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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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PAU QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

I- The Quality assurance system in the PAU

The system of quality assurance is a central element of the PAU for at least two principal reasons.

- Higher education is strongly affected by the globalization and that creates new challenges, for management and the regulation. While the offer of higher education continues to develop and to diversify, there is more and more need for a greater standardization, so that the qualifications can be more easily evaluated. Currently, besides the challenge of access, which aims at giving a quantitative response at the demand of Higher education, another challenge is taking into account, the qualitative aspect of offer of formation, which led to what is currently the Quality Assurance, in the higher education.
- One of the fundamental pillars of the PAU is excellence. It is necessary to guarantee quality, at the same time structures, programs and management of the PAU, through a reliable mechanism of Quality assurance.

In general, to meet this requirement for quality, many initiatives were taken in Africa, as well as at the national and regional levels. In many countries, a vast program developed on the Quality Assurance and others on installation of the structures of management of the Quality Assurance, particularly much is done at national and regional levels, in the higher institutions.

Some Regional Economic Communities are working in this field such as, the Conseil Africain et Malgache pour l'Enseignement Supérieur (CAMES), the Community of Development of the Southern Africa (SADC) with UNESCO, has launched a Framework for qualifications in order to establish standards which will reinforce academic mobility.

These aspects of quality will have naturally being taken into account, in all the structures mentioned to become components of the PAU.

II- Basic Mechanism

The African continent does not have any continental accreditation system of higher education but most countries have their national accreditation system put in place. PAU would rely on the national system pending the establishment of continental body. PAU will interface the AUC's African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) with PAU quality assurance system and processes.

The existence or development of a structure of management of the Quality Assurance will be a requirement for all the components of the PAU. On the establishment of the PAU, each selected structure (Institute or Center) will have to produce, within 6 months, the methods of an internal evaluation, which will constitute a starting reference frame. Once the PAU established, each structure, called, thereafter, to integrate the PAU will produce an internal evaluation, before its admission processes.

The Rectorate/Vice-Chancellery of the PAU will have to establish a program of periodic and continuous evaluation of the structures already in existence. This program of evaluation of quality, coupled with ranking and rating, will be based on the two fundamental AUC documents named « Harmonization of Higher Education » this will give room for unification and synchronization of the differences in curriculum between the French and English system of higher education while « African Quality Rating Mechanism » will guarantee, the quality and the relevance of the programs of the PAU.

III- Implementation Mechanism within the PAU

The implementation of the management mechanism of the Quality Assurance, within the PAU will be based on the methods of evaluation (Intern and external). They will be implemented either by an Agency of the PAU or by specialized external agencies. The choice is left to the Rectorate/Vice-Chancellery to decide. In any case it will involve the Institute and Centers in one hand and the Rectorate/Vice-Chancellery, in the other hand.

1- Implementation at the level of the Institutes and Centers of the PAU

Each Institute or Center of the PAU will have a *Quality Assurance Scheme.* This structure will be under the office of the Director or Coordinator of the Institute or the Center. It will be headed by *Quality Compliance Supervisor* in each Institute or Centers, his/her responsibilities will include:

- Propose to the Director of the Institute or Center, an action plan of the management of the Quality Assurance system and forward to the Recteur/Vice-Chancellor of the PAU, for approval;
- Implement the action plan approved by the Recteur/Vice-Chancellor;
- Prepare an annual report which will be submitted to the Director. This report, discussed and approved, within the structure (Institute or Center), and transmitted to the Recteur /Vice-Chancellor of the PAU.

2- Implementation at the level of the Rectorate/Vice-Chancellery of the PAU

The Recteur/Vice-Chancellery (at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) will establish a *Division of Quality Assurance Management.* The head of the Division will be the *Quality Compliance Officer,* with his/her team.
Under the aegis of the Rector/Vice-Chancellor of the PAU, this Division is responsible for the management of the whole System of Quality Assurance of the PAU.

Hence, the Division is saddled with the following responsibilities:

- Start from the elements provided by the qualified Services of the Institutes and Centers, to work-out, the general policy of Quality Assurance of the PAU. This general policy will be submitted to the PAU Council for adoption
- Coordinate and supervise the implementation of this policy within the PAU
- Study and develop criteria at the level of the Institutes and Centers and propose any improvements to the Recteur/Vice-Chancellor

- Carry out the evaluation of structures responsible for the Quality Assurance in the Institutes and Centers and to report to the Rector, with appropriate action plans.
- Prepare an annual report to the Rector/Vice-Chancellor for onward submission to the PAU Council, with regards to management of Quality Assurance
- Propose to the Recteur /Vice-Chancellor all initiatives leading to improve and reinforce the management of the Quality Assurance within all the structures of the PAU.