

Technical Meeting to prepare AQRM Institutional Evaluations

28 – 29 March 2017, Accra, Ghana



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

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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**

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

**Addis Ababa University
(Ethiopia)**

**Dar es Salaam University
(Tanzania)**

**Strathmore University
(Kenya)**

University of Yaoundé II (Cameroon)

**Botho University
(Botswana)**

**Kwazulu-Natal University
(South Africa)**

**Cape Coast University
(Ghana)**

**Institute of Water, 2IE
(Burkina Faso)**

University of Tlemcen (Algeria)

**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

AQRM → Five-Scale Rating

- 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,
or **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