



Session 8



# REGIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS IN EAST AFRICA

**Presentation of Inter-University  
Council for East Africa at the  
ACQF-II Workshop**

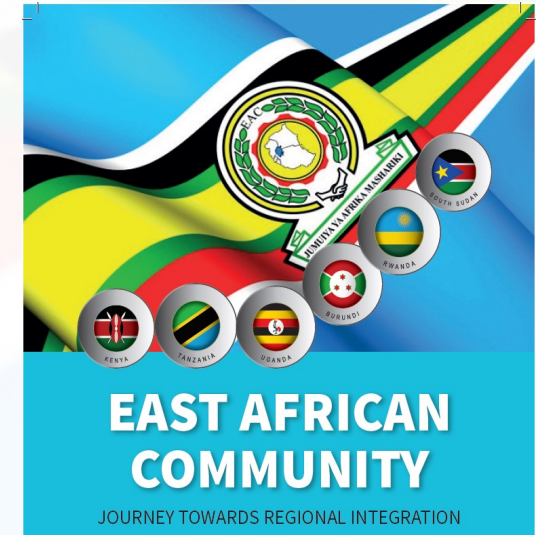
**11<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Nairobi**

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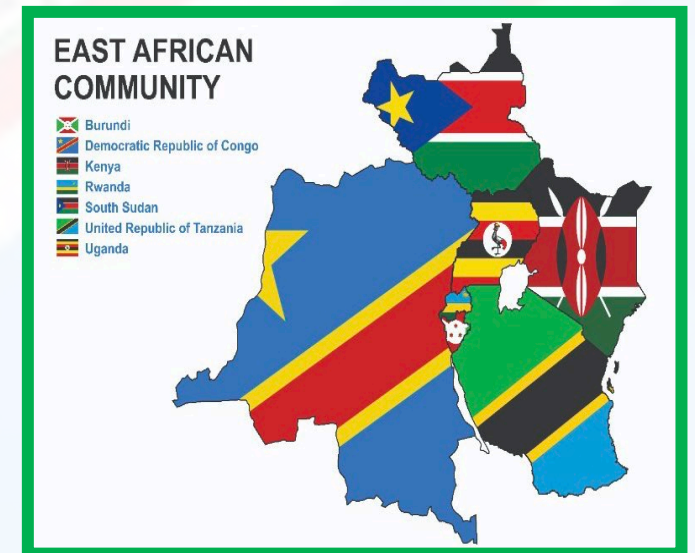




# Presentation Outline



1. Background to the QA and QF System in East Africa
2. Legal Framework for Establishing a Regional QA and QF System
3. EAC as a Common Higher Education Area
4. Regional QA & QF Policies, Tools, Frameworks
5. Strategies for establishing harmonised regional QA and QF systems
6. Concluding Remarks







# Background to the Harmonisation of QA and QF Systems



- ❖ The harmonization of quality assurance and qualifications systems in East Africa has been a gradual process.
- ❖ The hallmark of this process has been the enactment of **legal instruments**, adoption of **relevant policies**, establishment of **QA institutions/agencies** and **capacity building** programme.
- ❖ In 2006, IUCEA in conjunction with its partners agreed to jointly undertake an initiative in enhancing HE quality assurance in East Africa.
- ❖ Initially, the QA initiative involved a **consensus building process** through engaging key stakeholders in **consultative dialogue events**.



# The Legal Framework on QA and Harmonization of Higher Education in EAC



## Key Legal Instruments for Harmonisation of Quality Assurance & Qualifications in EAC:

- a) The East African Community Treaty - Art. 102 (Partner States agreed to harmonise education and promote mobility).
- b) The Common Market Protocol - Art. 11 (Free movement of people, labour and services; requiring mutual recognition of qualifications and cross-border education)
- c) The IUCEA Act, 2009 - Art. 4 & Art. 6.



**Harmonization of higher education entails the establishment of regional systems that would facilitate comparability of higher education systems in the East African Community Partner States.**





# East Africa Common Higher Education Area (EACHEA)



- ❑ The Declaration was made by the *18<sup>th</sup> Summit of the EAC Heads of State* on May 20, 2017 in Dar Es-Salaam, Tanzania
- ❑ The objective was to transform East Africa into a Common Higher Education Area characterized by **comparable, compatible, coherent and harmonized systems** of Higher Education thereby facilitating free **mobility of student, staff, programmes, and institutions, and mutual recognition of qualifications.**





# Building Blocks for the EACHEA



## 1. Regional Quality Assurance System, incorporating:

- ❖ QA policy framework
- ❖ Standards, guidelines and procedures
- ❖ Programme benchmarks

## 2. East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education, EAQFHE

- ❖ Platform for anchoring national qualifications frameworks for their harmonization
- ❖ Provides for many policies and guidelines (including **QIP, CAT, RPL**)

## 3. Regional Accreditation System (Quality Based) for Academic Programmes

## 4. Students and Staff Mobility Programme – facilitating HE mobility in the region.

## 4. East African Quality Assurance Network for Higher Education, EAQAN – A Network of quality assurance practitioners in East Africa established to promote capacity building and sharing of best practices; and to facilitate development of quality culture in the region – **An expanding family of QA practitioners**

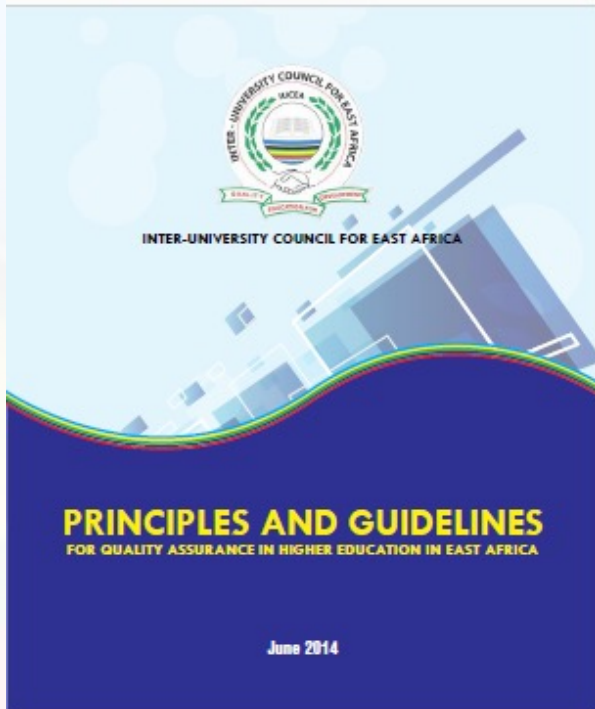




# Quality Assurance Policy Instruments

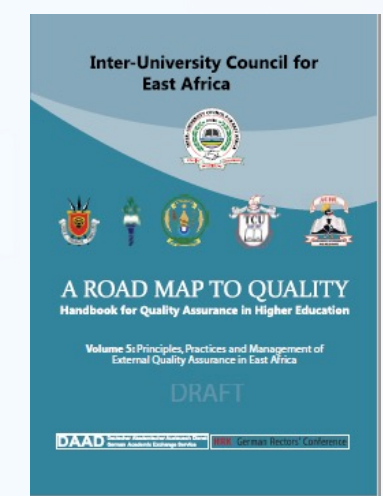
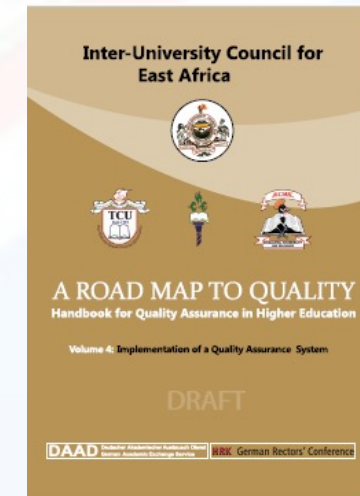
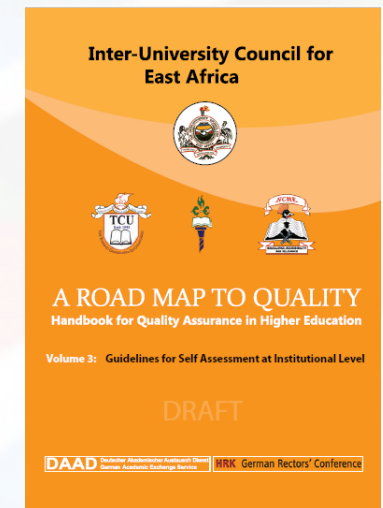
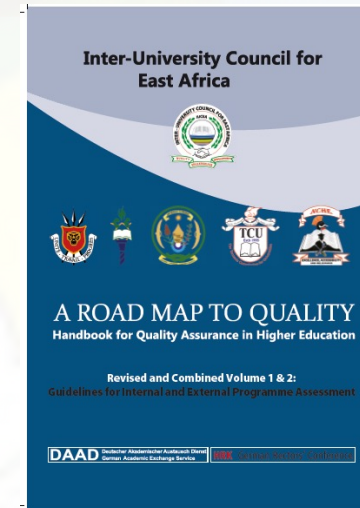


## a) Principles and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education in East Africa



**A common frame of reference guiding higher education institutions and national commissions and councils for higher or university education in developing and practicing a common quality assurance culture,**

## b) Handbook for Quality Assurance in Higher Education “Roadmap to Quality”, in 5 Volumes





# Other Relevant QA Instruments



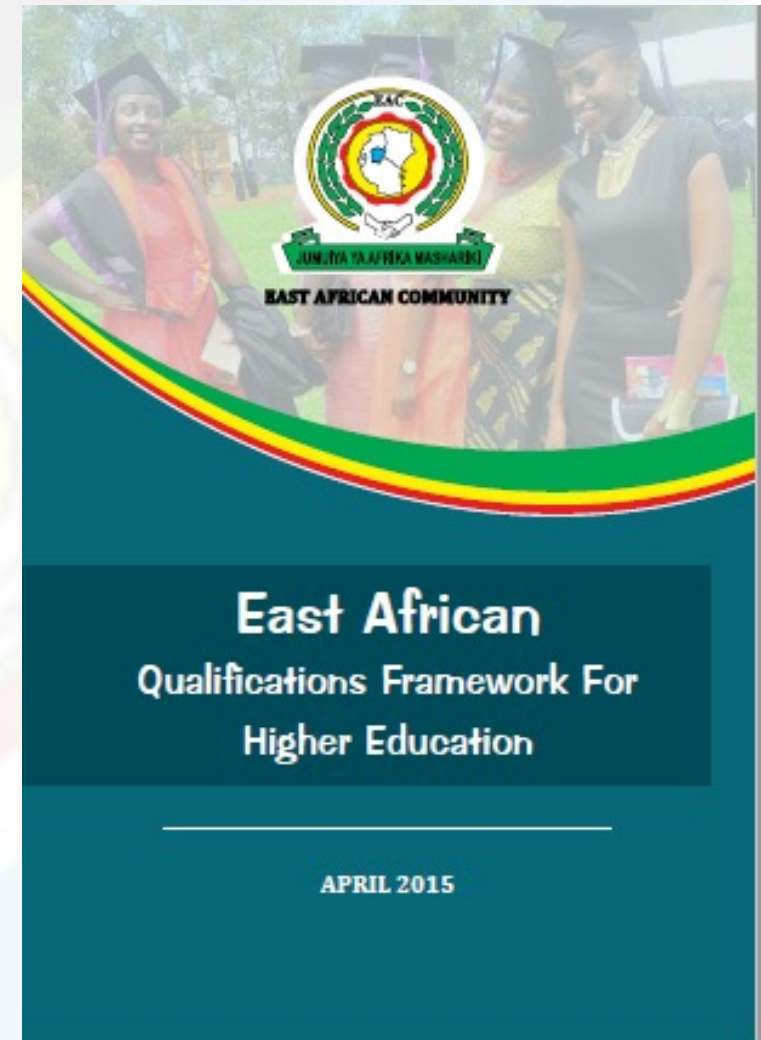




# East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (EAQFHE)



- ❖ Adopted in 2015 as an overarching framework for harmonisation of higher education and training systems in the EAC region
- ❖ Provides the framework for mutual recognition of qualifications among the EAC Partner States, thereby enabling free movement of students and labour in the Partner States
- ❖ Provides international comparability of qualifications in EAC
- ❖ Promotes workers and learners' mobility in the Community - CATS and Mutual Recognition of Qualifications
- ❖ Facilitates lifelong learning through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

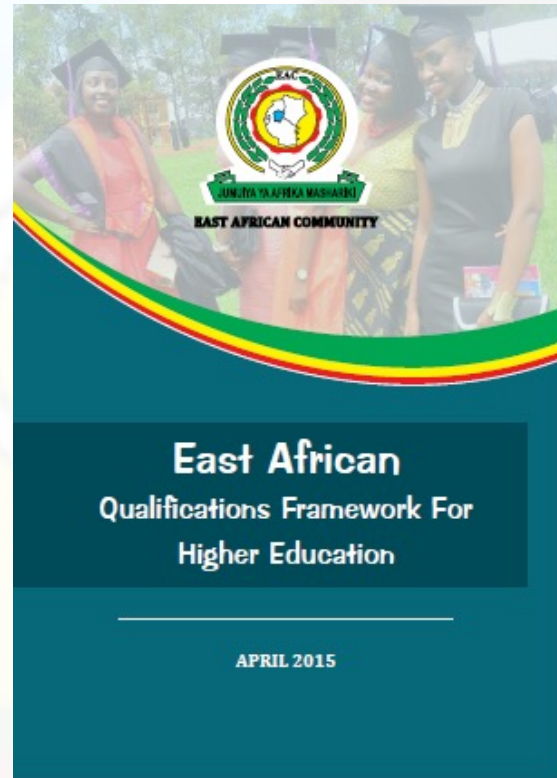




# Quality Assurance in EAQFHE and Protection of Qualifications



- The EAQFHE provides a set of qualifications framework policies, objectives and guidelines
- E.G **Qualifications Issuance Policy (QIP)** - which provides a means for protecting qualifications issued in the EAC.



- *The protection of qualifications requires that any authorised organisations delivering, assessing or issuing EAQFHE qualifications adheres to the regulatory and **quality assurance arrangements** for each qualifications type. (Policy No. 22 of QIP)*





# Quality Assurance in EAQFHE and Programme Benchmarking



## EAQFHE – Qualifications Programme Benchmarking Policy (Annex V)

- A useful policy for programme development and review
- Require benchmarks to set out the expected **attributes and competencies** of graduates (knowledge, skills, attitudes)
- Require benchmarks to defines the nature and extent of the programme content, teaching, learning and assessment
- Policy requires benchmarks to define **expected learning outcomes**; thus, it is **outcome-based, learner-centred** and allow for flexibility and innovation in programmes

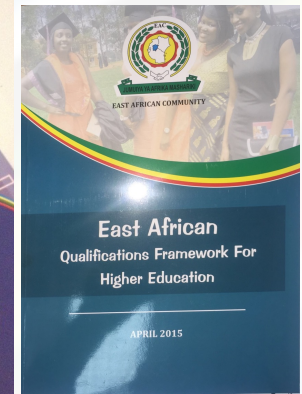
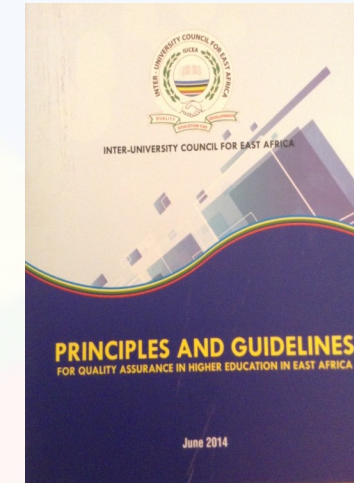
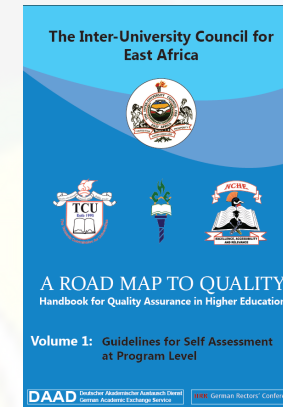




# Strategies for Intersection of QA and Qualifications Systems in EAC



- **Development** of relevant QA and QF policies to align ELO and to establish clear and transparent criteria and standards based on international practices as a way of harmonizing higher education in the region.
- **Capacity building** for operationalization of the system and provision for sustainability.
- **Holding QA dialogue events** with key stakeholders for continues sharing of information, policy reviews and adoption of best practices.
- **Quality Assurance Networking** for entrenching a quality culture in the education system







# Concluding Remarks



- The QA and Qualifications Frameworks in EAC are key educational frameworks designed to:
  - ❖ guide educational stakeholders in defining **quality of qualifications**
  - ❖ compare QA & QF systems and quality of qualifications
  - ❖ **harmonise higher education** QA and QF systems in the region
  - ❖ promote **transparency and accountability** in the provision of education service and the qualifications obtained, thus facilitating **mutual trust**
  - ❖ facilitate **mobility of learners and labour** force across different countries
- National and regional authorities need to keep the complementarity of QA and Qualifications frameworks always in focus



*Thank You*  
*Asanteni*  
*Sukurana*  
*Merci*

