



**INTER-UNIVERSITY
COUNCIL FOR EAST AFRICA**
P.O. BOX 7110 KAMPALA

CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAMME

**Webinar on
Sensitization on Regional EAC Programme Accreditation**

Virtual Meeting

Monday 6th March 2023

2:30pm – 4:30pm

1.0. INTRODUCTION

Higher education has greatly evolved in the 21st century with global changes encompassing rapid expansion of higher education both in terms of institutions and student enrolment; diversification of the provision of higher education; and increased privatization of higher education. The rapid expansion of higher education has brought about various challenges such as inadequate staff for teaching and research, and inadequate infrastructure for quality delivery of the education offered. A major concern in this growth has been the ability of the concerned countries to assure that the quality of academic programmes and institutions have met the local, regional, and international standards of quality teaching and learning. The role of quality assurance became crucial in supporting higher education systems and institutions in responding to these changes while ensuring the qualifications achieved by students and their experience of higher education remain at the forefront of institutional missions.

Institutional and programme accreditation are among the key roles of accreditation bodies. Accreditation of programmes is universally accepted as a means of quality assurance. This, as it is the case elsewhere across the globe and in the East African Community region, is a good practice. It is now widely accepted that prior to a programme being offered, it should be accredited by the National Commissions/Council or any other accrediting body using prescribed quality assurance standards and guidelines. The main role of the above agencies/commissions was to ensure a level of acceptable quality across the wide array of programmes and institutions in higher education in their respective countries.

In the EAC region, there is currently no regional accreditation system. Accreditation is done at national level by commissions and Council or mandated accrediting bodies. However, often potential international funding agencies of Higher education (World Bank, KFW, GiZ, DAAD) request for evidence of regional/international accreditation as one of the requirements for funding potential projects. In addition, where programmes (similar) are designed to be offered in different universities under regional accreditation help in ensuring ease of comparability, transfer of credits and ultimately student mobility.

The absence of regional accreditation in the EAC region has necessitated some HEIs to consider seeking for expensive international accreditation of their programmes from agencies in developed countries, which have well established and recognized Quality Assurance systems. That notwithstanding, the need to promote quality and standards in programmes across the region and generally in the African Continent is greater now than ever before. It is for these and many other reasons that IUCEA embarked on a process to develop regional programme accreditation framework. Accordingly, IUCEA developed Standards, Guideline, Procedures, and Processes for EAC regional accreditation of programmes. These standards and procedures are intended to provide

appropriate mechanisms to guide the accreditation process of programmes at the EAC regional levels. The development of the Standards, Guidelines, Procedures and Processes were followed by the development of norms and assessment tool to guide the process.

Following the approval of all the above instruments for EAC Regional Programme Accreditation, IUCEA has scheduled a Webinar to disseminate the standards, Guidelines, Norms & Tools for EAC Regional Programme Accreditation to all Higher Education Institutions in the region. The Webinar is scheduled for **6th March 2023** from **2:30pm to 4:30pm** and will be held wholly virtual.

2.0 PURPOSE OF THE WEBINAR

The purpose of the webinar is to disseminate the Standards, Guidelines, Norms and Tools for EAC Regional Programme Accreditation and sensitize the Universities on the same.

3.0 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE WEBINAR

The objectives of the webinar:

- a) Update the Higher Education Institutions on the progress in the EAC Regional programme accreditation
- b) Discuss the benefits and rationale for Regional Programme Accreditation
- c) Prepare Institutions for Regional Programme Accreditation

4.0 EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The expected output from the webinar shall include the following: -

- a) Webinar proceeding Report.
- b) Wider dissemination of Standards, Guidelines, Norms and Tools for EAC Regional Programme Accreditation for programme accreditation

5.0 TOPICS & FACILITATORS

The webinar will be facilitated by some of the experts who have been involved in the development of the said accreditation instruments. The 3 facilitators are: -

S/N	Name	Position	Topic
1.	Prof. Mike Kuria	Commission Secretary, Kenya Commission for University Education	Trends & Relevance of Regional/International Programme Accreditation
2.	Prof. Grace Njoroge	Former Deputy Commission Secretary, Kenya Commission for University Education	Standards & Guidelines on Regional Programme Accreditation
3.	Dr. Kassile Telemu	Director of Accreditation, Tanzania Commission for Universities	Norms & Assessment Tools

6.0 PARTICIPANTS

The webinar is expected to be attended by all universities and other higher education institutions in the EAC Partner States and the activity will be widely advertised.

7.0 PROGRAMME

Time	Activity	Facilitator
2.30 pm	Logging in and start of Meeting	
2.32pm	Welcome remarks and Purpose of Webinar	Prof. Michael Mawa
2.35pm	Official Opening Remarks	Executive Secretary
2.40pm	Presentation: Trends & Relevance of Regional/International Programme Accreditation	Prof. Mike Kuria
3.10pm	Standards & Guidelines on Regional Programme Accreditation	Prof. Grace Njoroge
3.40pm	Norms & Assessment Tools	Dr. Kassile Telemu
4.10 pm	Discussions - All participants	Dr. Robert Ayine