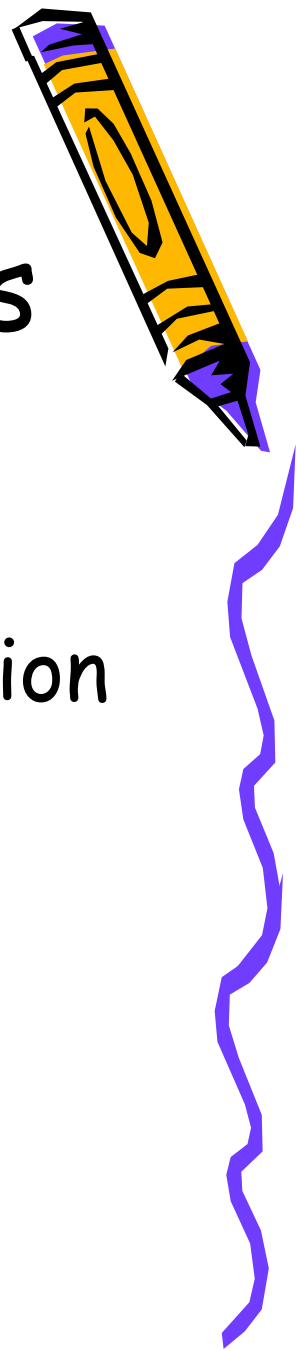


# *Recognition in Africa: Taking Arusha forward*



Olusola Oyewole  
African Union Commission  
Addis Ababa

# In the Next Few Minutes



- Review of the original Arusha Convention
- Problems with the Arusha Convention
- Updates on the developments and State.
- Way Forward





# Trajectory to the Arusha Convention

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UNESCO's efforts towards promotion of:

- International Academic Mobility
- Regional Cooperation in the area of recognition of studies and degree
- Promotion of knowledge for Development

# Five Regional Conventions

- (i) Latin America and the Caribbean (1974)
- (ii) Arab States ( 1978)
- (iii) Europe (1979)
- (iv) Africa (1981) – Arusha.
- (v) Asia and Pacific (1983)



# The Arusha Convention



Titled:

Regional Convention on recognition of studies, certificates, diplomas, degrees, and others academic qualifications in higher education in the African states.

Adopted: At Arusha, Tanzania, on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1981.

Revised: Capetown, South Africa in June, 2002

Amended: in Dakar, Senegal, June, 2003.





# The Arusha Convention: (Purpose and Objectives)

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- Greater mobility of students and people engaged in an occupation/ profession throughout the African continent.
- Reinforcement of African solidarity and the African cultural identity.
- Effective use of resources through improving academic mobility of students and teachers.
- Recognition of full qualifications and also, “stages of study” and “ experiential learning”.

# The Arusha Convention: (Mechanisms)



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- The contracting states undertake to “take all necessary steps at a national level”, to recognise qualifications obtained in a higher education institutions situated in the territory of other contracting states and recognized by them.
- The convention gives general guidelines and calls for the setting up of national and sub-regional bodies to implement activities.
- There is a regional committee composed of representatives of all contracting states, which meets every two years

# Problems with the Arusha Convention

## Structural:

- ❑ Modalities, Structures and Policies for execution ,including the exchange of information and documents relating to higher education was poor and at varying degrees of power and formality in different countries
- ❑ Many African countries do not have national educational regulatory agencies – For policy guidelines and quality assurance
- ❑ The Regional Committee was inefficient – Financial constraints; and no formal cooperation between the regional committees ( Coordination difficult)





# Problems with the Arusha Convention

## Technical:

- Commitment on recognition does not explicitly refer to the quality of the degrees obtained.
- Decisions about credit transfer Take place at an institutional level through faculties or senates – and there are many variations in processes, and complexity among institutions.
- Recognition of part of qualifications was difficult to implement, in many countries.
- Variation in admission policies, and inconsistent academic calendar, were constraints to implementation



## Status

- There are only 20 contracting States.
- There are improvements in the number of countries with national regulatory agencies, except that some of them are yet to ratify the convention despite their structures
- Sub-regional protocols now exists, with interest in regional harmonization and standardization of the educational systems in their regions ( CAMES, ICEA, SADC)
- COMEDAF, AUC and UNESCO recognized the need for review .

# *Road to Revision*



- Started in 2006
- Involves UNESCO, AUC, AAU, COMEDAF.
- Discussed at Quality Assurance meeting of 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Stakeholders, including REC's meeting In Accra, 2008
- COMEDAF consideration revisions in November, 2009.

# Way Forward: The Revision

## Basis:

- Paramount roles that education must play in promoting regional integration in Africa
- Importance of academic mobility and regional recognition of studies
- Need to meet the Challenges of globalization

# Way Forward: The Revision

## Basis:

- New consciousness of the need for quality assurance systems, an mechanism ( national and regional)
- Recognizing the developments in ICT and New modes of learning (ODL, CBE and the use of Open Educational Resources (OERs)
- New and Emerging African Educational space, with the need to promote HE and Research ( "))( ( UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education)

# Some of the Reviews



## 1. AIMS:

- Strengthening and promoting inter-regional and international cooperation in the field of recognition of qualifications
- Putting in place effective quality assurance and accreditation mechanisms at the national, regional and continental levels
- Promoting use of Africa human resources, including the diaspora.



# Some of the Reviews



## 1. AIMS:

Facilitation of exchange, and greater mobility of students, teachers, joint training, joint research, joint degrees

Harmonization of certificates and the global trends at generalizing the bachelor's, Masters and Doctoral (BMD) system





# Some of the Reviews

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## 2. OBLIGATIONS OF STATE PARTIES: Clearly stated General Provisions :

- Applied to both public and Private HEIS
- Agrees to promote access to HEIS

### b. Transparency of Higher Education Systems , Institutions, Programmes ad Qualifications.

### C. Recognition of :

- Partial Studies – level of learning outcomes and competences.
- Professional experiences and Prior learning – Adult education and Life-long learning.



# *Some of the Reviews*

## 3. IMPLEMENTATION

### (a) Process for the Recognition of Qualifications clarified:

- The Process for the recognition of qualification should include Quality Assurance and Accreditation of institutions and programs.

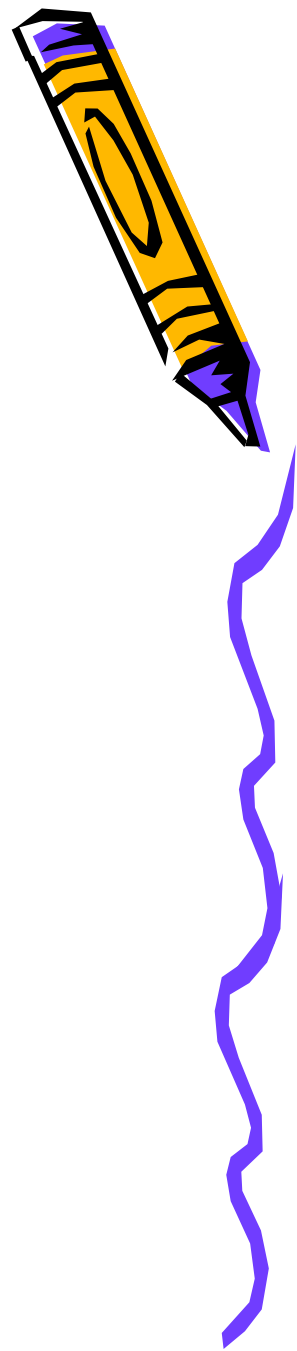
### (b) Implementation Structures and Technical Partnership: Entrusted to :

- (i) National Bodies
- (ii) The Continental Follow-Up Committees
- (iii) The Network of National Observatories.
- (iv) Bilateral and Sub-Regional Bodies

# Some of the Reviews

## 3. FINANCE:

- Contracting States Contributions
- Additional resources from sub-regional bodies
- AUC, UNESCO and other financial and technical partners



## *Way Forward*



- Learning from the Experiences of the Bologna Process – Quality Assurance, harmonisation, Mobility and Rating / Ranking.
- Commitment to carry all the Stakeholders along.- African Union Info-Day
- Providing the necessary political will of the African Union and African Members States.

# *What the New Arusha Will Do For You*



- Regions of Africa are being encouraged to developed their regional protocols for Quality Assurance and Harmonization, with focus on Minimum standards.
- Allow mobility and part-time studies with unit transferability across institutions and countries

# *What the New Arusha Will Do For You*

- You will have the political support to support academic movements – Visa
- Africa-wide research and Teachers mobility-facilitated on behalf of the AU by other Networks (AAU, etc)
- Encourage Joint degrees and research mobility.
- Your African Union will not just work with governments but directly with institutions, ( As is the case with the Rating Mechanisms.
- Developing a Compendium ( with AAU) to promote the Excellence residing n Africa

# Way Forward



- **Revisions considered in November, 2009**
- **AUC and UNESCO redraft completed**
- **Revised document now with the Legal Unit of UNESCO and**
- **Re-present to Bureau in June, 2009.**
- **COMEDAF approval in November, 2010.**

# Thank you.

