



## ***African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN)***

### **AFRICAN QUALITY ASSURANCE NETWORK CONFERENCE**

**25-27 October 2022**

**Maputo, MOZAMBIQUE**

***Supported by the HAQAA2 Initiative***

#### **CONFERENCE THEME:**

**Post COVID-19: Emerging Developments in Quality Assurance in Africa**

***‘Towards strengthening synergies between Quality Assurance Agencies and accelerating regional integration’.***



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## Background

Over a decade, quality assurance in higher education in Africa has registered tremendous changes. Cognizant of the role of quality assurance agencies, the continent continued to register an increase in the number of new agencies that are being created. Also, agencies that were in existence continue to strengthen their quality assurance activities notably by undergoing external quality assurance evaluations and by joining and participating in different quality assurance networks that were created like the African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN), the Francophone Network of Quality Assurance Agencies (RAFANAQ), the East African Quality Assurance Network (EAQN), etc. These quality assurance collaborations are helping in establishing compatible and comparable quality assurance systems that would facilitate recognition of qualifications and mobility of labor on the continent.

In the same line, the HAQAA (Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation) initiative that was launched in 2016 and funded by the European Union in partnership with the African Union, has been established to support the development of a harmonised quality assurance and accreditation system at institutional level, national, regional and Pan-African continental level. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to establish compatible structures and systems which would facilitate academic mobility and foster comparability among qualifications. Under the initiative the African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ASG-QA) were developed and are being used for the external review of the already existing quality assurance agencies and to support the development of quality assurance systems and the set-up of an agency in countries that do not yet have them.

Despite the above positive developments, African higher education has faced different challenges including the recent effects of COVID-19 pandemic. Problems like inequity, disinvestment, conceiving educational programmes with necessary competencies that respond



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to the needs of the job market, learning innovation and novelty in teaching methods have already been pervasive in the African educational systems for some years now. The COVID-19 pandemic worsened a situation that was already precarious. Currently, the higher education arena in general and higher learning institutions in particular, are still battling with the aftermath of the pandemic. Quality assurance systems are forced to be adapted and find ways to support the higher education sector in its recovery, further development, and innovation.

With all the above emerging developments in quality assurance in Africa, how can African quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions also capitalize on the opportunities offered, whether it is from enhanced digitalization, or from the plethora of quality assurance initiatives that are being funded and implemented? What is the role of quality assurance in supporting higher education to be competitive on a global market and be able to positively contribute to the socio-economic transformation of the continent? The emphasis should be put on strengthening synergies between African Quality Assurance Agencies networks and initiatives across the continent.

To this effect, the African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN) is organizing a conference to share new developments in quality assurance in Africa and to strengthen synergies between quality assurance agencies and networks, in pursuit of the harmonization of quality assurance systems in Africa, the mutual recognition of qualifications and enhanced mobility of academics and labor.

The African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN) is a pan-African network that has been set up to provide assistance to institutions concerned with Quality Assurance in higher education in Africa through capacity building and practice sharing. The network is committed to the enhancement of the quality of higher education and to collaborating with similar organizations on other continents.



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This conference is particularly important, as it will provide opportunity for AfriQAN members, sister networks and other quality assurance practitioners to share best practices and experiences on key issues related to quality assurance in a post-Covid environment.

This conference is intended to be complementary to important events, trainings and conferences for quality assurance in Africa, and features the important work that networks like AfriQAN, RAFANAQ, EAQAN and SAQAN are doing, as well the HAQAA initiative. It will provide a forum and platform for these different networks and initiatives to share their experience, and serve as a truly African, multi-linguistic space to debate and discuss continental harmonization in the quality assurance sector.

### **Objectives of the Conference**

The conference will:

- i. Document and discuss quality assurance developments in all African regions, including common challenges and best practices
- ii. Provide a platform for the dissemination of the quality assurance initiatives under HAQAA 2
- iii. Strengthen synergies between Quality Assurance Agencies, across regions and linguistic lines
- iv. Strengthen and support Quality assurance networks' collaboration
- v. Revisit AfriQAN's vision and mission and define the road map for the future,

### **Expected Participants**

The conference will be of interest to all stakeholders in quality assurance in higher education in Africa as well as practitioners in quality assurance from other regions of the world.

Participation will among others comprise of the following:

- Vice-Chancellors, Rectors and Provosts of higher education institutions



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- AfriQAN members
- Quality Assurance Agencies
- Officers in charge of higher education at the African Union Commission
- UNESCO officials from the regional and multi-sectoral offices in Africa
- Regional bodies (CAMES, SARUA, IUCEA,...)
- Regional networks (RAFANAQ, EAQAN, SAQAN, INQAAHE,...)
- Higher Education Policy and Decision Makers and Experts
- Quality Assurance practitioners
- University Academic, Research and Administrative Staff
- Professional bodies
- Students and student unions and
- Development Partners
- Stakeholders in higher education in Africa and from other regions of the world

### Conference and AfriQAN General Assembly Dates

- **Arrival:** Monday, October 24
- **Conference:** Tuesday-Wednesday, October 25-26
- **AfriQAN General Assembly:** Thursday, October 27
- **Departure:** Friday, October 28

### Working Languages

The working languages of the meeting will be English, French, and Portuguese.

### Partners

- Association of African Universities (AAU)
- OBREAL Global



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- Mozambican Quality Assurance Agency (CNAQ)

### Venue

The conference will be held in Maputo, Mozambique.

### Registration

Register for the conference via: <https://www.research.net/r/AfriQCon22>

### For further information

For further information please contact:

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