



## Summary of Deliberations

### Meeting of the SADC Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation (TCCA) held on 27-28 September 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa

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1. The SADC Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation (TCCA) held a meeting from 27-28 September 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officers and Directors of national institutions responsible for certification and accreditation of education and skills training, from the following Member States: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe and the SADC Secretariat.

2. The meeting was chaired by Namibia, Mr Franz Gertze, as the current chair of SADC TCCA. The chair opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates. He indicated that there would be some staffing changes at the SADC Secretariat and the composition of members of the TCCA and reiterated that this should not affect the momentum and continuity of the work that TCCA has achieved. He emphasised that the focus of the TCCA must be aligned to the SADC theme for the year, which is *promoting infrastructure development and youth empowerment for sustainable development*. He commended South Africa for its exemplary leadership and discharging the work of the TCCA.
3. South Africa, as the outgoing chair made some handover remarks. Mr Joe Samuels recalled that following consultation with the SADC Secretariat, the TCCA was revived in 2016 and has since been active in discharging its role in the implementation of the SADCQF. To fast-track the implementation of the SADC Qualifications Framework (SADCQF) (which had been approved by Ministers in 2011 in Namibia and launched in 2017 in Eswatini) it was agreed that the TCCA should meet twice a year to implement regional actions with respect to the SADCQF. A TCCA Executive Committee (TCCA EXCO) constituted of the Troika Member States was established to monitor and follow-up matters under TCCA in between meetings. Recognising the limited human capacity at the Secretariat, Member States volunteered to support the Secretariat on day-to-day activities with respect to the implementation of the SADCQF. In addition, Member States took responsibility to drive the six implementation programmes of the SADCQF.
4. The meeting reviewed and adopted the minutes of the previous TCCA meeting held on 24-25 May 2018, and the minutes of the TCCA EXCO held on 15 June 2018 in South Africa. The TCCA noted that all action points had been fully implemented.

5. The TCCA reviewed and discussed the decisions of the meeting of Ministers of Education and Training; and Science, Technology and Innovation which was held from 21-22 June 2018 in Durban, South Africa and highlighted actions to be implemented. The meeting emphasised that the TCCA should find constructive ways of working together with the other SADC technical committees on education.
6. The meeting received a presentation on decisions of the Committee of Ministers of Trade (CMT) with respect to development of mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) for professional services. The TCCA underscored the need to work with other sectoral technical committees with a stake in the recognition of qualifications.
7. A presentation was made on decisions of Ministers of Education and Training; and Science, Technology and Innovation about the regional engineering needs and numbers study. Member States were requested to review the draft country reports to be validated at an *Experts meeting on the Regional Engineering Study* in November 2018.
8. The meeting received a presentation from the Southern African Association of Educational Assessment (SAAEA) on its work, governance and membership requirements. The meeting noted SAAEA's desire to seek official recognition from SADC. It was noted that currently ten Member States are members of SAAEA and other Member States were invited to join. Members also noted the importance of synergising the work of SAAEA and that of TCCA to ensure that there is no duplication.
9. Progress, on the six implementation programmes of the SADCQF, was reviewed namely:
  - a. *Governance*: The TCCA approved the funding proposal for implementing the SADCQF. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the TCCA EXCO, will submit the funding proposal to potential funders including SADC Ministers;

- b. *Alignment of NQFs to the SADCQF*: South Africa provided an update on this programme including the first deadline for submission of national alignment reports. Member States who are ready to submit their national reports, were urged to do so by 2 November 2018;
- c. *Verification*: Eswatini provided an update on the verification projects. In line with the Ministers decision, members will submit statistical data, including disaggregated data on misrepresented qualifications, to the SADC Secretariat by 30 April 2019. The e-Certificate pilot is going ahead. With respect to the Recognition Manual, following the failure to secure a consultant through the open bidding process, the TCCA recommended a limited bidding process be followed and for the SADC Secretariat to circulate the Terms of Reference to all Member States. The meeting also took note that the next meeting of the African Qualifications Verification Network (AQVN) will take place in Ghana on 30-31 October 2018;
- d. *Quality assurance*: Botswana updated members on the progress with this programme. The meeting noted that Member States need to update their information on credible institutions and quality assurance, and respond to Botswana. The following upcoming quality assurance conferences will take place:
- The *4<sup>th</sup> Southern African Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education* will be held in Maseru, Lesotho from 8-10 October 2018; and
  - The *UNESCO Regional Consultation on Quality Assurance*, will be held in South Africa on 20-21 November 2018;
- e. *Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CATS) and Articulation*: Namibia presented a comprehensive report on the RPL alignment, Guidelines on CATS and Articulation and was commended for the work completed in this programme. A clear road map for this programme was presented and adopted. Budgetary allocations by SADC will be considered for the next financial year;

- f. *Advocacy and Communication*: Zambia presented a comprehensive report on this programme. Members were encouraged to identify a communication focal point to facilitate information sharing between SADC Secretariat and Member States to popularise National Qualifications Frameworks/ Systems and the SADCQF. The meeting emphasised the importance of disseminating all official documents in all three SADC languages: English, French and Portuguese.
10. The meeting agreed that the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) will provide administrative support to the SADC Secretariat until 31 March 2019. The next country that will be taking on this responsibility will be Botswana from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.
11. The meeting confirmed that the next meetings of the TCCA would be as follows:
- TCCA EXCO: 3 December 2018 in South Africa;
  - TCCA: 8- 9 May 2019 in South Africa;
  - TCCA EXCO: 14 June 2019 in Namibia; and
  - TCCA: 26- 27 September 2019 in South Africa.

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**Meeting statement issued by the TCCA and the SADC Secretariat**

**2018-09-28**