

A NEW NQF IN DEVELOPMENT AND CONSULTATION

The State of Play of Ghana's NQF- An Overview

Maxwell Amoako-Kissi
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Outline of Presentation

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Legal Basis of the Proposed NQF

- **Education Reforms**

The Government of Ghana initiated some key education reforms in 2018 to achieve the objectives of its Education Strategic Plan (ESP 2018-2030) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG4).

Legal Basis of the NQF

Education Regulatory Bodies Act

On 21st August 2020, the President of Ghana signed into law the Education Regulatory Bodies Act 2020, Act 1023 merging the erstwhile National Accreditation Board and National Council for Tertiary Education into a new regulatory body; the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC).

Legal Basis of the NQF

- The commission is mandated under Act 1023 section 8(4a) to develop and implement a National Qualification Framework and a National Learners Records Database.
- The Legislative Instrument which is to outline the modalities for the development and implementation of the proposed NQF is currently at the final stage of consideration by the Parliament of Ghana.

The Proposed NQF

- **Scope**

The Commission seeks to develop and implement a comprehensive NQF encompassing all levels and types of qualifications acquired in General Education, Higher Education, TVET and Professional Education.

- Ghana already has a TVET Sub-framework which is currently at the implementation stage.

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Key features of the Proposed NQF

- The proposed NQF will be a 10-level framework with sub-frameworks on TVET and Professional Education.
- The TVET sub-framework has been approved and is currently being implemented by the Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (C-TVET).

Key features of the NQF

- Levels of qualifications are to be determined based on level descriptors, defined in terms of the Learning Outcomes, Skills and Competencies.
- Institutions will be expected to design programmes based on clear learning outcomes compatible with the level descriptors assigned to the level of qualification expected from the programme.
- There shall be a qualifications register/database for the registration of all qualifications.

Proposed NQF Map

NQF Level	Proposed NQF for General/ Academic Qualifications	NTVET QF	NTVET QF Levels	Level of Education	
10	Doctorate Degree	Doctor of Technology	8	TERTIARY LEVEL	
9	Master's Degree	Master of Technology	7		
8	Post-graduate Diploma/ Certificate	Bachelor of Technology	6		
7	Bachelor's degree				
6	Tertiary Diploma	ABCE	Higher National Diploma		5
5	Ordinary National Diploma	GCE A'Level	GBCE		National Certificate II
4	Senior High School Certificate			National Certificate I	3
3	GCE O'Level			National Proficiency II	2
2	Junior High School Certificate	National Proficiency I	1	BASIC	
1	Primary Education (No qualification awarded)				

Challenges the NQF seeks to address

- Disjointed qualifications in the Ghanaian qualifications system.
- Difficulty in understanding qualifications for academic progression and job placement.
- Uneven horizontal and vertical progression pathways, especially between TVET and conventional/academic pathways.
- Lack of recognition of other forms of learning such as non-formal and experiential learning.

Challenges the NQF seeks to address

- Lack of a harmonised credit accumulation and transfer system.
- Diverse qualifications awarded by various categories of tertiary education institutions present a challenge to employers' decisions on acquired competencies and placement.
- Different learning outcomes and expected competency levels within and across programmes at the tertiary level of education
- Widening gap between educational attainment and labour market outcomes or expected skills.

Governance of the NQF

- The NQF is expected to be governed mainly by GTEC in collaboration with C-TVET.

Initial steps- Capacity Building

- **TVETQF Implementation**

In order to achieve the expected synergy with key stakeholders (e.g. C-TVET) in the development and implementation of the NQF, GTEC had been represented on some key Implementation Committees of the TVET Qualification Framework.

- **Participation in ACQF Activities**

A couple of staff of the Commission have been supported to participate in ACQF's peer learning webinars and training programmes.

Initial steps- Working Group

- An eight-member working group has been constituted by the Commission to work with experts and identified stakeholders towards the development and implementation of Ghnan's NQF.

Initial steps- Support from ETF

- The European Training Foundation (ETF) is providing Ghana with the much-needed expert support for the development and implementation of the proposed comprehensive NQF and related policies.

Expectation

- The Commission will work towards achieving the following outputs/deliverables by the end of 2024:
- NQF Policy document and implementation guidelines.
- Qualifications Register
- Policy on Recognition of Prior Learning(RPL)
- Policy on Credit Accumulation and Transfer System



Thank you