



## **Summary of Deliberations**

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

- 1.0 The SADC Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation (TCCA) held a meeting from 19-20 September 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa.
  
- 2.0 The meeting was 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, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and the SADC Secretariat. The meeting was also attended by representatives from United Nations Educational Cultural and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The meeting was held to, among other things, review progress on the implementation of the decisions of the TCCA meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and considered the resolutions of the Ministers on the SADCQF. Additionally, the meeting developed a road map for accelerating the implementation of the four aspects of the SADCQF namely
  - a) Development and alignment of the NQFs to the SADCQF
  - b) Quality Assurance
  - c) Verifications

#### d) Advocacy and Communication

- 3.0 Remarks were made by the outgoing chairperson of the TCCA Mr Mboni Dlamini and the Chair of the TCCA, Mr Joe Samuels. The chair welcomed all delegates to the meeting and informed the meeting that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has increased to 16 Member States with the inclusion of Comoros. He emphasised the need for this meeting to focus on developing actions to fast-track implementation of the four areas of the SADCQF between this meeting and the next meeting. Hence the Programme was changed to include 5 commissions to develop action plans to take the work forward.
- 4.0 The meeting was informed of the decisions and follow up made arising from the EXCO meeting that was held on 17th June 2017 in Swaziland. In particular, reference was made to the following decisions by the EXCO;
- a) the provision of information on how to recognise credible Institutions by nine member countries which led into the development of a mock-up web page by SAQA and the commitment by SADC Secretariat to visit SAQA to develop capacity to host the online SADCQF webpage.
  - b) Compilation of mobility statistics in the region. This will be generated from information on qualifications verified. Member countries would be required to submit the information by responding to the annual questionnaire.

- 5.0 The meeting was updated on the outcomes of the Sixth Expert meeting on the World Reference Levels (WRLs), Addis Convention and the Global Convention. UNESCO HQ, has funding for capacity building on quality assurance and is supporting Malawi, Namibia and Zambia. In addition, there is also funding for development of a recognition manual. To this end the meeting agreed to have a two-day quality assurance meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 followed by a SADCQVN meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and TCCA meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Furthermore the member of the TCCA serving on the Drafting team of the Global Convention on recognition qualifications in higher education committed to circulate the draft Global Convention to TCCA Members through the SADC Secretariat. Members were also encouraged to access the Global Convention documents through the UNESCO HQ website.
- 6.0 The meeting noted that all its decisions made by the TCCA in April 2017 had been implemented except the contractual arrangements with Zambia and the development of the Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CATS) which were still in progress.
- 7.0 The meeting was informed that Ministers were impressed with the achievements made by the TCCA. The meeting resolved to uphold the recommendations of the Ministers as follows;
- a) to extend the interim arrangements of providing administrative support to the SADC Secretariat from six months to one year by the Member States that had volunteered. In this regard, the TCCA informed the Member States that had volunteered to consult their superiors in line with the Minister's resolutions. Botswana informed the TCCA that should there be any gap, they were ready to fill it up. All other Member States were advised to consult their superiors on the new development.

- b) the outgoing Troika Member of the TCCA to continue to participate as an observer for 1 year to promote continuity.
- 8.0 The meeting observed that the consideration of existing regional bodies such as SARUA as part of the coordination mechanism for SADCQF was inappropriate as their mandate was narrow since they deal with one aspect of the SADCQF namely universities. In this regard, the meeting resolved that an Implementation Unit would be ideal to coordinate the implementation of the SADCQF hence the need to further develop the draft funding proposal.
- 9.0 The meeting noted that the TCCA had a role in the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Action and the Labour Migration Policy Framework with respect to harmonisation and recognition of qualifications. The ILO informed the meeting of a 4-year project on Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms for migration management in Southern Africa to be funded by EU which had a component for supporting Regional Qualifications Frameworks. In addition, ILO was providing capacity building on RPL to SADC Member States.
- 10.0 The meeting developed action plans and time lines to be undertaken between September 2017 to May 2018 in the four areas for implementing the SADCQF and the draft funding proposal for the Implementation Unit with time lines.
- 11.0 The meeting noted the opportunity to use the SADC online Monitoring and Evaluation in monitoring the implementation of the different areas of the SADCQF and undertook to provide user rights to TCCA members to provide relevant data on the indicators.

- 12.0 The meeting noted that three SADC member states have signed the Addis Convention and also noted progress on ratification.
- 13.0 The meeting observed the importance of including TVET and General Education stakeholders in the work of the TCCA and there is need to ensure that they are represented in all deliberations. There is need to create stronger relationships amongst relevant Technical Committees in the Education and Training sector.
- 14.0 The non-participation of some SADC Member States in the work of TCCA was of concern. It was resolved that Secretariat should communicate and engage with the affected Member States to ensure their involvement.