

UNCTAD workshop on
**Recognition of qualifications to facilitate
movement of natural persons**

Co-organized by UNCTAD-ACP Secretariat

Geneva, 3 May 2019

SADC approach to MRAs

by

Ms. Viola Sawere

Regional Trade in Services Expert

Southern African Development Community Secretariat



UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD



SADC Approach to MRAs

UNCTAD-ACP workshop

Recognition of qualifications to facilitate Mode 4

3 May 2019, Room XXVI – Palais des Nations

Presented by: Viola Sawere

Regional Trade Advisor

GFA/GIZ/SADC Trade in Services Project

Email: sviolla@gmail.com or vsawere@sadc.int



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 develop MRAs to facilitate credit transfer from one training institutions to another
 - portability and comparability of academic qualifications across the region
 - Among academicians & 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 4 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 eg. 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