja Sannassee (SADC Secretariat); Eduarda Castel-Branco (ACQF-II)
- **Closing session:** 16.15-16.30: wrap-up, final remarks. Main conclusions. Closing remarks.
- **Coffee break**

3 Sources and technical references from ACQF project

2021-2023 (updated 12/02/2024)

ACQF resources and collections

ACQF website: <https://acqf.africa/>

ACQF Guidelines: <https://acqf.africa/resources/policy-guidelines/acqf-guidelines>

ACQF Training Modules: <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/training-modules>

ACQF Peer Learning Webinars: <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/webinars>

ACQF Thematic Briefs: <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/thematic-briefs>

ACQF Mapping study collection: <https://acqf.africa/resources/mapping-study>

ACQF on Recognition of Prior Learning: <https://acqf.africa/resources/recognition-of-prior-learning>

ACQF News articles: <https://acqf.africa/news>

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