

**Eastern Africa consultation  
on the establishment of a Pan African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency  
(PAQAA)**

**Juba, South Sudan, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Concept note**

- *Background*

The HAQAA3 initiative represents the third phase of a significant EU investment aimed at supporting quality assurance and harmonization in African higher education at the regional and continental level, in accordance with the Pan African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF) main action lines. OBREAL leads the implementing team of this contract in collaboration with the Association of African Universities (AUA), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), while IUCEA is a strategic partner and a member of its Steering Committee.

Under the HAQAA3 initiative, the implementing team together with its strategic partners are organizing a series of regional events to gather key stakeholders from the higher education sector, to consult on several inter-related work areas, namely data for higher education policy making, African credit transfer systems, and quality assurance system articulation in Africa.

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Aiming to create synergies and to make a more efficient use of resources, IUCEA has been invited to host a PAQAA consultation event for Eastern Africa in the margins of its Annual Conference to be held in Juba, South Sudan in July 2024.

This regional consultation event relates to the African Union initiative to establish a Pan-African agency that would serve as an articulating body for national and regional quality assurance systems in Africa. The event will discuss the potential governance structure of

PAQAA and its functions. It builds on discussions initiated in 2021 regarding a four-step approach to the creation of the agency, the phasing in of difference functions it would assume and the potential governing bodies of the agency. The governance structure, which requires further consultation and consensus building, is the subject of the HAQAA3 technical support for PAQAA in 2024/25.

The East African consultation event will be a one-day activity with the participation of representatives from:

- *national bodies related to the higher education sector,*
- *quality assurance and accreditation agencies, and*
- *university leadership*

from Eastern African countries, approximately 40 people on site. It will be held one day after the IUCEA annual conference – the 19<sup>th</sup> of July – to take advantage of the fact that the targeted participants will already be convening.

**Targeted countries:**

- *Burundi*
- *Kenya*
- *Rwanda*
- *South Sudan*
- *Uganda*
- *Tanzania*
- *Somalia*
- *Ethiopia*
- *Djibouti*
- *Eritrea*
- *Comoros*
- *Sudan*

**Date:** Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>

**Venue :** Imperial Plaza Hotel, Juba, South Sudan

**Working language:** English

**Draft Program**

9h00	<p><b>Official welcome</b></p> <p>IUCEA Anthem</p> <p>IUCEA Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Gaspard Banyankimbona, IUCEA Executive Secretary</i></li> <li>- <i>Sophia Ashipala, African Union Commission (online)</i></li> <li>- <i>Claire Hermann, European Commission (online)</i></li> <li>- <i>South Sudan national authorities, tbc</i></li> <li>- <i>OBREAL – Coordinator of HAQAA3</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Official photo</b></p>
9h15	<p><b>Setting the tone: recalling the history of the PAQAA and the previous agreements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Description of the process - Youhansen Eid, PAQAA Technical Working Group member (online)</i></li> <li>- <i>Recommendations for PAQAA – Elizabeth Colucci, OBREAL – online</i></li> <li>- <i>Exchange with participants</i></li> </ul> <p>Chaired by Association of African Universities, Olusola Oyewole</p>
10h00	<p><b>Plan for PAQAA under the framework of HAQAA3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Presentation by the HAQAA Management Team (OBREAL/ENQA/AAU): Technical Offer, deliverables</i></li> </ul>

	<p><i>and work plan, capacity building trainings, agency evaluations, establishment of a Technical Unit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Exchange with participants</i></li> </ul> <p>Chaired by IUCEA, Prof. Idris A. RAI</p>
11h30	Coffee break
12h00	<p><b>Discussion block 1: Which functions of PAQAA, when and how to organize them</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Introductory presentation of the Functions Section of the Final Recommendations (OBREAL)</i></li> <li>- <i>Exchange with participants</i></li> </ul> <p>Chaired by IUCEA, Michael MAWA</p>
13h30	Lunch
14h30	<p><b>Discussion block 2: Governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Introductory Presentation of the Governance Section of the Final Recommendations (OBREAL)</i></li> <li>- <i>Exchange with participants</i></li> </ul> <p>Chaired by OBREAL, Apiyo OKWIRI</p>
16h00	<p><b>Conclusions and Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Rapporteur</i></li> <li>- <i>HAQAA3 Team Coffee break</i></li> </ul>
16h15	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Claire Hermann, European Commission (online)</i></li> <li>- <i>Gaspard Banyankimbona, IUCEA Executive Secretary</i></li> <li>- <i>Olusola Oyewole, AAU Secretary General</i></li> </ul>
16h30	<b>Coffee break</b>