



# African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ASG-QA) in Higher Education

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# What are the ASG-QA?

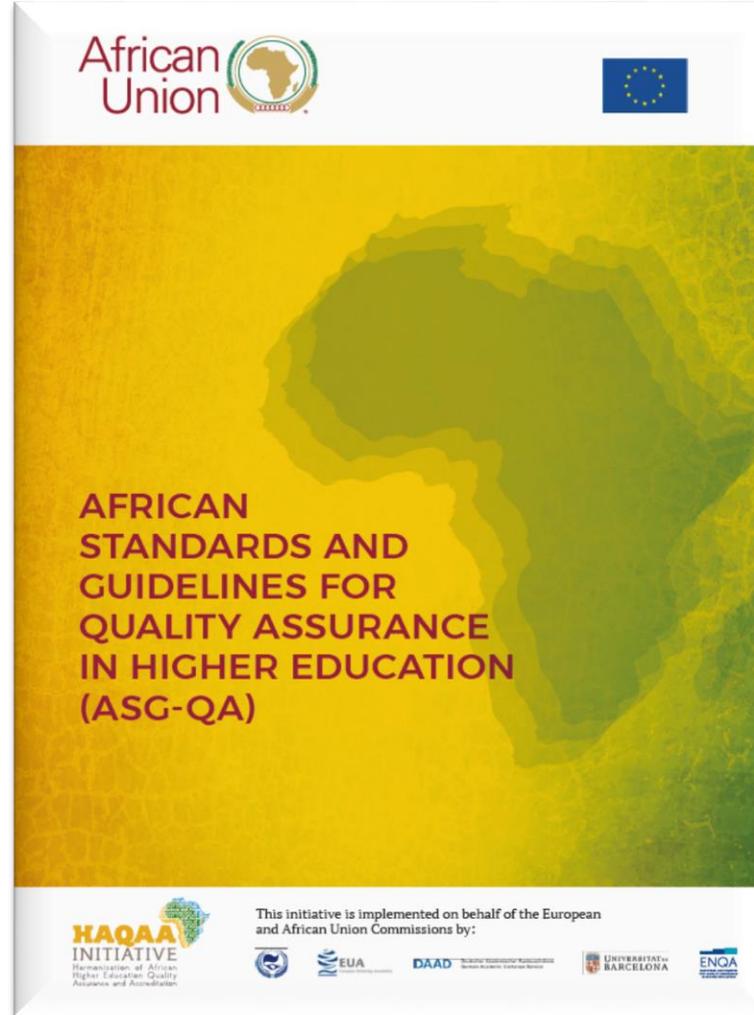
- They are a set of non-prescriptive, but flexible standards and guidelines for internal and external quality assurance (QA) in higher education in Africa.
- They provide an overarching framework for QA in higher education in Africa.
- The standards are stated as common minimum requirements.
- The guidelines are stated in more specific terms to advise higher education institutions (HEIs) and quality assurance agencies (QAAs) on the best way to address each standard and allow for the collection of evidence in support of their status of quality.

## What are the ASG-QA?...contd.

- They are an example of good practice and a mechanism for quality enhancement in African HEIs and QAAs.
- They are not exhaustive – HEIs and QAAs can add additional standards to suit their own context.
- They were benchmarked with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015) – contextualised to be fit for the African higher education landscape.

# ASG-QA Launch

- The ASG-QA have been launched recently (December 2018) and are available in the four languages of the African Union, i.e. English, French, Portuguese and Arabic.



Accessible at: <https://haqaa.aau.org>

# Purpose

The ASG-QA will support HEIs and QAAs in Africa in implementing **good QA practices** by helping them to develop adequate internal QA mechanisms that fit international good practice and assisting them to assess their own quality through self-assessment.

**Specifically, the ASG-QA is aimed at supporting HEIs and QAAs to:**

- Have a **common framework** and understanding of QA among stakeholders – at continental, regional, and national levels.
- Develop **mutual trust** – facilitate recognition and mobility of students and human resources in Africa.
- Ensure quality **improvement/enhancement** through self-assessment, external peer review and continuous monitoring and evaluation.

## Purpose...contd.

- Promote ***transparency and accountability*** by providing appropriate information on QA to the public.
- Promote a ***sustainable quality culture*** in HEIs, alongside the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) – helping HEIs to implement relevant teaching and learning resources as well as student assessment mechanisms.
- Promote ***international competitiveness*** of Africa's higher education system.

# Principles and Methodologies

## Principles:

- HEIs are the custodians of quality and QA.
- The autonomy, identity and integrity of HEIs are acknowledged and respected.

## Methodologies:

- The development of the ASG-QA was subjected to consultation with stakeholders:
  - The existing standards and guidelines of higher education already in use in African countries (a high level of similarities were found).
  - Regional quality assurance networks or associations such as: Inter University Council of East Africa (IUCEA); Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE); and the African and Malagache Council for Higher Education (CAMES) in Francophone.
- They were also benchmarked with other international standards and guidelines, e.g. ESG 2015.

# Scope

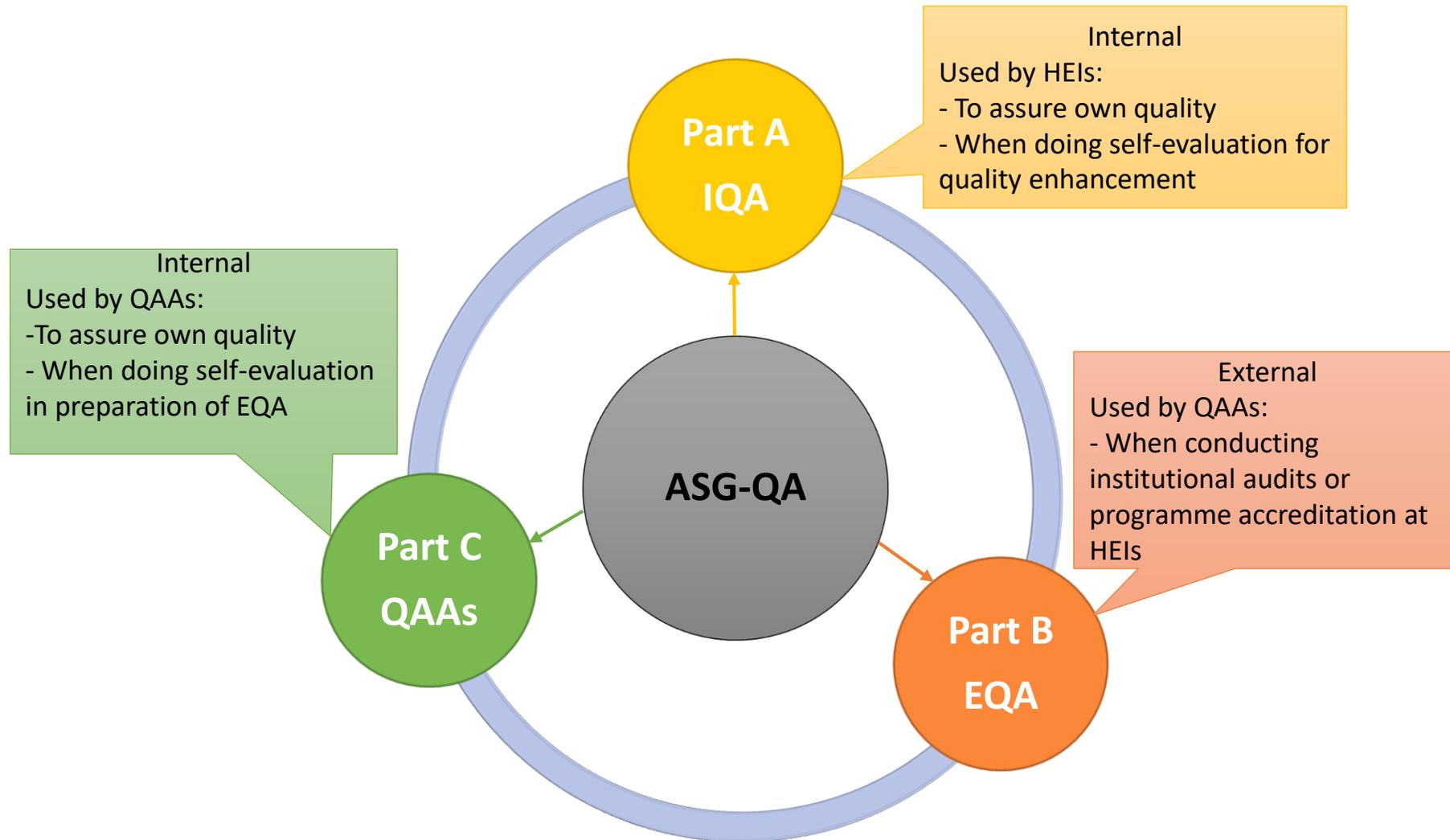
- The ASG-QA apply to all types of HEIs (and QAAs) in Africa irrespective of the mode of study or place of delivery, including transnational and cross-border delivery.
- Refer always to both undergraduate and postgraduate students, unless otherwise stated.
- Include all staff – academic, research, administrative and technical/support staff, unless otherwise stated.
- Should be applied taking into account existing qualifications frameworks and credit accumulation and transfer systems in operation in the continent.

## Three Parts:

- ❖ Part A: Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) of HEIs
- ❖ Part B: External Quality Assurance (EQA)
- ❖ Part C: Internal Quality Assurance for QAAs

***NB: The 3 parts are interlinked and together form the basis for an African Quality Assurance Framework.***

# Inter-linkage



# Part A: Internal Quality Assurance

- Part A presents standards and guidelines for Internal Quality Assurance at the level of HEIs.
- It also incorporates standards and guidelines for Open and Distance Learning modes.
- Part A covers areas that are considered essential for the attainment of the provision of quality higher education, and focuses mainly on:
  - ❖ Institutional governance, policies and processes that promote quality higher education;
  - ❖ Teaching and learning environment;
  - ❖ Research and innovation;
  - ❖ Collaboration and community engagement.

# Part B: External Quality Assurance

- Part B describes the methodologies (or standards) used for external quality assurance of HEIs.
- This section takes into account the standards and guidelines in Part A for HEIs, ensures that IQA examined is relevant to and efficient for the concerned HEI, and that there is consistency between IQA undertaken by institutions themselves and EQA conducted by QAAs.
- Part B covers:
  - ❖ Objectives of EQA;
  - ❖ Designing mechanisms that are fit for purpose;
  - ❖ Independence;
  - ❖ Decisions and reporting;
  - ❖ Periodic review;
  - ❖ Complaints and appeals.

# Part C: Internal Quality Assurance for QAAs

- Part C is intended for the internal quality assurance of QAAs through self-assessment of their policies, practices, procedures and activities and/or for external assessment/evaluation by another body/peer organisation.
- Part C covers:
  - ❖ Policies, processes and activities of the QAA;
  - ❖ Legal status;
  - ❖ Vision and mission;
  - ❖ Financial and human resources;
  - ❖ Independence;
  - ❖ Standards and processes used by the QAA.

# PART A (13 Standards)

**A1: Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives**

**A2: Governance and Management**

**A3: Human Resources**

**A4: Financial Resource Management**

**A5: Infrastructure and Facilities**

**A6: Student Recruitment, Admission, Certification and Support Services**

**A7: Design, Approval, Monitoring and Evaluation of Study Programmes**

**A8: Teaching, Learning and Assessment**

**A9: Research and Innovation**

**A10: Community Engagement**

**A11: Information Management System**

**A12: Public Communication**

**A13: Collaboration, Staff and Student Mobility**

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## PART B (7 Standards)

**B1: Objectives of External Quality Assurance and Consideration for Internal Quality Assurance**

**B2: Designing External Quality Assurance Mechanisms Fit for Purpose**

**B3: Implementation Processes of External Quality Assurance**

**B4: Independence of Evaluation**

**B5: Decision and Reporting of External Quality Assurance Outcomes**

**B6: Periodic Review of Institutions and Programmes**

**B7: Complaints and Appeals**

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## PART C (9 Standards)

**C1: Legal Status**

**C2: Vision and Mission Statement**

**C3: Governance and Management**

**C4: Independence of QAA**

**C5: Policies, Processes and Activities**

**C6: Internal Quality Assurance**

**C7: Financial and Human Resources**

**C8: Benchmarking, Networking and Collaboration**

**C9: Periodic Reviews of QAAs**

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# Implementation and Ownership of the ASG-QA

- National QAAs are expected to advocate the ASG-QA to ensure implementation thereof.
- The ASG-QA will serve as the guiding framework in facilitating the establishment of QAAs in countries where they do not exist, and also ensure good practices in existing QAAs (37 countries have QAAs).
- The effective implementation of Parts B and C of the ASG-QA necessitated the development of Review Methodology.

# Implementation and Ownership of the ASG-QA...contd.

- The Review Methodology was piloted at four QAAs in 2018, and consultancy visits were conducted in countries that are planning to establish, or that are in the process of establishing a QAA.
- It is hoped that the ASG-QA will be officially and politically endorsed by the African Union this year.
- It is foreseen that a Coordinating Body at continental level be established.

Thank you very much for your  
kind attention.