Summary of Deliberations
Meeting of the SADC Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation
(TCCA) held on 24-25 May 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa

1.0 The SADC Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation (TCCA) held a meeting from 24-25 May 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting was preceded by the Second meeting of the SADC Qualifications Verification Network (SADCQVN) on 23 May 2018.

2.0 Both meetings were 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: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and the SADC Secretariat.

3.0 The SADCQVN meeting reviewed progress on the nine (9) steps to ratification of the Addis Convention. The meeting noted the progress made towards ratification, since the April 2017 TCCA meeting, however none of the SADC Member States has ratified the Convention yet. The meeting agreed that the current status should be presented to the Ministers of Education in June 2018.

4.0 The meeting received the updated SADCQVN booklet of contact details and noted that 11 countries confirmed their current details while five (5) still had to confirm. The meeting expressed the view that the network should be extended to include the rest of the continent. The meeting agreed that this should be brought to the attention of the Ministers in the June 2018 meeting.

5.0 With respect to mobility statistics, the meeting noted a draft mobility statistics report from nine (9) countries which highlighted the increase, from the previous year, in the number of misrepresented qualifications. Also noted was the consistency in reporting by the majority of Member States. The meeting resolved to adjust the submission deadline to 30 April of each year in order to include all the Member States.

6.0 The meeting noted progress towards the implementation of the E-certificate by four pilot countries. (Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia). In addition, SAQA shared its pilot programme experiences of challenges and benefits of the introduction of the E-certificate.

7.0 The meeting received a progress report on developing a recognition manual. It was resolved to complete the recognition manual by September 2018 using existing resources.

8.0 The meeting was updated that African Qualifications Verification Network (AQVN) chairperson, Mirriam Chiyaba, was elected to the Groningen Declaration Network (GDN) Board, which is a worldwide network of organisations committed to digitisation of learner records. The meeting emphasised the need to interrogate the potential effect of emerging technologies such as "block chain" on the future work of quality assurance bodies. The meeting noted that the next AQVN meeting will be held in Ghana in October 2018.

9.0 With respect to the TCCA meeting from 24 to 25 May 2018, members were updated on the conceptual understanding of learning outcomes, their application in aligning the National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs) to the SADC Qualifications Framework (SADCQF), and the critical role they play in qualification and curriculum development, qualification comparability and job profiling.

10.0 Members were also updated on key developments within the Member States present with regards to their NQFs and/ or their national qualifications systems.

Member States noted some of the blockages as well as possible solutions to these issues and problems. A noticeable trend from the reports was the increased awareness of the misrepresentation of qualifications being identified in the region.

11.0   The meeting noted the progress made on the state of implementing the SADCQF from 2016 to 2018 and observed that Member States were owning the implementation process. Member States are, at their own cost, funding the focus areas related to the SADCQF implementation which include governance, alignment and development of NQFs, quality assurance, verification, advocacy and communication, and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and articulation. The meeting further noted the lack of sustainability of the activities of the TCCA in the absence of a sustainable funding mechanism for the implementation of the SADCQF. The meeting outlined the required activities related to the focus area projects to serve as an input into finalising the funding proposal to secure sustainable funding.

12.0   The meeting further noted that the incoming chairperson of the TCCA will be Namibia. This transition and all other changes will have to be carefully managed by the TCCA EXCO.

13.0   The meeting noted the following upcoming conferences:
- The International Vocational Education and Training Association (IVETA) Conference will be held on the 13-16 August 2018 in Cape Town, South Africa; and
- The 4th Southern African Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education will be held in Maseru, Lesotho from 8-10 October 2018.

14.0   The meeting conveyed their appreciation to Zambia for providing administrative support to the SADC Secretariat for a 12-month period ending in June 2018. The next country that will be taking on this responsibility will be Angola from June 2018 until 31 March 2019. Thereafter Botswana will take responsibility from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The TCCA EXCO will communicate with Angola in this regard.

15.0   The meeting agreed that the next meetings of the TCCA would be as follows:

- 27 – 28 September 2018;

- 8 – 9 May 2019; and

- TCCA Executive (EXCO) Meetings: 15 June 2018 and 3 December 2018.

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