



Exploring Accountability and Quality Assurance in African Higher Education



**What is PAQAA
what has happened
so far and policy
framework**





The Africa We Want

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Harmonisation, Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Africa

HAQAA3



History of PAQAA and policy framework

- PAQAA part of PAQAF
- HAQAA2 large stakeholder involvement, technical working group with experts from all regions
- Proposal submitted to the African Union

What is PAQAA

The Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency (PAQAA)

PAQAA typically aims to foster collaboration among stakeholders

Pan-African initiative dedicated to coordinating and strengthening quality assurance practices across Africa's educational systems

Harmonization of Standards

PAQAA would help develop or implement common frameworks, guidelines, and best practices for quality assurance and accreditation across different African countries (**ASG-QA**)

Capacity Building

The agency or initiative may support national quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions by providing **training, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing** platforms

What PAQAA is not

The Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency (PAQAA) is not

PAQAA is not for the accreditation of Universities

Not a Standalone Accrediting Body

Accreditation remains the responsibility of **national** or **regional** bodies, which might use guidelines or frameworks established through PAQAA's efforts

Not a Single-Country Agency

PAQAA operates—on a **Pan-African** scale. It is *not* the same as a national quality assurance agency that serves only one country's higher education sector

Not a One-Size-Fits-All Solution

local contexts or replace **national regulations** PAQAA is *not* intended to override .

PAQAA MISSION

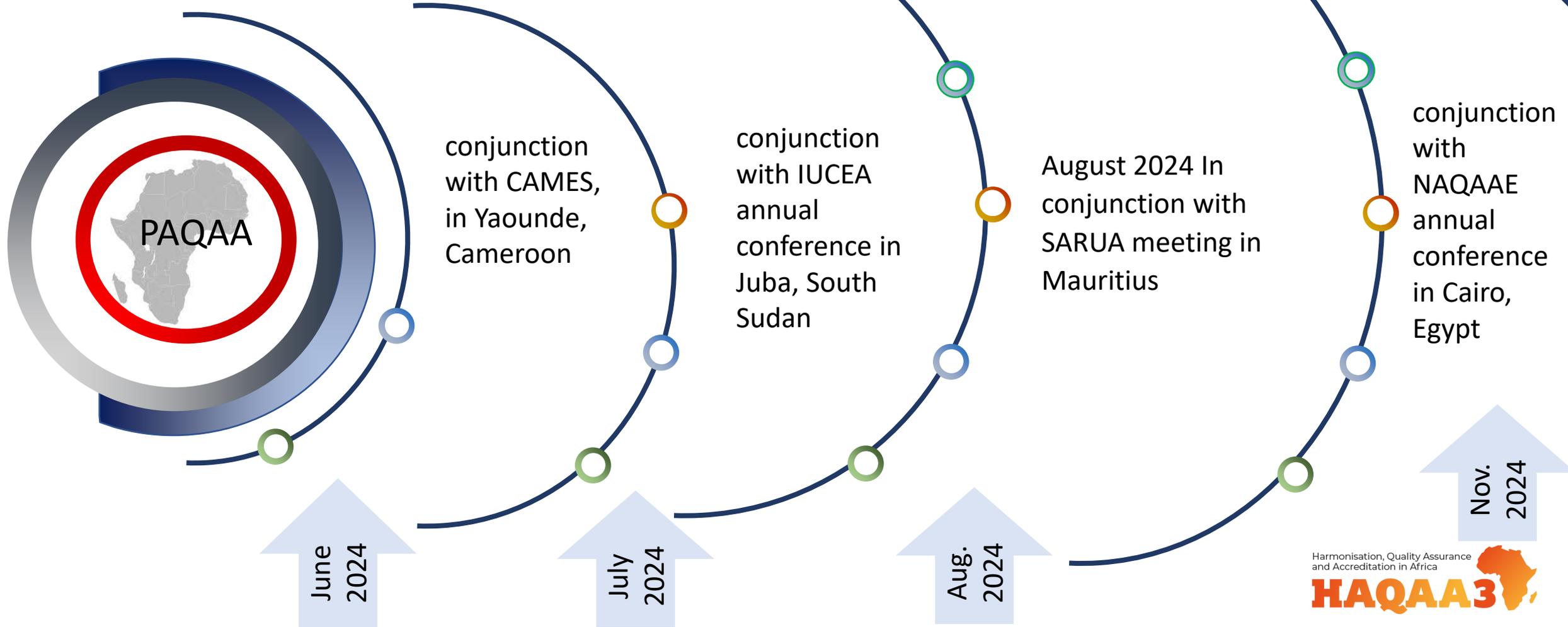
Scope

“ PAQAA is to coordinate the reviewing of national and regional quality assurance agencies ”

Current
development
of PAQAA and
next steps:
Stakeholder
Consultations



Regional Consultations 2024





PAQAA Technical Unit

The Technical unit is **neutral** and able to work constructively with all regions and language groups in Africa.

Among its tasks: to facilitate discussions between stakeholders on how to promote the PAQAA and run a visibility campaign, and to help set up and communicate with governance bodies.

Between 2025 and 2028, agency reviews and consultancy visits will be organized from Africa, with African staff and experts.



External reviews of QA agencies: rationale

- QA agencies to ‘take their own medicine’
- Enhancement-led review to evaluate the extent to which the agency/ministry meets the expectations of the **ASG-QA**
- Supporting the development/establishment of national QA agencies in line with the **ASG-QA**
- Raising awareness of ASG-QA
- Facilitating discussion with stakeholders
- Increasing visibility, trust and transparency
- **Dedicated session about Agency reviews on Friday, 31 January 2025**

Conclusion

Key Takeaway



Peer-Learning and Effective monitoring of quality assurance agencies is crucial for building trust in African higher education systems.

THANK YOU!

More information at

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