



South African Qualifications Authority

SADC QVN PRESENTATION

17 June 2026



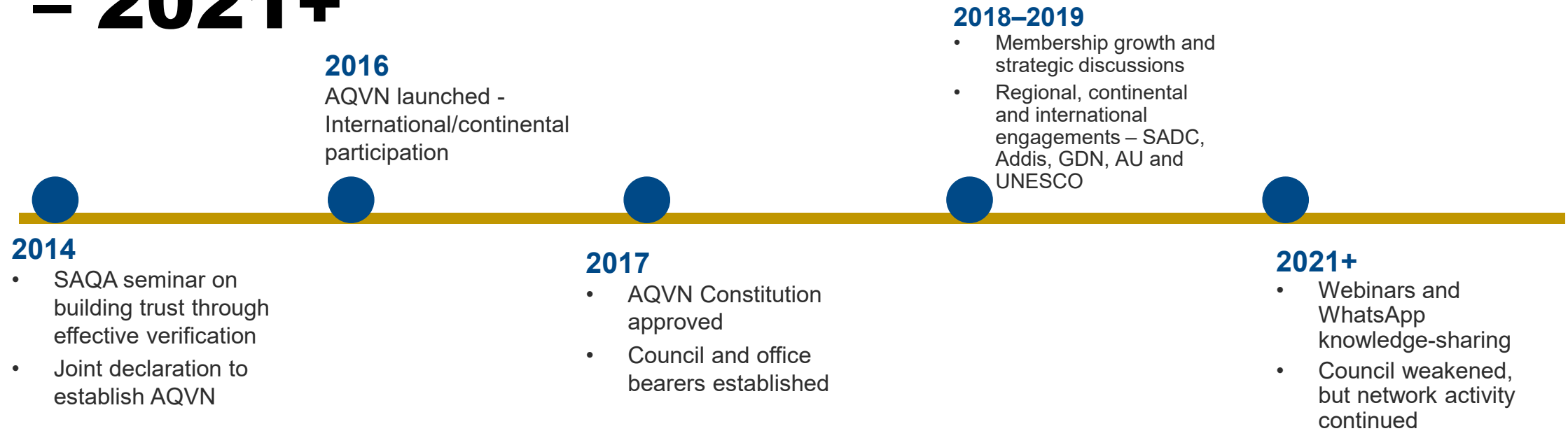
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SQVN/AQVN State of play: from 2014 – 2021+



Implication

There's a need for reactivation / structured operationalisation of an existing ecosystem, not creation of a completely new structure.

Shortly thereafter there was also an initiative to establish a SADC QVN with a similar mandate but focused specifically on SADC countries. However, overlap between the two initiatives led to some duplication, and as a result, the SADC-focused network did not gain traction and largely remained conceptual

Objectives of the AQVN

- Bring together key stakeholders who share a common interest in determining qualification levels and verifying qualifications;
- Encourage the professional development of members who are involved in verifying qualifications and, where possible, create opportunities for professional development;
- Establish and share good practice through collaboration and innovation;
- Promote effective communication and cooperation and common platform between the network members;
- Advocate to broaden support for the network from a range of stakeholders including African Ministries, organisations and donor agencies; and
- Expand the Network and alignment with the principles of Addis Convention, explore ways to collaborate with other relevant Networks in the continent and globally.

Pillar 1: Governance

Status: No governance structure

- **Challenges:**

- Membership growth is impacted by, among other factors, lack of governance.
- No clear direction or decision-making authority – AQVN operating informally.
- Weakened accountability and compliance.
- Poor participation across countries.
- No sustained operating model (funding, resources).
- No centralised platform for document storage, version control, and knowledge management.

- **Recommendation:**

- Formalise QVN in SADC region – SADC TCCA as governance structure (ACQF network for AQVN if necessary)
 - Define membership structure and responsibilities
 - Membership affiliation (forms, fees and constitution governing rules and regulations)
 - Confirm funds and contributors
- Support professional community of practice
- MRQs that enable more efficient processing of verification

Pillar 2: Technology

- **Current:** WhatsApp-driven network.
- **Challenges:**
 - No centralised system.
 - No data management or integration.
 - No tracking or workflow capability.
 - Data-sharing across institutions.
 - No audit trail or institutional memory.
- **Recommendation:** Retain Whatsapp community of practice while;
 - Promote digitisation of learner records across Africa.
 - Development of interoperable continental databases and systems.
 - Real-time verification support.
 - Data-sharing across institutions and countries.

Strategic recommendations

- Re-establish the SQVN structures and resources (Council, AGM and memberships).
- Define roles, accountability and participation standards.
- Formalise the community of practice into a structured network of peer exchange.
- A strategic investment in technology is required to bridge the gap between informal, unstructured engagement and a governed, digital verification ecosystem

SADC Qualifications Verification Network (QVN) / AQVN

Background & Current State

• 2014 – 2021+: AQVN Journey

Founded via SAQA seminar; formally launched 2016 across 11+ African countries. Constitution approved 2017; Council & office bearers established.

Post-2022 Reality

Council weakened; network reduced to a WhatsApp group (97 members, 26 countries). No governance, no decision-making authority, no structured activities.

Key Implication

This is a reactivation challenge, not a new-build. An ecosystem already exists and requires structured operationalisation.

Two Pillars: Governance & Technology

PILLAR 1: GOVERNANCE

Challenges: No constitution enforcement, no accountability, no funding model, no centralised knowledge management.

Solutions: Reactivate Council & AGM; define membership structures; formalise community of practice; align with AU, UNESCO, SADC & ILO.

PILLAR 2: TECHNOLOGY

Challenges: No centralised system, no data management, no audit trail or institutional memory.

Near-term: Establish knowledge centres storing AQVN data and accreditation records.

Long-term: Digitise learner records; build interoperable continental databases; enable real-time verification.

Strategic Recommendations

1. Re-establish structures

Reconstitute the Council, AGM and membership framework.

2. Define roles & accountability

Set clear participation standards and decision-making authority.

3. Formalise the community of practice

Move beyond WhatsApp; create a governed, structured network.

4. Reposition as continental infrastructure

Align AQVN with Addis Convention, ACQF, AU and global verification standards.

5. Drive digital transformation

Integrate governance and technology for a sustainable, data-driven verification ecosystem.

Questions to audience

- Would an informal QVN suit you better, or a formal one?
- If you prefer a formal one, how should we formalise?
- Regional or continental or progressive?
- Does your organisation have systems that can integrate with others?



GDN Website QR Code



*Thank you
Ngiyathokoza
Enkosi
Dankie
Ngiyabonga
Kea leboga
Ndza khensa
Ndo livhuwa*

