The AQRM as a Tool for Institutional Evaluation
An introduction (Purpose, Methodology)

Presented by
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Introduction

- HEIs shall improve their internal QA mechanisms and enhance effectiveness in teaching & research through self-assessment and peer-review

- Mechanisms for assuring quality must be put in place to undertake a critical self-analysis

- In its endeavor to contribute to QA, the AUC spearheaded the development of AQRM

AQRM → African Quality Rating Mechanism

- The AQRM is not a ranking instrument and it does not promote listing of institutions in a league table
Introduction

- Global ranking systems have not provided African HEIs with mechanisms to enhance quality
- Global ranking systems also fail to take account of African realities into consideration
- AQRM is a tool to facilitate culture of continuous quality improvement in African HEIs through self-evaluation exercises and external validation
- AQRM deepens commitment to quality so that African universities will be strengthened for local relevance and global competitiveness

AQRM → for advancing harmonisation
African Quality Rating Mechanism
Main Objectives

- To support the development of institutional cultures of quality and commitment to quality
- To ensure the performance of African HEIs can be compared against a set of criteria
- To fostering comparability among qualifications and facilitate academic mobility
- To improve the quality of delivery in African HEIs
- To enhance global competitiveness of African higher education institutions

→ AQRM is one of the instruments to implement the Pan-African QA and Accreditation Framework
Development of AQRM

- The AQRM was developed through extensive dialogue with the African academic community.
- AQRM was adopted by the COMEDAF III in 2007.
- It was validated by stakeholders in a meeting co-hosted by the AAU in Accra, in March 2008.
- Pilot Self-Rating of AQRM was conducted in 2010. 32 institutions from 11 countries participated.
- The pilot exercise results were published by AUC.
Revised AQRM

- Following the pilot survey, revised questionnaire of AQRM was designed using a five-point scale scoring sheet consisting of 84 standards (49 Institution-level and 35 Programme-level)

- In February 2014, a call was made for universities to participate in AQRM self-rating exercise

- Nine Universities were selected to validate results of institutions’ self-rating through onsite visits with external reviewers of quality experts

- 15 quality experts undertook the AQRM validation missions and prepared assessment reports
### AQRM Evaluation Exercise with Nine Universities

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<tr>
<th>Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia)</th>
<th>Dar es Salaam University (Tanzania)</th>
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<td>Strathmore University (Kenya)</td>
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<td>University of Yaoundé II (Cameroon)</td>
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A consolidated report of the AQRM evaluation is published in English and French versions.
Adopting AQRM for Improving Quality in African Universities

- AQRM is little known by HEIs who are expected to drive the process of its implementation

- Strong advocacy should therefore be given to AQRM to enhance its reputation

- Steps should be taken to ensure that AQRM is adopted by African Universities as one of the mechanisms for assessing and improving quality

- The AAU should encourage its member HEIs to fostering the adoption of AQRM

- African HEIs should take ownership of AQRM and use it as one means for quality improvements
AQRM – Major Criteria for Rating

Institutional Level
- Governance and Mgt
- Infrastructure
- Finances
- Teaching & Learning
- Research, Publication and Innovation
- Societal Engagement

49 Standards

Programme Level
- Programme Planning and Management
- Curriculum Development
- Teaching & Learning
- Assessment
- Programme Results

35 Standards
The AQRM is not a ranking instrument, rather it allows for classification of institutions and programmes into five categories:

- **POOR** Quality
- **INSUFFICIENT** Quality
- **SATISFACTORY** Quality
- **GOOD** Quality
- **EXCELLENT** Quality

AQRM standards assigned the value (0, 1, 2, 3, or 4)

- 0 = POOR PERFORMANCE
- 1 = INSUFFICIENT PERFORMANCE
- 2 = SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE
- 3 = GOOD PERFORMANCE
- 4 = EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE