

Dear Paul

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the NQAF draft.

If the plan is to submit this discussion paper by Canada with the current content, there is room to improve the document:

The title of the paper should be modified to something like "Development of/Need for a Generic National Quality Assurance Framework". The paper should help UNSC decide how useful the existing frameworks are for (developing) countries, and whether and why something new needs to be developed. If the NQAF is to be developed, UNSC should give advice on the principles that it should be based on and the elements that it should adopt from DQAF and any other frameworks.

The body of the paper could be condensed by moving the details of the various national and international quality frameworks and tools to an annex, and just list them and their scope in a dedicated section of body the paper. The Canadian example could be a second annex, but the text could be shortened.

As this is a discussion paper towards a framework, the paper should use corresponding language throughout. The sections could include such (a) background and envisaged benefits, (b) existing frameworks and tools, (c) possible scope of the framework, and (d) options for developing the framework.

The paper should state to which extent there is internationally accepted terminology. We like "benefits" much better than "motivation". The benefits could be described in various areas and for various groups, whereas motivation is usually related to human behaviour. We are not sure if terms such as "quality gap", or "static or dynamic quality" would be useful terms for a NQAF for developing countries.

All action points in para 42 need to be revised. This is not "further developing"; there is no proposal for the NQAF yet; but it should be drafted by 2011.

If it at all stays, "Figure 2" could be developed as "A possible outline for a Generic National Quality Assurance Framework".

Another possibility is to let the Canadians focus on their framework and prepare a separate brief secretariat paper that explains the purpose of the agenda item and asks some of the basic questions above.

I hope this is useful,

Thanks and regards,
Ilpo

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