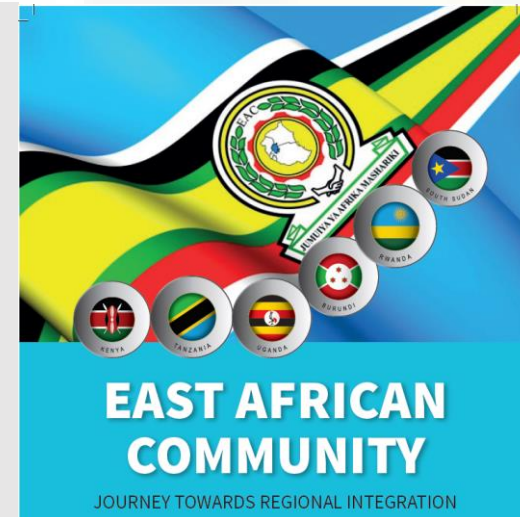# ACTORS OF HIGHER EDUCATION COOPERATING IN EAST AFRICA FOR EAC COMMON HIGHER EDUCATION AREA (EACHEA)

Presentation at the 7th TPG B on Lisbon Recognition Convention Meeting

23rd April 2024

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*Executive Secretary, **IUCEA***
and
Prof. Michael Mawa
Chief Principal QA & QF

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Context of Harmonisation of Higher Education in EAC

❖ Cooperation for harmonization of higher education systems in East Africa has been a gradual process.

❖ A consensus building process through engaging key stakeholders including **ministries of education officials, national higher education agencies, professional bodies, higher education managers, students**, among others.

❖ This process led to the Declaration of EAC as a Common Higher Education Area by the EAC Heads of State on May 20, 2017 in Dar Es-Salaam, Tanzania.

❖ The hallmark of higher education harmonisation and cooperation has been defined by:

1. Enactment of legal instruments,

2. Adoption of relevant policies frameworks,

3. Establishment of QA institutions/agencies and

4. Capacity building programme for key actors.

Harmonization of higher education entails the establishment of regional systems that would facilitate comparability of higher education systems in the East African Community Partner States.

The Legal Framework for Harmonization of / Cooperation in Higher Education in East Africa

Key Legal Instruments for Cooperation in Harmonisation of HE Quality Assurance & Qualifications in EAC include:

a) The East African Community Treaty - Art. 102 (Partner States agreed to harmonise education and promote mobility).

b) The Common Market Protocol - Art. 11 (Free movement of people, labour and services; requiring mutual recognition of qualifications and cross-border education)

c) The IUCEA Act, 2009 - Art. 4 & Art. 6. – requiring IUCEA to work in collaboration with relevant national authorities in harmonization of higher education and in recognition matters

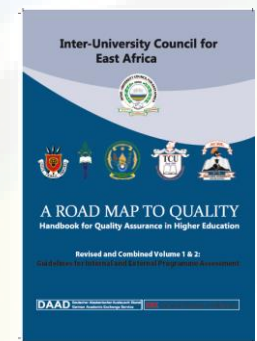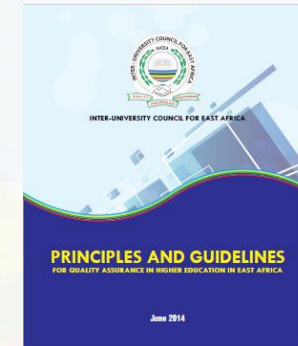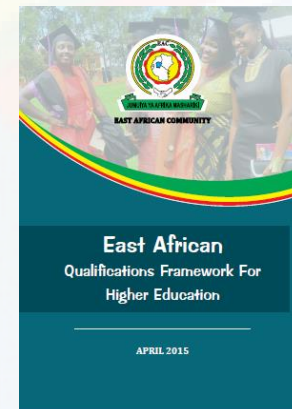# Policy Framework / Building Blocks for the EACHEA

1. **Regional Quality Assurance Policy Framework:**
   - ❖ QA policy framework guiding national QA frameworks
   - ❖ Standards, guidelines and procedures for HEI and QA agencies
   - ❖ Programme benchmarks

2. **East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education, EAQFHE**
   - ❖ Framework for anchoring NQF and to facilitate mutual recognition of qualifications
   - ❖ Provides for many policies and guidelines (including **CAT, RPL**)

3. **Regional Accreditation System (Quality-Based) for Academic Programmes**

4. **Students and Staff Mobility Programme Policy** – framework for facilitating HE mobility in the region.

IUCEA as a Key Regional HE Actor

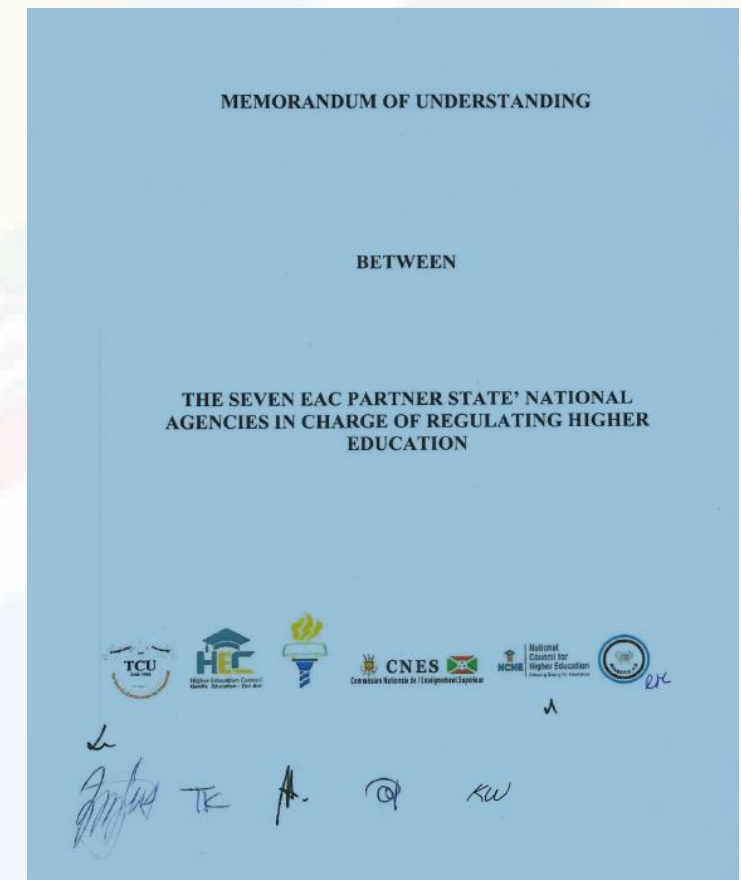❑IUCEA is a strategic institution of the EAC established to achieve the following broad mandate.

1. **Advise Partner States of the EAC on all matters of higher education**

2. **Coordinate higher education and research in the Community**

3. **Promote Quality of education by establishing regional QA system**

4. **Contribute to the Development of Human Resource capacity.**

5. **Facilitate Networking among universities and among QA agencies.**

6. **Facilitate Staff and Student mobility for regional integration.**

Key Networks of Higher Education Actors in East Africa

1. **Forum of CEOs of National QA Agencies –** agreed to cooperate to share information, support mutual recognition of qualifications, etc.

2. **EAQAN –** An expanding family of QA practitioners in HEIs

3. **EACANRI** – A network of academicians involved in regional integration matters

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE SEVEN EAC PARTNER STATE' NATIONAL AGENCIES IN CHARGE OF REGULATING HIGHER EDUCATION

Thank You
Merci