African Union

THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE

Harmonisation, Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Africa

HAQAA3

Pan African Quality Assurance Alliance (PAQAA): Development of a Continental QA Alliance

SADC EQA Training

Bella Sattar

17 November 2026

OBREAL Global

DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst German Academic Exchange Service

enqa. European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Background

- The AU's commitment to an integrated and harmonised HE.
- 2016: AU Assembly adopted the Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF):
  - to strengthen national QA systems
  - promote mutual trust among countries and regions
  - enable African qualifications to be more visible and credible within Africa and internationally
- The PAQAF is aligned with the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and Agenda 2063:
  - highlight the transformative role of HE for Africa's development and integration
- Since its inception, the HAQAA Initiative, funded by the EU in partnership with the AUC, has played a critical role in supporting this vision.
- Outcomes through successive phases:
  - technical tools
  - ASG-QA
  - piloted external reviews of QA agencies as a developmental mechanism
  - provided training to hundreds of QA professionals and policymakers
  - served as a bridge for dialogue among diverse actors - national agencies, ministries, regional bodies, student groups and development partners creating a unique platform for cooperation and consensus-building in the space of African higher education integration
- HAQAA is now in its third phase (2023 – 2028), offering 5 core work areas, one of which is technical support for the PAQAA.

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HAQAA3 technical assistance to PAQAA (2023-2028)

Transversal Work Area – Policy and Capacity for Regional Integration

Work Area 1: Piloting the African Credit Transfer System - ACTS

Work Area 2: African HE Data Capacity

Work Area 3: Towards PAQAA/ PAQAA

- Consultations
- Support for a Technical Unit and 'PAQAA Advisors'
- Agency reviews, and consultancy visits against the ASG-QA (30)
- African pool of external reviewers and students trained
- EQA online training
- Supporting interim governance structure, statutes drafting and sustainability model

Work Area 4: IQA/EQA Training and Capacity building

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PAQAA: Why it matters

- ✓Trust and recognition of African HE (within and outside Africa)
- ✓Stronger national QA systems
- ✓Harmonised regional and continental QA frameworks and standards
- ✓Articulation of diverse capacity building efforts and networks in QA
- ✓One continental voice for African QA in higher education
- ✓Sustaining 15+ years of investment and cooperation in continental African higher education quality and integration
- ✓African ownership of higher education quality

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PAQAA as a driver of the Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework

PAQAF

- African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ASG-QA)
- AQRM for institutional evaluation
- Quality Assurance capacity building trainings for National Quality Assurance Agencies
- Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency (PAQAA)

HAQAA

- African Academic Credit Transfer System — TUNING/HAQAA
- Addis Recognition Convention — UNESCO
- African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) — SIFA

CESA 25/ First Ten-Year Implementation Plan for Agenda 2063

2016
AU adopted PAQAF

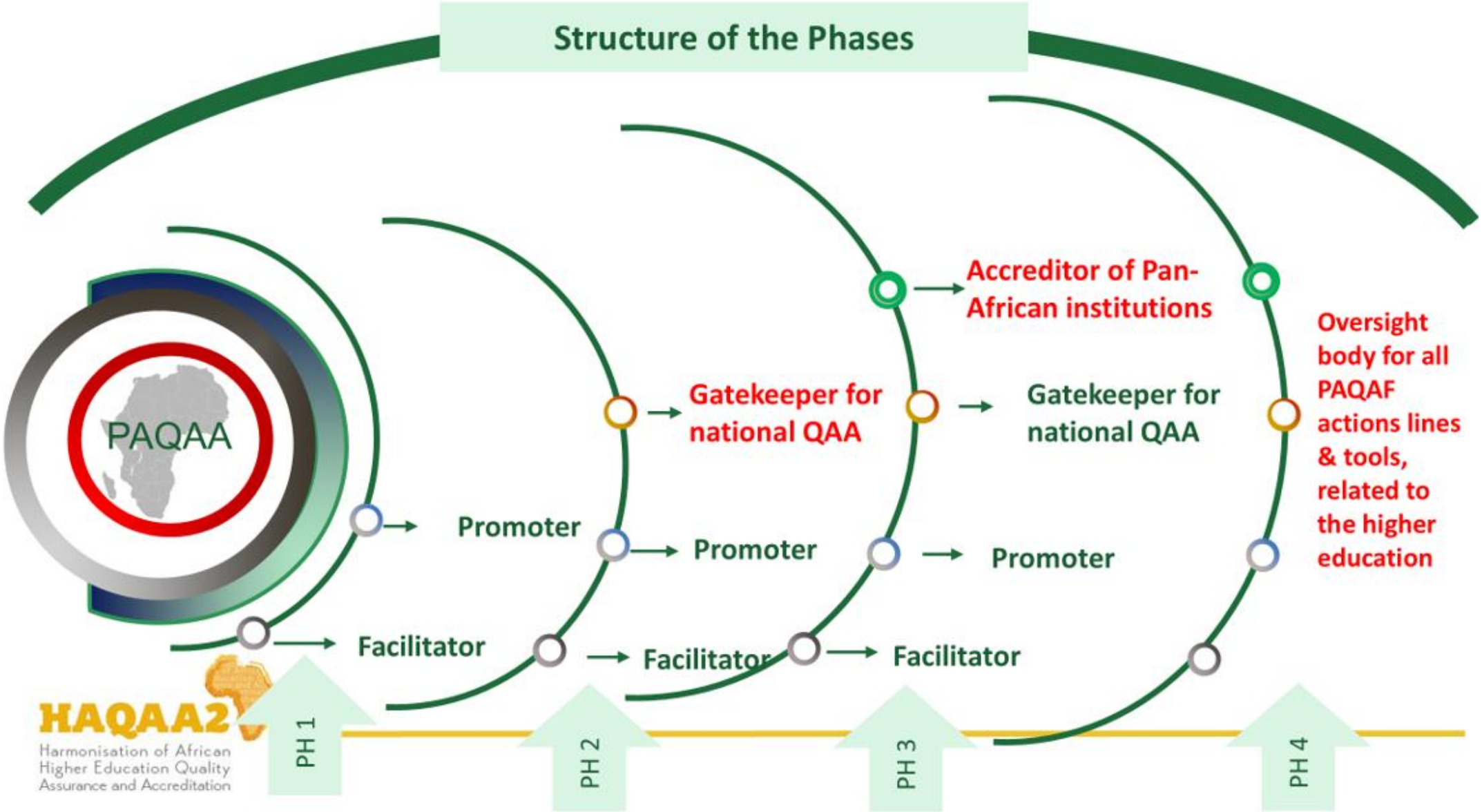
2019-2023
Technical Working Group appointed by AU under HAQAA2

2023
First proposal for PAQAA structure presented to AU

Recommendations to the AUC on the establishment of the Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency (PAQAA)

Produced by the Technical Working Group (TWG) for the Set-Up of the PAQAA, appointed and financed by the HAQAA2 Initiative and endorsed by the AUC

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TWG recommendation: Phased approach to establishment of PAQAA

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PAQAA under HAQAA3: *Step 1 - Regional hybrid consultations*

Western/Central Africa
Yaoundé – May 2024

Eastern Africa
Juba – July 2024

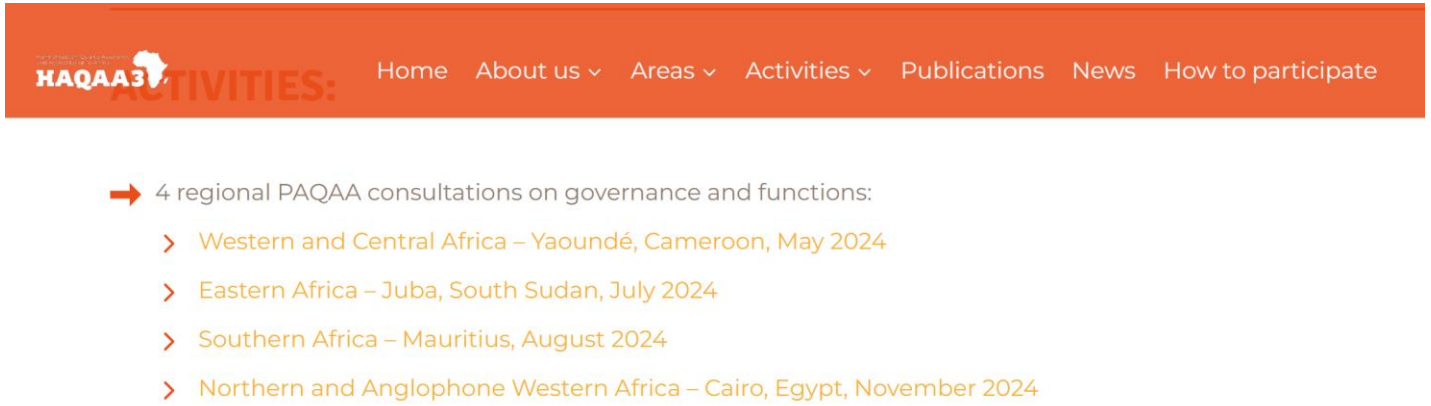
Southern Africa
Mauritius- August 2024

Northern Africa
Cairo – November 2024

4 reports

Recommendations on PAQAA governance and functions

Available on the HAQAA website



The events gathered a total of **110 African key actors**, targeting QA councils, ministries and major stakeholders such as university networks and QA networks

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Main recommendations

1. Legal framework
    1. Clarify the legal basis for PAQAA (AU body, autonomous entity)
    2. Define nature of entity in relation to national and regional QA systems
    3. Explore renaming the PAQAA to better reflect its current functions and avoid confusion – ***Pan African Quality Assurance Alliance***

2. Governance structure
    1. Establish an inclusive, lean governance model with balanced regional representation
    2. Define clear roles, membership categories (full, associate, observer) and voting rights in General Assembly
    3. **Launch an interim governance body with national membership and clearly defines ToR**

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Main recommendations

3. Functions and phases
    1. Focus on initial, non-controversial functions: external reviews, capacity building, creation of a register, ASG-QA promotion and revision
4. Funding and sustainability
    1. Postpone membership fee; prioritize structural funding and service-based cost recovery
    2. Develop a diversified funding model
    3. Encourage secondments and in-kind contributions from member states
5. Communication and political engagement
    1. Strengthen multilingual communication and dissemination/organize sensitization meetings with national authorities
    2. Align messages with target audiences (QA agencies, ministries, HEIs)
    3. Clearly articulate added value of PAQAA vs. existing processes and networks

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PAQAA under HAQAA3: Step 2 –
Establishment of Interim Council/technical unit reinforcement/statutes drafting

AU Call for participation

Interim Council (Alliance governing structure)

July 2025

Strengthen Technical Unit

Knowledge transfer programme

Conducting agency reviews

PAQAA Technical and Political Advisors team

Capacity building for African stakeholders

Interim Council convened: First virtual meeting

19 Feb, 2026

Drafting statutes

(PAQAA Advisors- reporting to interim Council)

Feb-July 2026

Interim Council in-person meeting/ Addis Ababa

July 2026

Timeline 2025-2026

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Interim Council composition – 2026
23 Member States – 3 regional bodies - AAU

EASTERN & WESTERN ANGLOPHONE	NORTHERN	LUSOPHONE	SOUTHERN	CENTRAL & WESTERN FRANCOPHONE
Abdallah BAGUMA	Mohamed Lemine HALESS	Maria CHIMPOLO	Bella SATTAR	Saturnin ENZONGA-YOCA
Kenya	Algeria	Angola	Lesotho	Bénin
Rwanda	Egypt	Cabo Verde	Malawi	Guinée
South Sudan	Mauritania	Mozambique	Mauritius	Sénégal
Liberia	Morocco		Namibia	
Nigeria			Seychelles	
The Gambia			South Africa	
			Zimbabwe	
IUCEA			**SARUA**	**CAMES**

PAQAA Advisors

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Progress since Addis

- ✓ Revised statutes completed – Troika & Advisors
- ✓Multilingual dissemination
- ✓Submitted to the AUC
- ✓Preparation for AU approval

PAQAA as an organ of the AU

"to promote, coordinate, and facilitate the implementation and continuous strengthening of the PAQAF and its key instruments to strengthen quality, trust, comparability, mutual recognition and mobility across African higher education, and advance excellence and innovation in African higher education."

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Objectives of the PAQAA

The main objective of the Alliance is to promote, coordinate, and facilitate the implementation and continuous advancement of the PAQAF and its key instruments.

Key objectives in the statutes focus on:

- ❑ Trust and Transparency
- ❑Cooperation
- ❑Recognition and Mobility
- ❑Capacity Development
- ❑International Visibility
- ❑Research and Knowledge

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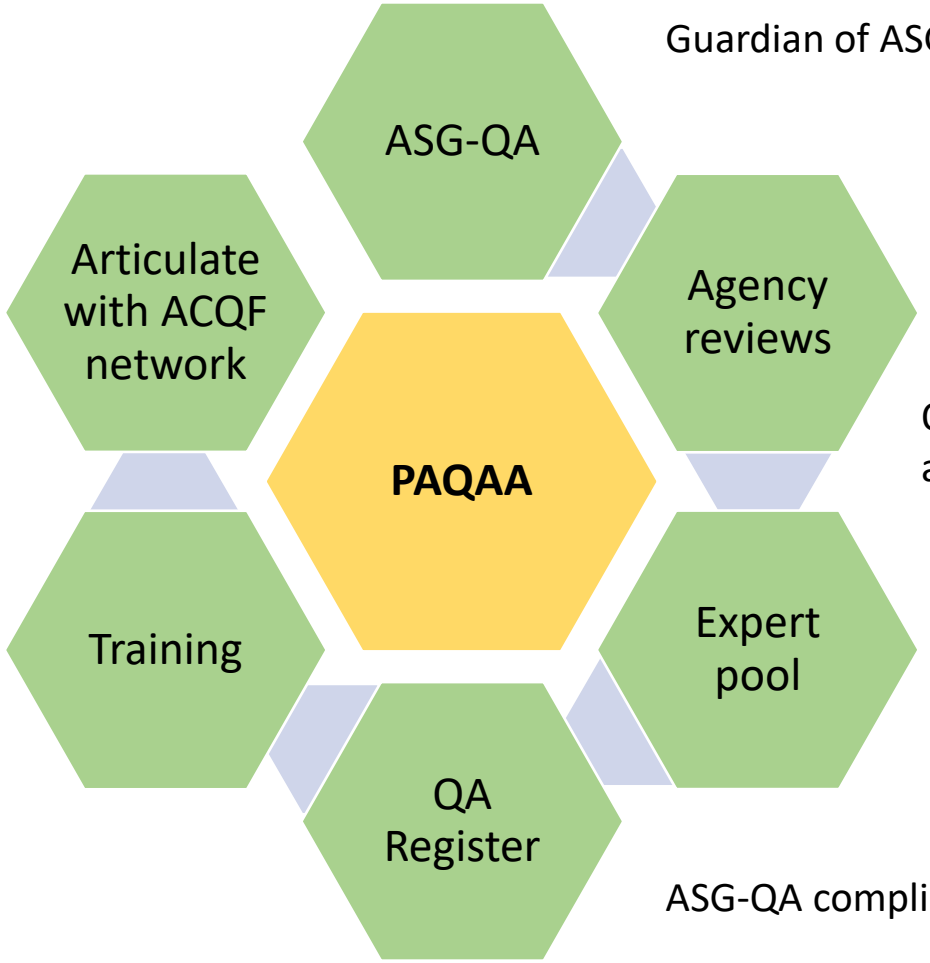
Functions of the PAQAA

- Promotion of the ASG-QA
- Agency reviews
- Capacity building
- Maintaining a database of experts
- Continental register of QAAs
- Communication
- International cooperation
- Cross-border QA support
- Policy alignment
- Governance safeguards

“comply with applicable national legislation and shall not replace or override the accreditation or regulatory requirements of the competent national authorities”.

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Operationally, what will PAQAA do?



Guardian of ASG-QA; revision in 2027

Oversight / management of agency reviews and expert pool

ASG-QA compliant

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- Guardian of the ASG-QA (and it’s revision in 2027)
- Oversight/management QA Agency reviews and expert pool
- QA Agency register of compliant authorities
- Ongoing training on the above
- Articulation with the ACQF network

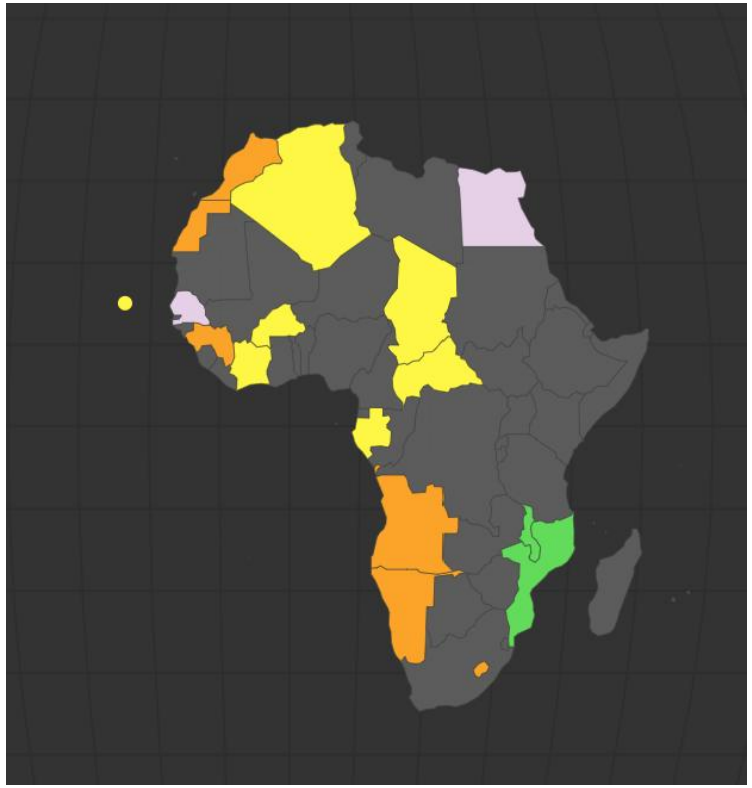
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QA Agency reviews 2025-26

- **Completed in 2024/5**
  - Mozambique/ Malawi
- **Full agency reviews selected 2025/26**

- · INAAREES, Angola
  · NAQAAE, Egypt
  · ANAQ-GN, Guinea
  · ANAQESR, Ivory Coast
  · CHE, Lesotho (complete)
  · ANAEQ, Morocco
  · NCHE, Namibia (complete)
  · ANAQ-SUP, Senegal
- **Consultancy visits**

- · CIAQE/MESRS, Algeria
  · DAQES, Burkina Faso (delayed)
  · ARES, Cape Verde
  · ATAQ, Chad
  · CSAQES, Gabon (delayed)
  · ANAQAES, RCA
  · ATEA, Tunisia



- **Growing African Data base of experts**
- **New call with rolling applications: 2026-2027**

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THANK YOU
MERCI
OBRIGADA

Let’s shape the future of QA in Africa, together

More information:
www.haqaa3.obreal.org

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