



ACQF

African Continental
Qualifications Framework

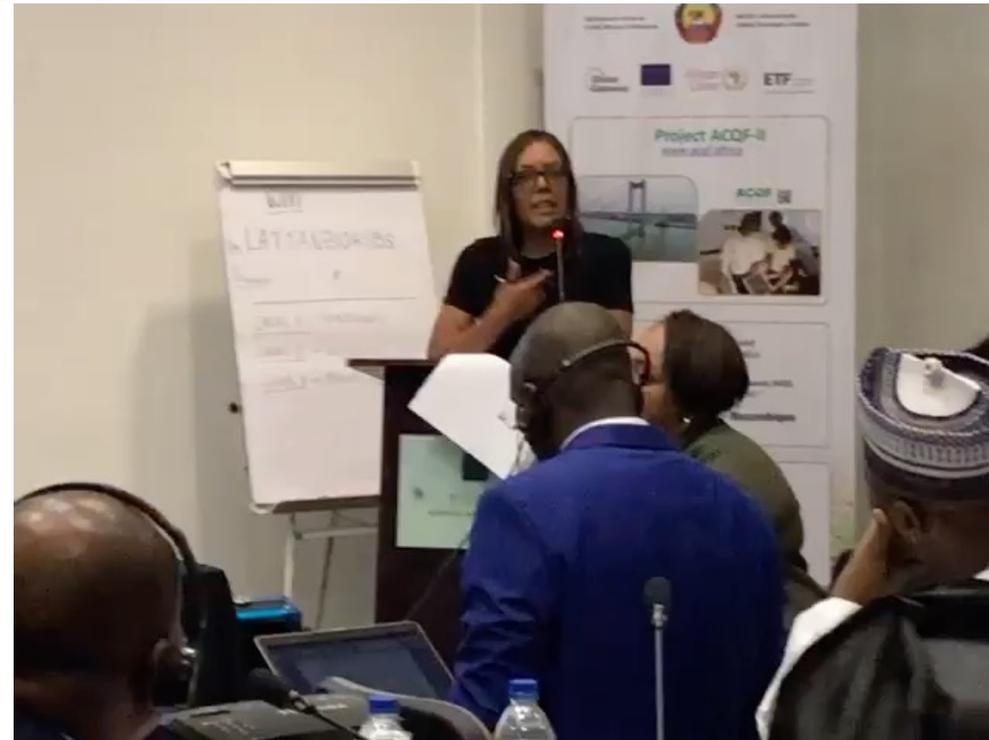
ACQF-II The Maputo Workshop Day 2 06/12/2023

ACQF is born. Supporting innovation,
NQF, holistic approach, South-South
dialogue





Opening and keynote speech



Networking and memories



Full room:
22 countries



01

ACQF workshops 2023

ACQF-II Training programme 2023

Making NQFs Operational in a time of change

Nairobi: 9-11/Oct



Accra: 7-8/Nov



Maputo: 5-6/Dec



Themes

Foundations

Based on ACQF Guidelines & TM

- NQF: transparency, comparability – the systemic view
- Level descriptors
- Learning Outcomes
- Quality assurance
- Articulation
- Credit Systems
- Registration of qualifications
- Governance
- Referencing NQF-ACQF

Change

- RPL and NQF: inclusion, innovation
- Green skills – towards green frameworks / education
- Digitalisation: at all levels. AI
- Qualifications Networks and Platform, incl ACQF QCP
- Links NQF-Recognition of qualification (Addis, Global)

Maputo: Agenda 5-6 December

Day 1:

- **Session 4:** African TVET Round Table and the new Qualifications Network. *Ms Antoinette K. Kabenga, Minister TVET and Trades, DR Congo*
 - **Session 2:** Keynote: Are Qualifications Systems ready to embrace and enable change in society, learning and work? *Nadia Starr, SAQA*
 - **Session 3:** Panel: From debate to action: what change do we need for better qualifications, mobility, articulation and recognition? 5 panelists. *Dr Winnie Bulimo (KNQA)*
 - **Session 5:** Recognition of qualifications for LLL and employment: a pressing need for societies and individuals. *Prof. L. Gueye; J. Mwewa. Fiona Ernesta, SQA*
 - Lunch
 - **Session 6:** 2 parallel sessions
 1. Transforming NQFs: separate room. Cases: South Africa, Seychelles, Namibia, EQF. *Euarda (EN)*
 2. New skills, qualifications and credentials. *Al. James Keevy*
-

Day 2

- **Session 7:** ACQF Inventory of NQFs, RPL and micro-credentials. *Donatas Pocius, ACQF-II (PPMI)*
 - **Session 8:** 2 parallel sessions
 1. On digitalisation: small room. Jan Forster, Eduarda, James Keevy. *Eduarda (EN)*
 2. On social inclusion – focus on RPL. Cases: Mozambique, Cameroon, Cabo Verde. *James Mwewa*
 - **Coffee break**
 - **Session 9:** NQF - New developments and perspectives. *Cases: D. R. Congo, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Chad.*
 - **Session 10:** Closure
 - **Lunch**
 - **14:00-17.30: Study visit: a) CNAQ and b) ANEP (2 groups – 2 buses)**
 - **18.30-20-30: Cocktail in the hotel**
-

02

ACQF in 2023...in brief

- Video ACQF-II – 2023 key activities

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uR6j0TF7zMecTqfkg_wafWojvjk4WKLe/view?usp=sharing

01

ACQF is born

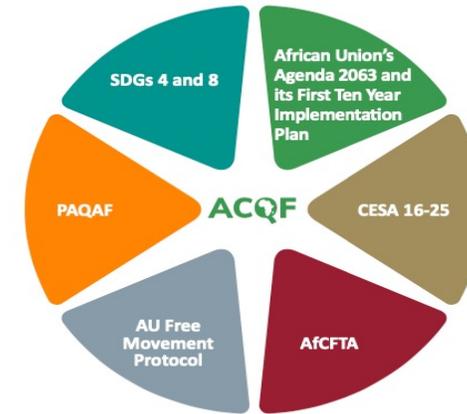


ACQF is born: underpinnings, purposes, principles

PURPOSES OF ACQF

- 1 Enhance** → Enhance comparability, quality and transparency of qualifications of all types and levels, support people's lifelong learning outcomes.
- 2 Facilitate** → Facilitate validation of learning, recognition of skills, diplomas and certificates and mobility of learners and workers
- 3 Cooperate** → Work in cooperation and complementarity with national and regional qualifications frameworks and support African continental integration and creation of African common space of trusted qualifications.
- 4 Promote** → Promote cooperation and referencing between qualifications frameworks (national, regional) in Africa and worldwide.

UNDERPINNINGS



PRINCIPLES

Inclusiveness:
all levels and types of qualifications, all modes of lifelong learning

Innovation:
future-proof, new demands - emerging skills, green skills, transversal skills

Openness:
to participation of all stakeholders, good practice, lessons learned (African, global)

AU Political and legal basis

- Agenda 2063 and its First Ten Year Implementation Plan
 - CESA 16-25
 - AfCFTA
 - AU Free Movement Protocol
 - PAQAF
-



The ACQF is mentioned in strategic objective 4 of CESA 16-25. (African Union. CESA 16-25. pg 23).

- Strategic objective 4 c) and d) explicitly refer to the establishment of qualifications frameworks, notably a continental qualifications framework linked with national and regional qualifications frameworks:
 - Strategic objective 4: *“Ensure acquisition of requisite knowledge and skills as well as improved completion rates at all levels and groups through harmonization processes across all levels for national and regional integration”*.
- a) Set up national qualification frameworks (NQFs) and regional qualification frameworks (RQFs) to facilitate the creation of multiple pathways to acquisition of skills and competencies as well as mobility across the sub-sectors**
 - b) Develop continental qualifications framework linked to regional qualifications and national qualification frameworks to facilitate regional integration and mobility of graduates**
-

Main areas of activity of the ACQF (Policy Document)

1. Referencing of national qualifications frameworks and systems to the ACQF, following agreed criteria and procedures.

2. Support recognition of prior learning – for example, the development of common guidelines and approaches, updated inventory of RPL systems on the continent, a wide information and support campaign

3. ACQF Qualifications Platform (database) and management information system

4. Qualifications: Development of qualifications profiles adequate for common continental use (e.g.: related with economic integration / AfCFTA).

5. Capacity development in relevant areas. Online, onsite, hybrid.

6. Advocacy, communication, networking and cooperation: African stakeholders (education and training, employment, social partners) and other RQFs globally

7. Analysis, monitoring and evaluation: for continuous improvement.

African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF)

Inaugural workshop of the project ACQF-II (2023-2026)

11-13 July 2023 • Addis Ababa, Headquarters of the African Union

ACQF

African Continental Qualifications Framework

Supporting and connecting Qualifications Frameworks
Transparency and Mutual Trust in qualifications
Facilitating lifelong learning and mobility

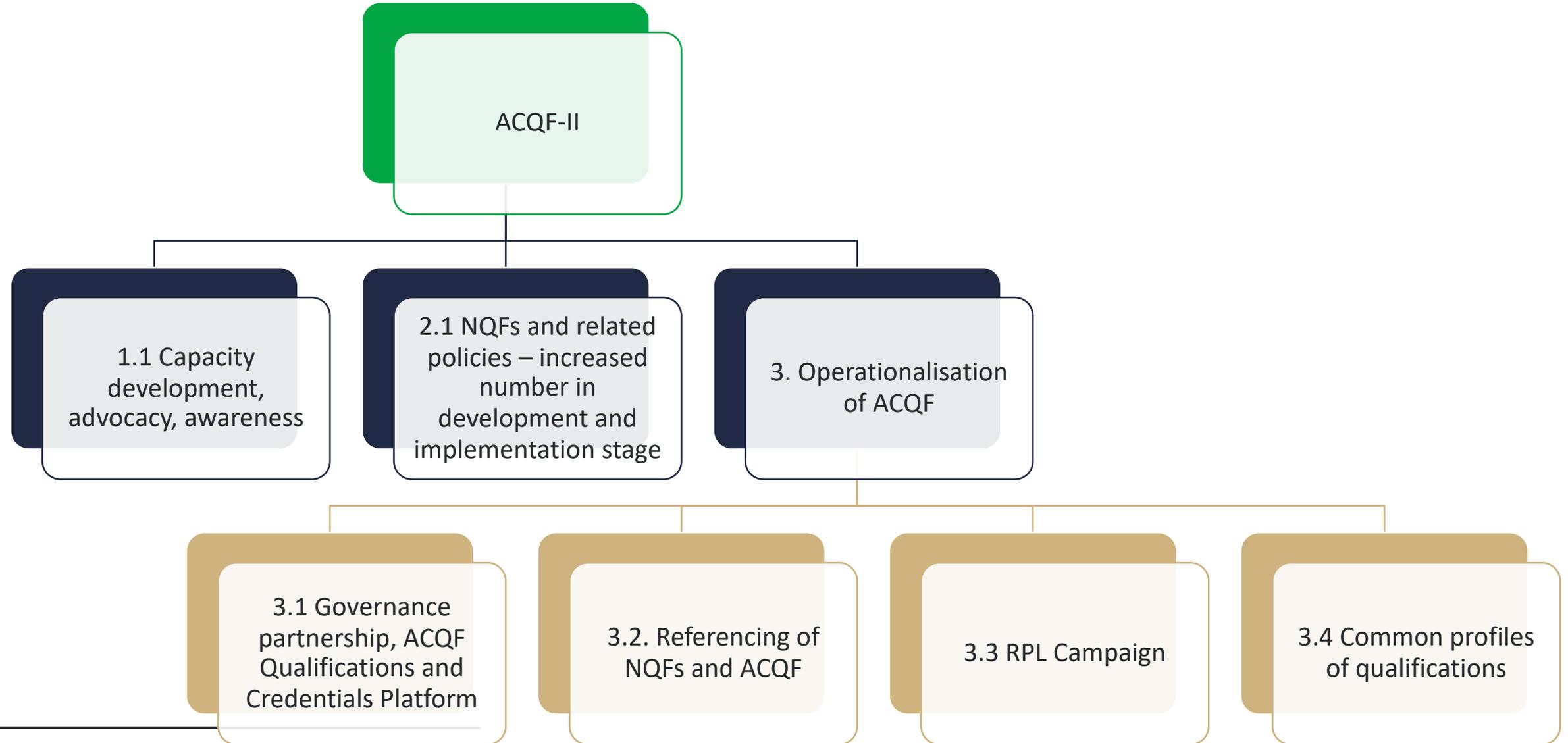


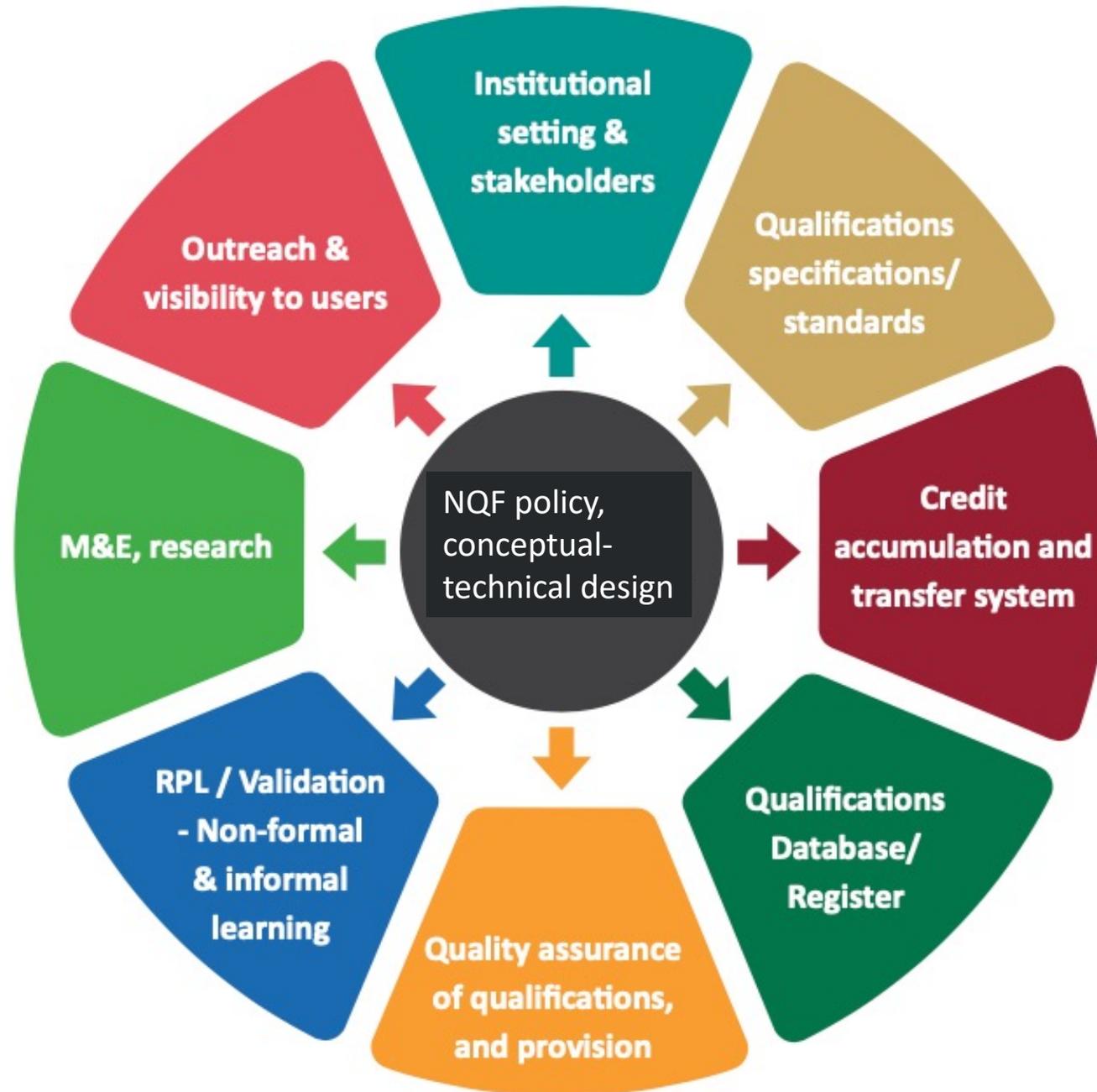
ACQF-II is:

1. Capacity development.
2. Support countries and regions: NQF development and implementation.
3. Governance. ACQF Qualifications Platform. RPL Campaign. Referencing NQF-ACQF. Common profiles of qualifications

www.acqf.africa

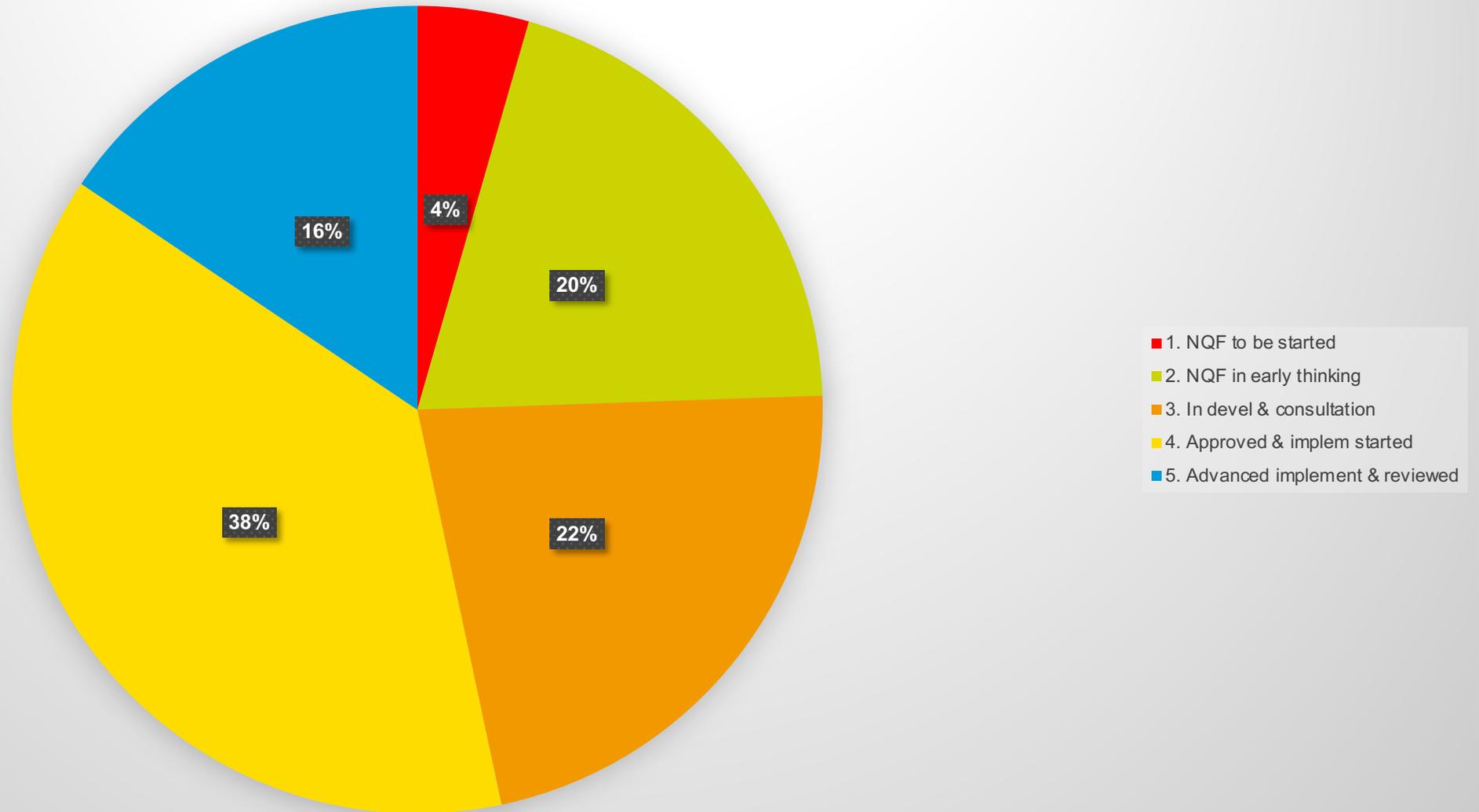
ACQF-II project: supporting implementation of ACQF as a policy instrument (2023-2026)





- NQF: a systemic view or an eco-system
- NQFs do not work in isolation
- NQF must adapt to change and meet new demands from the transformation of work, technology, learning, climate, demography
- NQFs and RQFs belong to all stakeholders

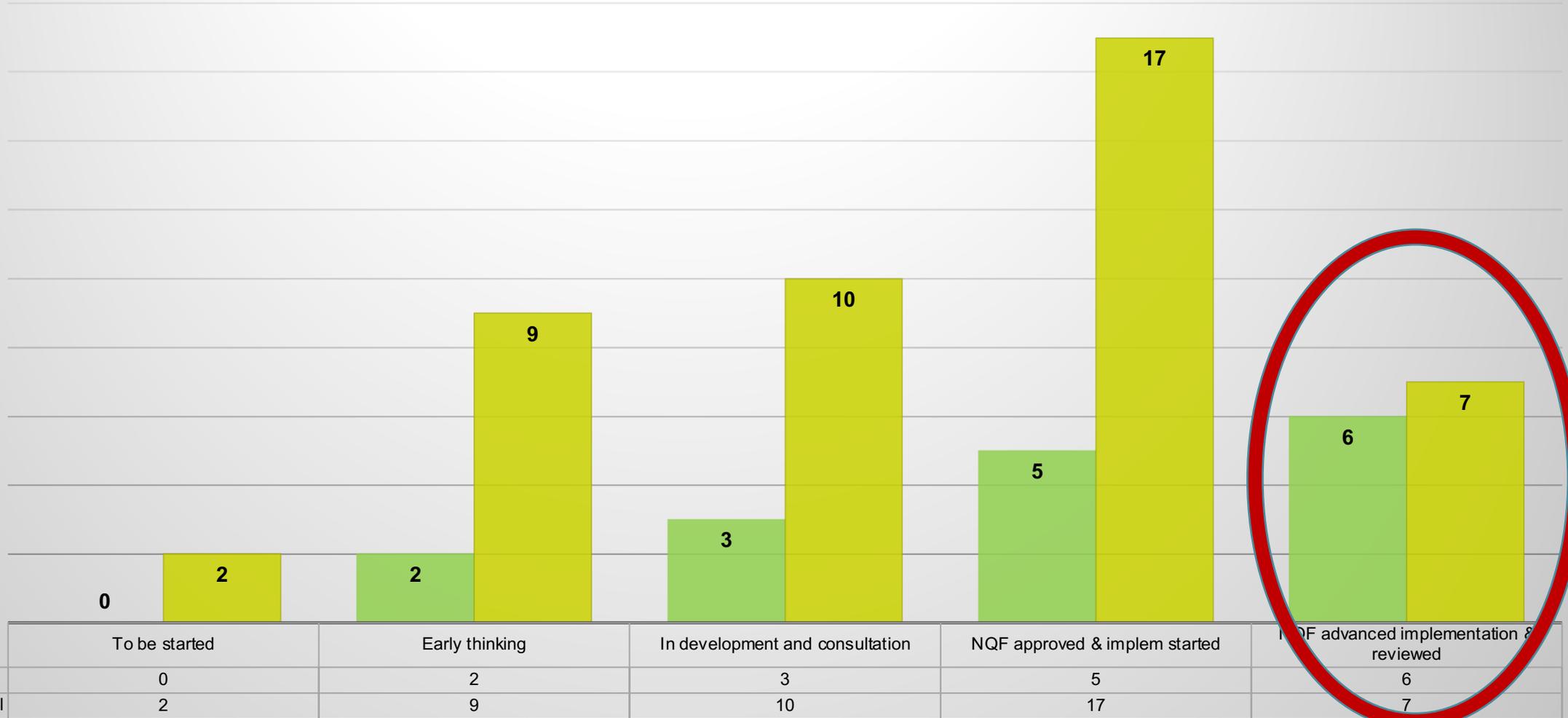
NQFs in Africa: 5 stages of development & implementation Number: 45 countries



NQF IN AFRICA - SADC

NQFs in Africa (total) - SADC (Nr countries: 45)

Number of NQF



■ Nr NQF in SADC
■ Nr NQF in Africa total

ACQF: a new catalyst for mutual trust

1. ACQF is born: the largest Meta-Qualifications Framework in the World
2. ACQF-II project supports implementation
3. Change and synchronisation
 - South-South dialogue, sharing, common African knowledge basis
 - Capacity development and networking for mutual trust (multi-country)
 - Complementarity and support to countries' NQF and related policies
 - Holistic view to education-training and qualifications
 - ACQF Qualifications and Credentials Platform (QCP)
 - Sustainability: A new "African Qualifications Network" – based on Countries' initiative, supported by AUC

Secretária de Estado do Ensino Técnico e Profissional
 MCTES – Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Ensino Superior
 Global Gateway
 European Union
 African Union
 ETF
ACQF
 African Continental Qualifications Framework
Project ACQF-II
www.acqf.africa

Capacity Development & networking programme 2023
 "Making National Qualifications Frameworks (NQF) operational in a changing world."
The Maputo Workshop - Mozambique
 05-06 Dezembro 2023

Programme de renforcement des capacités et de réseautage 2023
 « Rendre les cadres nationaux des certifications (CNC) opérationnels dans un monde en mutation. »
Maputo - Mozambique
 05-06 Dezembro 2023

Programa de Desenvolvimento de Capacidades e Networking 2023
 "Tornar operacionais os Quadros Nacionais de Qualificações (QNQ) num mundo em mudança."
O Workshop de Maputo - Moçambique
 05-06 Dezembro 2023

South-South dialogue and sharing: ACQF among the good practices 2023

<https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Good-Practices-in-SSTC-Transforming-Education-and-Delivering-on-SDG4.pdf>

GOOD PRACTICES

in South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Transforming Education and Delivering on SDG 4



ACQF Model of Capacity development activities

Multi-country: Annually

- 3 training workshops
- 2 conferences (1 online)
- Up to 3 webinars



Country specific plan

- Training workshops
- Meetings and debates
- Webinars

ACQF-II Training programme 2023

- Welcome
- Benvinda(o)s
- Bienvenu(e)s



Nairobi: 9-11/Oct



Accra: 7-8/Nov



Maputo: 5-6/Dec



Country-specific capacity development activities directly linked to NQF dialogue (2023-24)

Guinea-Bissau

Sierra Leone

Senegal

D.R Congo

Somalia

South Sudan



The Nairobi workshop



Ownership
Peer sharing and dialogue
Mutual learning
Hospitality



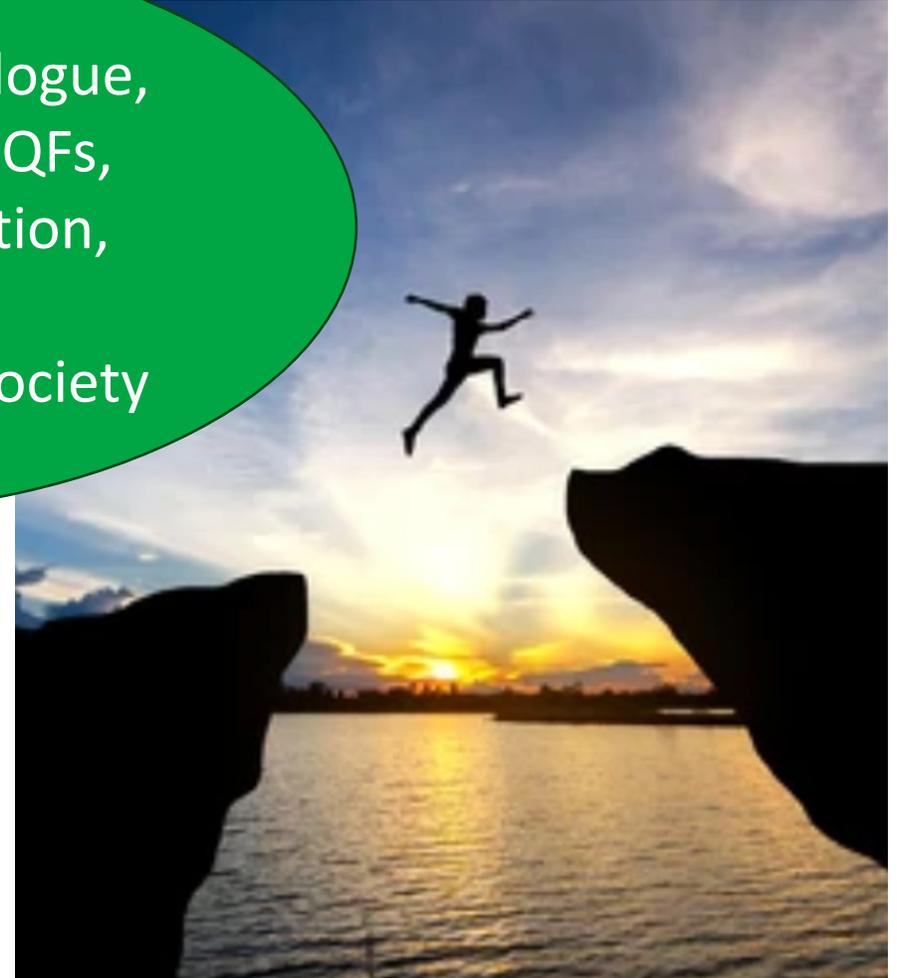
The Accra Workshop



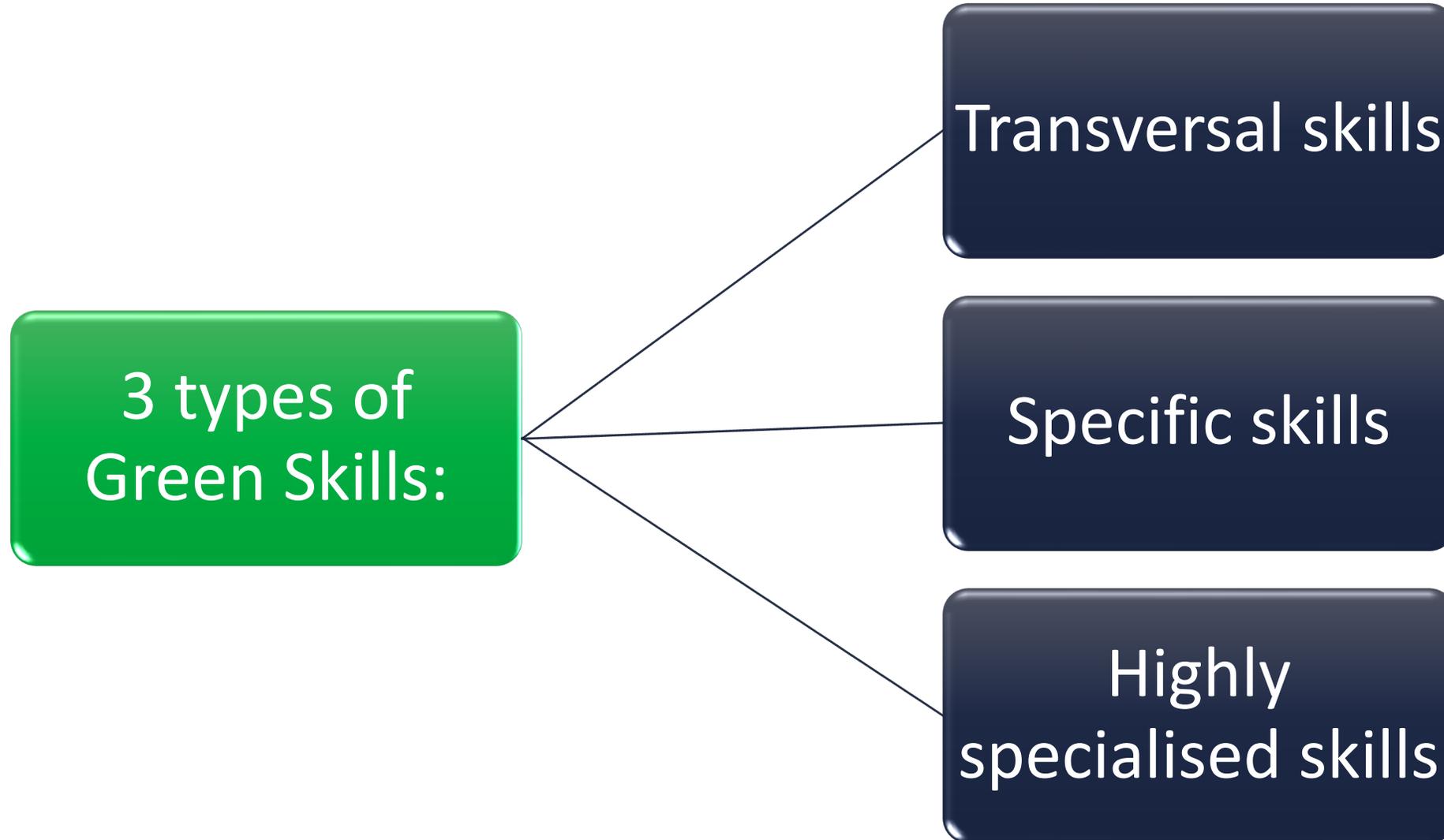
Holistic view on education-skills and qualifications

- Education, training, and upskilling – in a life-long perspective
 - All sectors and qualifications
 - All modalities of learning
 - All forms of recognition of learning outcomes
 - All types of credentials and qualifications
 - Digitalisation

Multiple loops of dialogue, cooperation: with RQFs, TVET, Higher Education, Recognition of Qualifications, Civil Society



Green skills: the new imperative



Greener jobs future

- To compensate for expected job losses, global efforts to decarbonize in response to the climate crisis are giving rise to a wealth of green jobs across sectors and industries.
- A green-recovery scenario could generate around 3.5% of additional global GDP growth and a net employment gain of 9 million new jobs each year, according to International Energy Agency data.
- The green transition could **create 30 million jobs globally in clean energy, efficiency and low-emissions technologies by 2030.**
- But while there has been continued growth in green jobs for the past four years, **reskilling and upskilling towards green skills is not keeping pace.**

A defined and central place for green skills



Conceptual Framework for Africa?

Reflection and dialogue in the education and training system

Review and adjust curricula, modules, certifications

Integrating green skills into the level descriptors of NQF (skills, attitudes...)

Contextualized Best Practices: Identify, Analyse, Compare, Disclose and Assess

Cooperate: Top-down and bottom-up

ACQF surveys

- On NQF
- On Micro-Credentials
- On RPL

Results presented
at Maputo
workshop

ACQF Qualifications and Credentials Platform: a game changer

Qualifications Databases Network

- National Qualifications Databases – with users Platform
- Continental Qualifications Database – with users Platform

Enhance
qualifications
management

Improve
information-
sharing

Interoperability
(African and
beyond)

Sustainability: new African Qualifications Network

- Result of 1st TVET Round Table 10-14 November 2023, Kinshasa
 - Package of Recommendations – to AUC
 - Key features and proposals on mission and governance of the Network
-



02

European Qualifications Framework

- Growing number of countries: 41 countries
 - 4th EQF Evaluation: published early 2024
 - 2 comparison exercises with non-EQF countries: Ukraine and Cabo Verde; and with SADCQF started.
 - Digitalisation: Europass, Qualifications Database, Digital certificates, ELM
 - RPL: strong impetus, new European Guidelines Validation, Validation Festival, Validation Inventory and related research (national, comparative, specific themes)
 - Linkages with other EU policies and tool: on education, recognition (incl. automatic mutual), employment
 - ESCO: updates of the Taxonomy; AI-based tools for linking learning outcomes of qualifications to ESCO (Skills and Occupations)
-

Who is the EQF for?



What is the implementation status of the EQF?



All 41 EQF countries have **national qualifications frameworks**;

36 of them have **referenced** and 8 presented an **updated referencing report**;



34 countries **indicate EQF levels** on certificates, diplomas or supplements,



25 countries **indicate EQF levels** on databases or registers of qualifications;

NQFs in the EQF area

- Renewed referencing: growing number of countries – to present and discuss developments (in place or underway)
 - Growing attention to place and role of qualifications from non-formal domain / area, professional and economic sectors
 - Role and place for micro-credentials
 - Digitalisation
-

04

THANK YOU!

Coffee / tea break:
We resume in 20 minutes

Pause café / thé :
Nous reprenons dans 20
minutes

Pausa para café / chá:
Retomamos em 20 minutos



Lunch break:

We resume in 1 hour

Déjeuner:

Nous reprenons dans 1
heure

Almoço:

Retomamos em 1 hora

