Zambia Qualifications Authority

Quality Assurance In the Context of NQF in Zambia

2ND FORUM OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS INSTITUTIONS

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Presentation Outline

➢ The Zambia Education Landscape

➢ The Zambia Qualifications Framework

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Zambia Education Landscape

Population 21.1 M (UN)

60 years of independence

General Education (Primary & Secondary Education)

Ministry of Education

10,731 Schools

5.7M (Free education)

Trades and Occupations (Technical & vocational training)

Ministry of Technology and Science

425 TVET Colleges

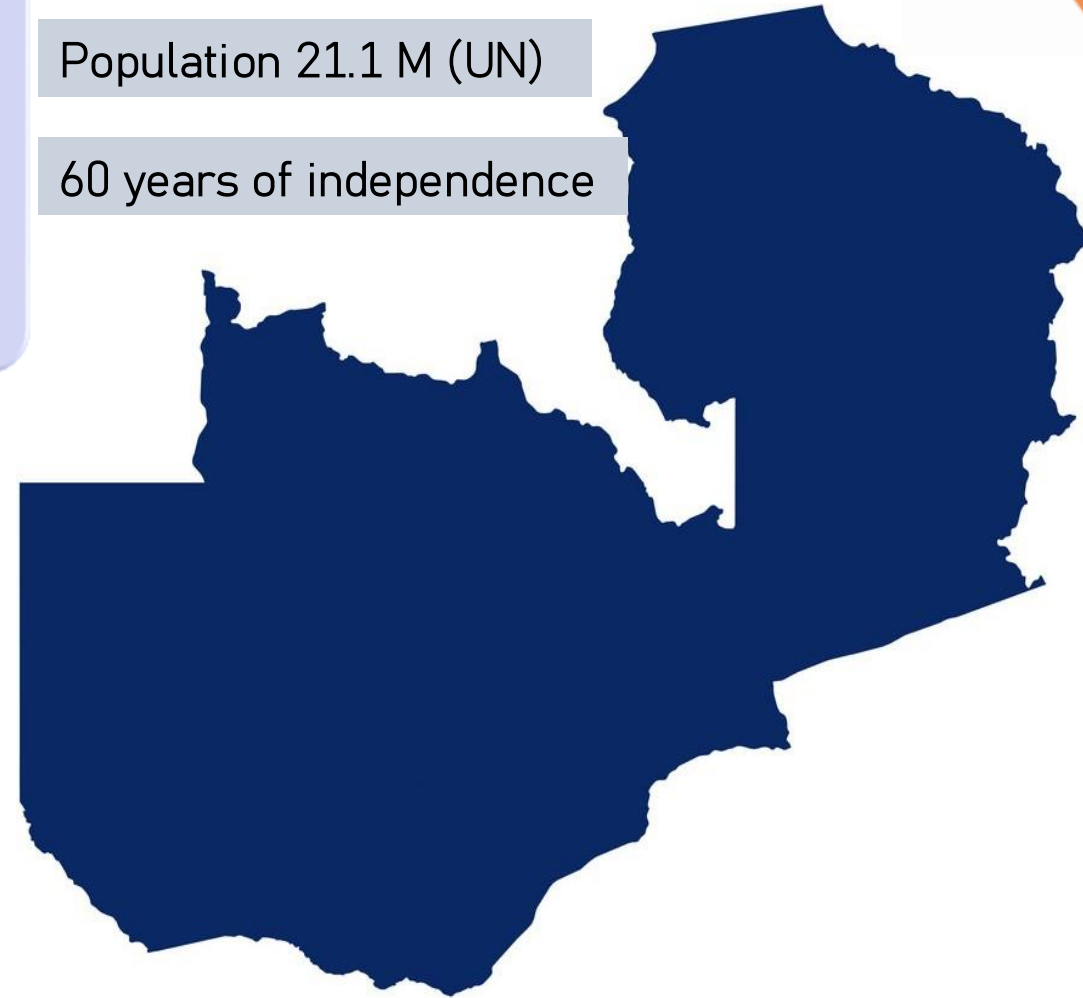Over 14,000 students

Higher Education Sub framework

Ministry of Education

9 Public & 85 Private Universities

Over 126,000 students
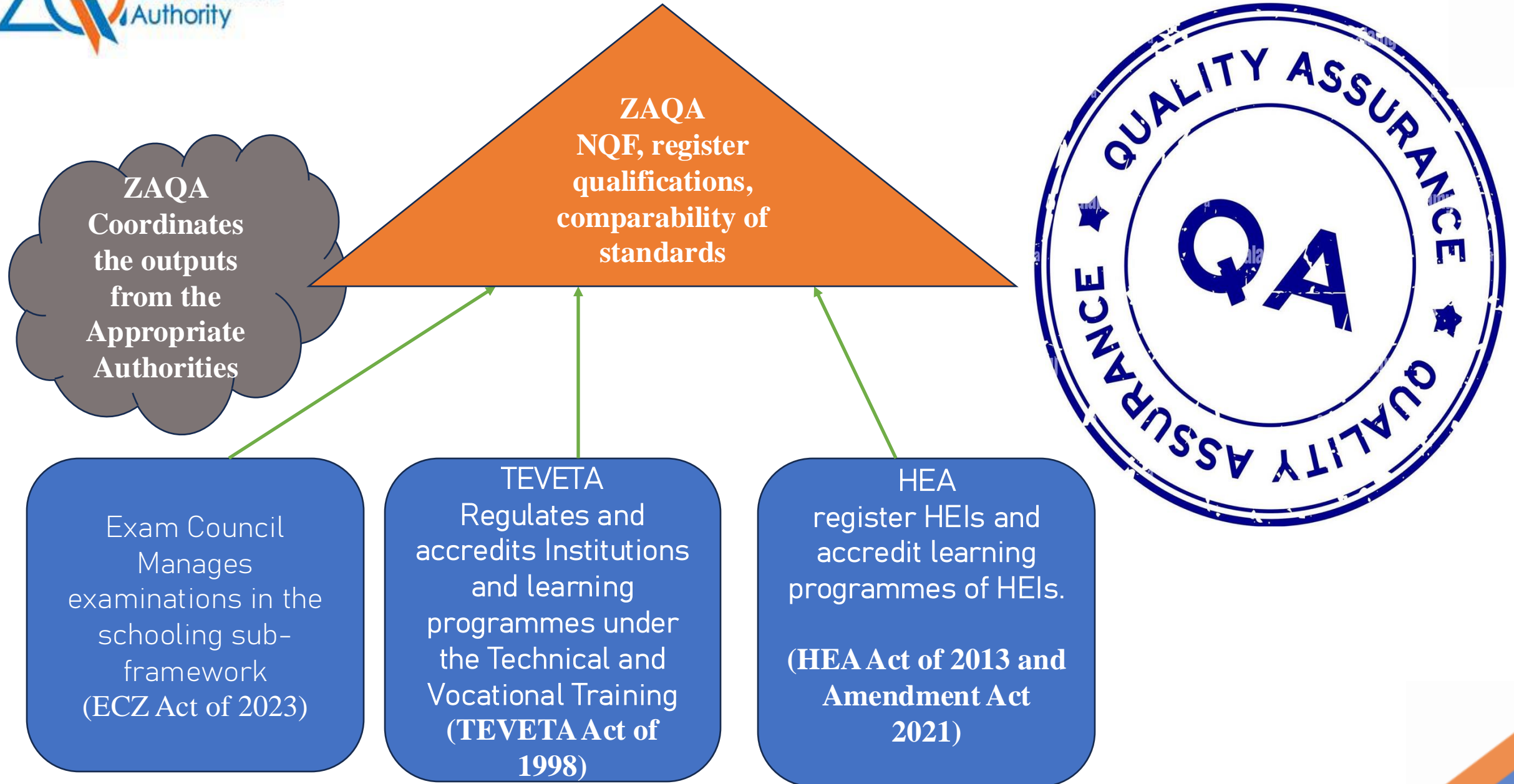
Other Ministries – Defense, Agriculture, Health etc

Liberalized economy with private players encouraged to participate (9 Public, 85 Private Universities)

The Zambia Qualifications Framework

- In 2015 implemented a 10-level National Qualifications Framework. The Zambia Qualifications Framework (ZQF) and its Level descriptors were developed in collaboration with stakeholders and Gazetted to the general public.

- The ZQF is used for classification, registration, articulation and recognition of all local and foreign qualifications in Zambia

- The ZQF harmonises and integrates all qualifications in the Zambian Education system thereby promoting access, mobility diverse learning pathways and progression for learners.

- The framework is one of the crucial standards for the quality of existing and new qualifications in the country

- All qualifications in Zambia must be registered on the NQF and ZAQA Publishes an annual list of registered qualifications that meet the set requirements

ZQF Level	General Education		Trades and Occupations	Higher Education
10				Doctorate Degree
9				Master's Degree
8				Post -Graduate Diploma
7				Bachelor's Degree (Honours) Bachelor's Degree (Ordinary)
6			Diploma	
5			Level 5 Certificate	
4			Level 4 Certificate	
3			Level 3 Certificate	
2	B	Senior Secondary Education Certificate (Grade 12)		
	A	Junior Secondary Education Certificate (Grade 9)		
1	Primary Education Certificate (Grade 7)			
Quality Assurance	Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ)		Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA)	Higher Education Authority (HEA)

Quality Assurance and Appropriate Authorities

ZAQA
Coordinates the outputs from the Appropriate Authorities

ZAQA
NQF, register qualifications, comparability of standards

Exam Council
Manages examinations in the schooling sub-framework
(ECZ Act of 2023)

TEVETA
Regulates and accredits Institutions and learning programmes under the Technical and Vocational Training
(TEVETA Act of 1998)

HEA
register HEIs and accredit learning programmes of HEIs.

(HEA Act of 2013 and Amendment Act 2021)

QUALITY ASSURANCE
QUALITY ASSURANCE
QA

Quality Assurance in Primary and Secondary Education

![Zambia Qualifications Authority logo]

Zambia Qualifications Authority

Curriculum Development Centre

Develops curricula with learning outcomes that are comparable to the relevant level descriptors prescribed on the ZQF

Department of Standards

Conducts External Quality Assurance on Primary and Secondary Schools to check compliance to various educational and training standards including the ZQF level descriptors

Examinations Council of Zambia

Implements Internal and External Quality Assurance in the assessment of primary and secondary Education. The outcome of the assessment and awarded qualifications adhere to the ZQF and its level descriptors

Secondary and Primary Schools

Quality Assurance in Trades and Vocational Training

ZAQA conducts quality assurance through monitoring of TEVETA, registration of qualifications

Technical Education Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA)

- Develops and **approves curricula** that meet standards prescribed on the ZQF

- TEVETA **conducts assessments** and awards qualifications that meet relevant ZQF Standards

- The Authority **conducts External Quality Assurance** on public and private Technical and Vocational Institutions to ensure compliance to TEVT training standards and ZQF level descriptors

- TEVETA is mandated to ensure that qualifications under its ambit are registered on the ZQF

- The institution is also mandated to ensure adherence to the appropriate ZQF-level descriptors

Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions

ZAQA conducts quality assurance through monitoring of HEA and registration of qualifications recommended by HEA

- HEA is mandated to **register Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)** and accredit learning programmes of HEIs in accordance with appropriate ZQF level descriptors.

- The Authority **conducts External Quality Assurance on public and private HEIs** to ensure adherence with ZQF and other higher educational standards.

- HEA **registers learning programmes** and **recommends qualifications** of HEIs that have meet all quality assurance requirements to be registered on the ZQF.

- HEA has developed a **categorisation for HEIs** based on the ZQF-levels. This categorisation demonstrates the quality and level of education an HEI can offer.

Other Quality Assurance Mechanisms

National Policy on Education

- ❖ Increasing access and participation in education;
- ❖ Improving quality and relevance
- ❖ Integration of emerging issues (Digital literacy, Climate change, Global citizenry)

National Curriculum Framework

- ❖ Quality of education
- ❖ Relevance and modernisation
- ❖ Alignment with international standards
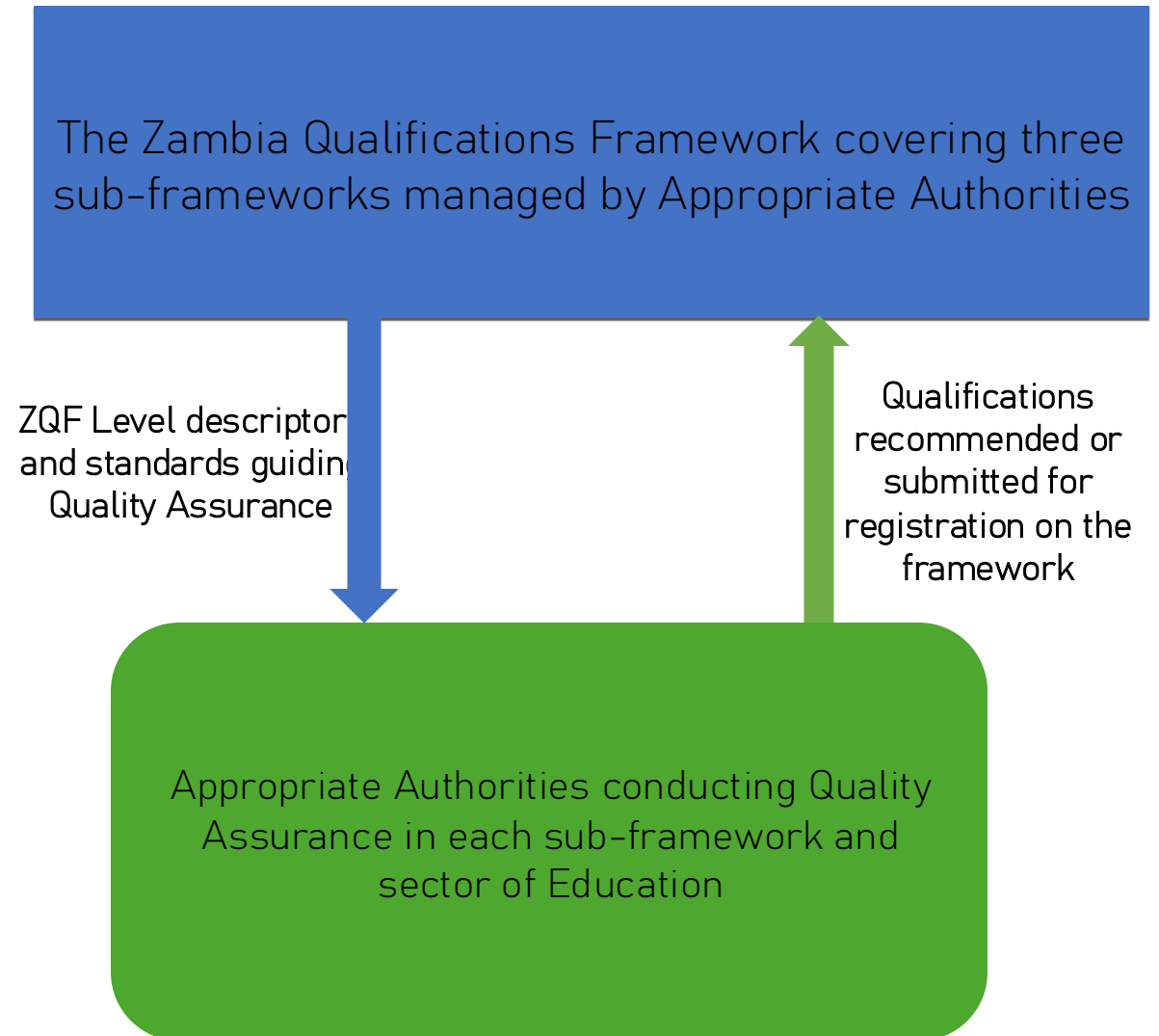- ❖ Inclusivity and equity

Ratification of Conventions

- ❖ Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States (Addis Convention)
- ❖ Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education

- ❖ Implementation of the National Qualifications Framework (currently under review).

- ❖ Registration and accreditation of qualifications meeting the minimum set standards.

Conclusions on Quality Assurance and the ZQF

- The **ZQF is a curial standard of Quality Assurance** in the Zambian education system.

- All Appropriate Authorities mandated to conduct Quality Assurance (QA) have developed mechanisms and frameworks that comply to the ZQF and its level descriptors.

- All Qualifications issued in Zambia are required to be registered on the ZQF and registration on the ZQF demonstrates that a qualification has met all quality assurance standards.

The Zambia Qualifications Framework covering three sub-frameworks managed by Appropriate Authorities

ZQF Level descriptor and standards guiding Quality Assurance

Qualifications recommended or submitted for registration on the framework

Appropriate Authorities conducting Quality Assurance in each sub-framework and sector of Education

ZIKOMO, THANK YOU

Zambia
Qualifications
Authority

you learn, we standardize