UNCTAD workshop on
Recognition of qualifications to facilitate
movement of natural persons
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SADC approach to MRAs

by

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SADC Approach to MRAs

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Recognition of qualifications to facilitate Mode 4
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Contextual framework

- Legal basis/framework
  - Protocol on Education and Training
  - Protocol on Trade in Services

- Approaches & progress
  - National qualifications framework
  - SADC qualification framework
  - MRA for services
    - Professional services
    - Other non-regulated professions e.g. tourism

- Going forward
What approaches are in place for recognition of foreign qualifications?

- **National qualifications framework**
  - Based on formal training achievements
  - Most SADC countries have NQF & implementing structure (organisation)

- **SADC qualification framework**
  - Harmonisation and approximation of qualifications based on NQF
  - Yet to be developed into sector specific
SADC legal frameworks on MRAs

- Protocol on Education and Training
  - provides for developing MRAs to facilitate credit transfer from one training institution to another
  - portability and comparability of academic qualifications across the region
  - Among academicians and national qualifications authorities
SADC legal frameworks on MRAs

- Protocol on Trade in Services
  - Builds on WTO rules – provides for develop MRAs for purpose of facilitating authorization, licensing, operation and certification of service suppliers
    - Prioritise professional services
    - Mode 4 commitments = categories (ICT, BV, CSS & IPS)
      - Could include non-regulated sector/professions
  - Initiated work on framework agreement
State of play

- SADC QF- 9 MS implementation
- One MS – part of the EAC QF and MRAs
- Bilateral & intra-regional
  - SACU countries on movement of labour – unskilled and semi-skilled in mining sector
  - Zimbabwe on tourism sector with 5 countries
  - APEI – 5 SADC countries – negotiating Accountancy MRA
  - SADC Veterinary professionals- working group developing MRA
Lessons from EAC

- Two fold approach
  - Regional qualification framework – EAC common education area
    - Students & academic staff mobility
  - MRA for regulated professions – some cover both labour & services
    - Signed - Accountants, Architects, Engineers and Veterinary
    - Under preparations – lawyers, pharmacist & surveyors
- Work permits
  - Waiver by some countries
Challenges to Services MRAs

- How to link the MRA with mode for commitments
  - Especially where the commitments include non-regulated frameworks
  - Lack of political will to include semi-skilled and low-skilled workers
    - Example – agreements on exchange of tourism personnel
- The link between mode 4 (categories) and labour occupation carders
  - Mode 4 commitments don’t reflect skills gap in the respective sectors
  - Link to work permit and immigration needs
  - Limited statistics on labour and mode
- Link between labour needs, professional needs and trade/economic interest
  - Private sector and training institutions involvement
Challenges identified in implementation

- **Uncoordinated** efforts (trade, labour, immigration & educations)
  - No statistics, database
  - coordination among implementing agencies (labour/ internal affairs)
  - Lack of corporation from academicians
  - Professional accreditation related issues
- No political commitments to liberalise (labour & services)
  - Immigration and labour related – high unemployment
  - Force declaration to acquire entry
- Non-existence of recognition framework for unskilled and semi-skilled labour
Recommendation – area for corporation/future work

- Capacity building to forge working relations – labour, trade, immigration & education as well as private sector
  - Common areas of interest – development of MRAs in area regional interest e.g. The SADC industrialisation strategy
- Linkage to labour market needs – qualification requirements
  - Comprehensive approach to movement of labour & services
- Development of national qualifications framework
  - Both regulated and non-regulated sectors