

THE EAST AFRICAN COMMON HIGHER EDUCATION AREA

Prof Mike Kuria

Chief Executive Officer/ Commission Secretary

COMMISSION FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

17TH JANUARY 2024

OUTLINE

1. The Commission for University Education: An Introduction
2. The Declaration of the EACHEA: Pillars
3. Implementation In Kenya
4. Challenges
5. Why the EACHEA must succeed

Functions: section 5 (1) of the Universities Act No. 42 of 2012

- 1. **Promote the objectives of university education;**
- 2. Advise the cabinet secretary on policy relating to university education;
- 3. **Promote, advance, publicize and set standards relevant in the quality of university education, including the promotion and support of internationally recognized standards;**
- 4. Monitor and evaluate the **state of university education systems** in relation to the national development goals;
- 5. License any student recruitment agencies operating in Kenya and any activities by foreign institutions;
- 6. Develop policy for criteria and requirements for admission to universities;

Functions: section 5 (1) of the Universities Act No. 42 of 2012

- 7. **Recognize and equate degrees**, diplomas and certificates conferred or awarded by foreign universities and institutions in accordance with the standards and guidelines set by the commission from time to time;
- 8. Undertake or cause to be undertaken, regular inspections, **monitoring and evaluation of universities** to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act or any regulations made under section 70;
- 9. On regular basis, inspect universities in Kenya;
- 10. **Approve universities** in Kenya;
- 11. Regulate university education in Kenya;
- 12. **Approve and inspect university programmes** in Kenya;
- 13. **Promote quality research and innovation**

CUE VISION AND MISSION

- **Our Vision: Accessible, relevant and sustainable quality university education**
- **Our Mission: To regulate and assure quality university education by setting standards and monitoring compliance to achieve global competitiveness**



DECLARATION BY HEADS OF STATE OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY PARTNER STATES ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY INTO A COMMON HIGHER EDUCATION AREA

We, the Heads of State of the East African Community Partner States, wishing to accomplish the objective of harmonization of higher education and training systems in the East African Community ("EAC") by establishing a common frame of reference to facilitate comparability, compatibility and mutual recognition of higher education and training systems and the qualifications attained within the EAC Partner States, based on shared views on quality, criteria, standards and learning outcomes, for promoting student and labour mobility in the EAC;

Recalling that the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community in Article 102 provides that the Partner States agree to undertake concerted measures to foster co-operation in education and training within the Community and among others to harmonise curricula, examination, certification and accreditation of education and training institutions in the Partner States through the joint action of their relevant national bodies charged with the preparation of such curricula;

Affirming the growing importance of knowledge as a key factor for social and human growth as alluded by the Dakar Declaration on Education for All, 2000, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, 2000, the Commission on Social Dimensions of Globalization, 2004, of which the EAC Partner States are signatories;

Recognizing that higher education, including research, is the leading pillar in creating a knowledge society and knowledge driven economy; and Having reviewed the progress so far made towards that objective, in particular, the development and adoption by the national commissions/councils for university/higher education and higher education institutions in all the Partner States of:

- (a) Regional Quality Assurance Framework, based on four operational tools:
 - (i) A policy framework, titled Principles and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education in East Africa;
 - (ii) Regional quality assurance instruments contained in the Handbook for Quality Assurance in Higher Education covering internal quality assurance at programme level, external quality assurance at programme level, institutional quality assurance, and implementation of a quality assurance system;
 - (iii) Benchmarks for academic programmes; and
 - (iv) East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Network, which promotes the development of quality culture in East Africa; and
- (b) East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (2015) as a human resources development instrument guiding the higher education and training systems, and as a reference tool in facilitating mutual recognition of qualifications attained in and outside the EAC Partner States;
- (c) Staff Mobility Framework (2014) to enhance sharing of the existing human resources in higher education within the Community and encouraging staff mobility; and
- (d) Students Mobility Policy (2015) to facilitate free movement of students within the Community; and

Noting that the achievements so far recorded require to be consolidated to ultimately evolve into a unified higher education system;

We hereby affirm our commitment and undertaking to accomplish that objective by transforming the EAC into a Common Higher Education Area.

WHEREFORE, we the Heads of State of the EAC Partner States DO HEREBY DECLARE the EAC a Common Higher Education Area whereby the national higher education and training systems shall operate and be guided by the common regional framework under which curricula, examinations and certification as well as academic and professional qualifications, and the quality of the educational and training output in higher education will be harmonised.

We proffer that the Common Higher Education Area will facilitate and enable the mobility of students and teachers and promote the free movement of labour, people and services as envisioned under the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community signed in 1999 and the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Community Common Market in 2010.

We acknowledge and commend the good work so far done by the Inter University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), through the mandate given to it by its Act of 2009 (section 4 (2)) as a strategic institution of the EAC for the implementation of the objective to attain a fully harmonized and integrated higher education and training system in the EAC.

Consequently, we entrust and task the Council of Ministers with the responsibility of coordinating the operationalization of the Common Higher Education Area and IUCEA to provide the necessary technical support.

We hereby pledge to the people in the EAC our resolve as herein DECLARED at Dar es Salaam, the United Republic of Tanzania on this 20th day of May, in the year Two Thousand and Seventeen as duly attested by our respective signatures hereunder:

					
H.E. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI PRESIDENT	H.E. DR. JOHN POMBE MAGUFULI PRESIDENT	H.E. WILLIAM S. RUTO, EGH, EBS DEPUTY PRESIDENT	H.E. GASTON SINDIMWO 1 ST VICE PRESIDENT	HON. FRANCOIS KANIMBA MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REPUBLIC OF RWANDA	HON. AGGREY TISA SABUNI ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA 	UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA 	REPUBLIC OF KENYA 	REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI 	REPUBLIC OF RWANDA 	REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN 

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DECLARATION

1. Summit recognized the progress made by IUCEA in preparing the community for a common higher education area;
2. The EAC is declared a common higher education area and declaration signed by the Heads of State (Summit);
3. Council of ministers directed to ensure harmonization of education;
4. IUCEA tasked with technical mandate to guide the process.



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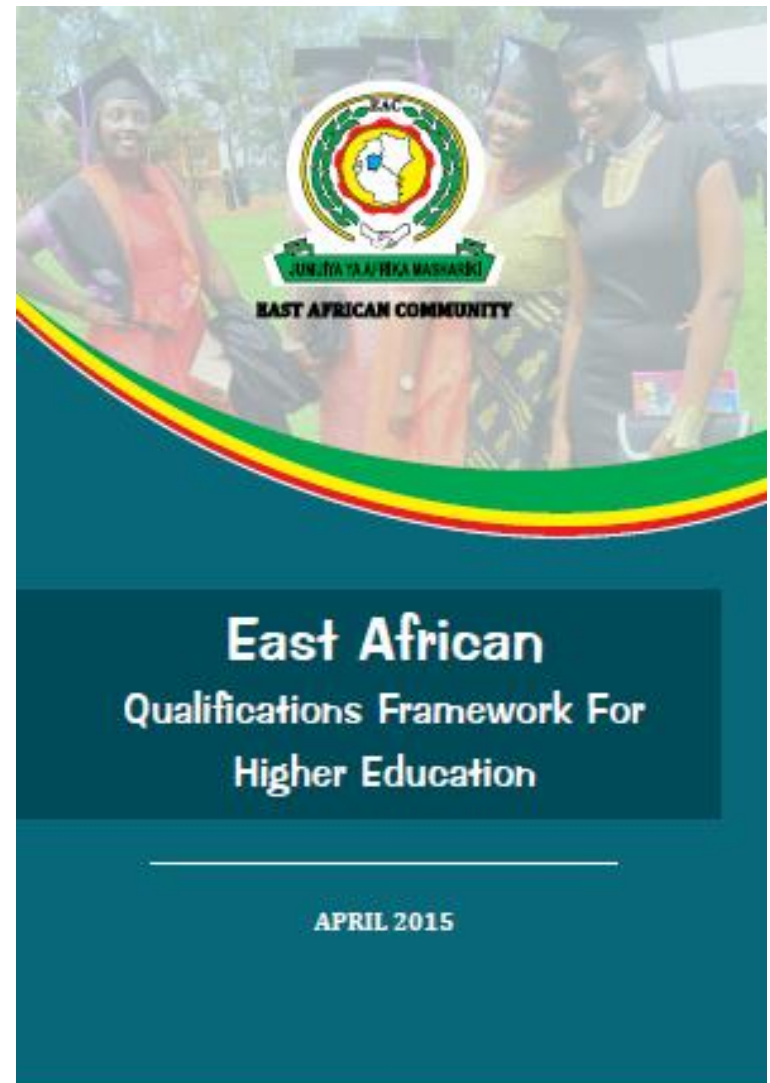
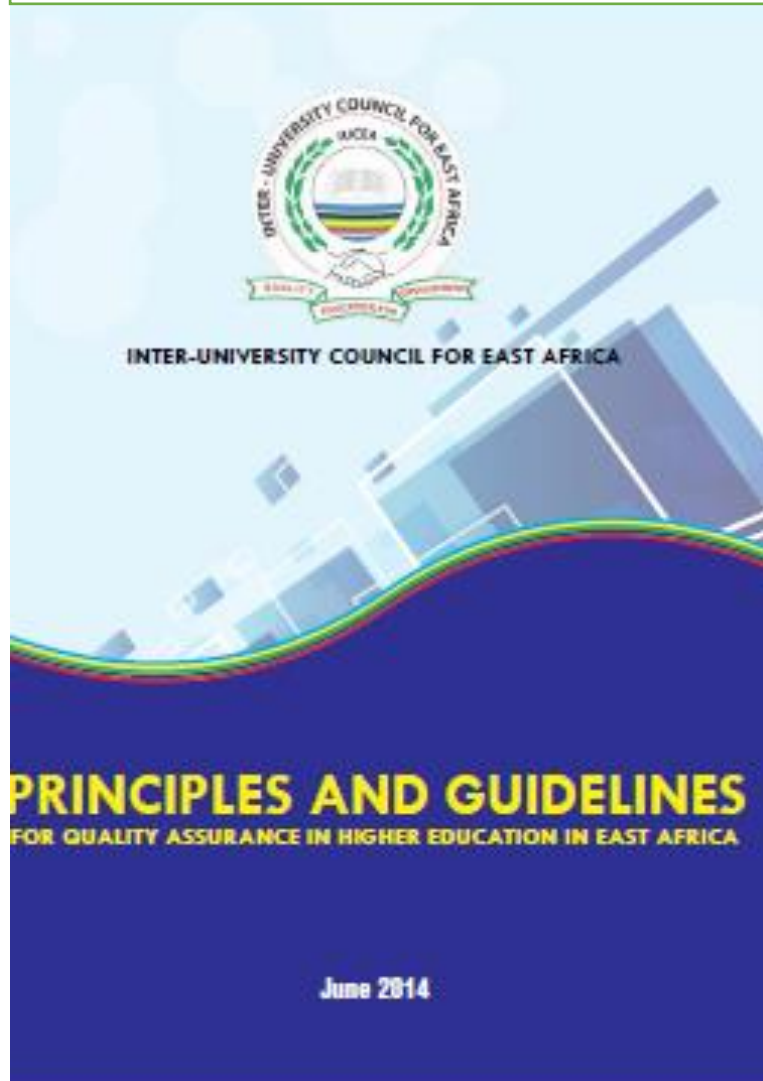
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BASIS FOR THE DECLARATION



1. Summit recognized the progress made by IUCEA in preparing the community for a common higher higher education area;
2. Regional Quality Assurance Framework whose pillars are:
 - i. Policy framework- principles and guidelines for QA in HE in the EAC
 - ii. Regional QA instruments
 - iii. Benchmarks for academic quality
 - iv. EAQFHE (2015)
 - v. EAQAN
 - vi. Staff mobility framework
 - vii. Student mobility policy

KEY POLICY DOCUMENTS



KEY QA INSTRUMENTS

Inter-University Council for East Africa





A ROAD MAP TO QUALITY
Handbook for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Revised and Combined Volume 1 & 2:
Guidelines for Internal and External Programme Assessment

DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

BRK German Rectors' Conference

Inter-University Council for East Africa



A ROAD MAP TO QUALITY
Handbook for Quality Assurance in Higher Education



Volume 4: Implementation of a Quality Assurance System

DRAFT

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A ROAD MAP TO QUALITY
Handbook for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Volume 5: Principles, Practices and Management of External Quality Assurance in East Africa

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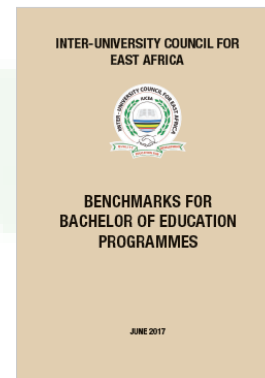
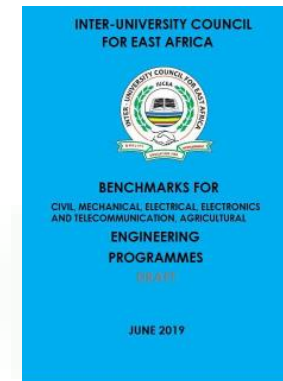
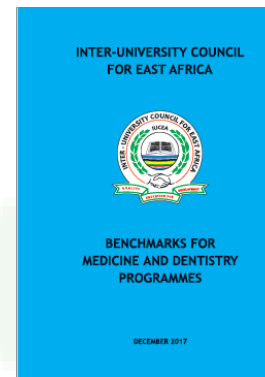
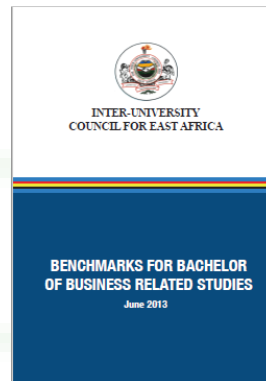
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SUBJECT BENCHMARKS

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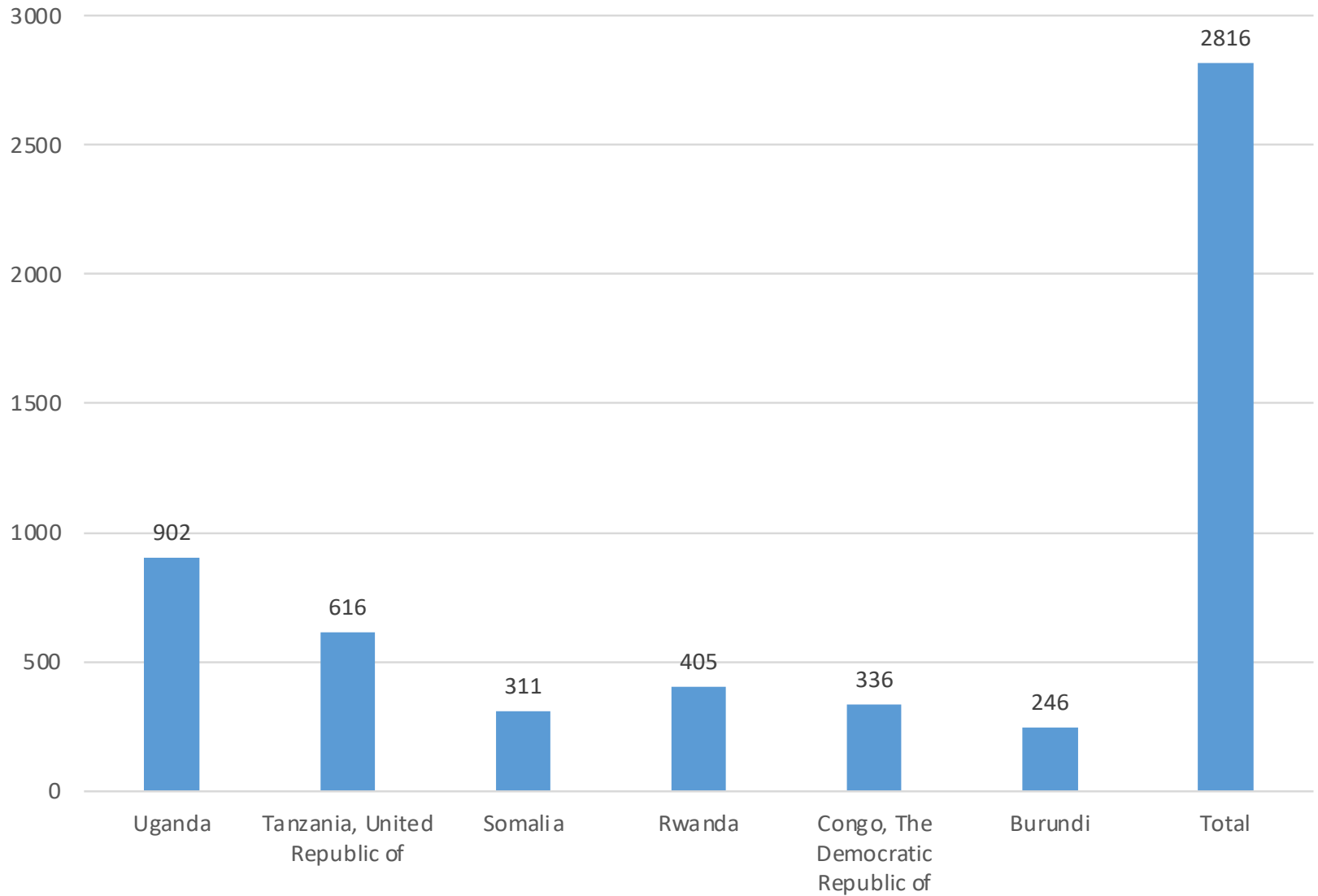
1. Business Studies
2. Education
3. Computer Science
4. Medicine
5. Agriculture
6. Engineering
7. Health Informatics



Implementation in Kenya

- University Regulations 2014
- University Guidelines and Standards 2014
- Kenya Universities Quality Assurance Networks
- The EAC Common Fees Model/Framework
- Hosting EAC scholars- under KFW and EAC SMS
- EAC students admitted and studying in Kenyan Universities

Students



Some Challenges

- Policy/harmonization
- Institutionalization- culture of practice
- Education reforms
- Funding
- Diversity of education systems

CLOSING REMARKS: WHY THE EACHEA MUST SUCCEED:

1. Original design of HE in EA was based on a Common HEA-
 - i. The University of East Africa, Makerere University
 - ii. Journals in East Africa (Transition, Journal of HE- what happened)
 - iii. Three original universities after 1970 specialised- training for the whole region
 - a. Nairobi (Engineering, Architecture, Science and technology)
 - b. Law, Social sciences, humanities
 - c. Makerere (Medicine and health sciences, Agriculture, Veterinary science)
2. National regional pride- dignity
3. Shaping our destiny- regional solutions for regional problems
4. Global competitiveness

THANK YOU