

AMCOA

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL COUNCILS OF AFRICA



RESPONSIVE REGULATION
FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES
TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

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Case Study: Regional Regulatory Science Curriculum

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Session 3:

Case Study: Regional Regulatory Science Curriculum: Harmonising Core Competencies while Preserving National Contexts

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Why a Regional Regulatory Science Curriculum?

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- **Why Now?**

- Workforce mobility
- Cross-border health threats
- Digital health & AI
- Stronger regulatory capacity Regional integration (AU/Regional Economical Communities)

- **Key Question:** Can Africa harmonise regulatory science education while preserving national contexts?

What is a Regional Curriculum?

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Not One Curriculum

- Not Same syllabus
- Not Same teaching methods
- Not Same examinations

Common Competency Framework

- Core competencies
- Minimum standards
- Comparable learning outcomes
- Quality-assured programmes
- Mutual recognition

Zambia Example (Different curricula → Same HPCZ competencies)

What Does the Evidence Say?

- **Research Findings**

- Global standards with local relevance
- Competency-based education
- Harmonise outcomes, not content
- Adaptability is a core competency
- "Glocalisation" works best

Key finding: Standardise competencies. Localise curriculum delivery

Sources: Brouwer *et al.* (2020); Stütz *et al.* (2015) & Frenk *et al.* (2010)

Africa is Already Harmonising

• Existing Initiatives

- WHO AFRO – Competency-based curricula
- WAHO (ECOWAS) – Harmonised health training
- East Africa – Regional curriculum benchmarks
- SADC – Qualifications Framework
- WFME – Global education standards

Africa is building on existing regional frameworks, not starting from scratch

Sources: WHO AFRO (2025); WAHO; IUCEA; SADC; WFME)

A Practical Framework: A 4 Step Model Proposed

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1. **Define** Core competencies & Learning outcomes
2. **Adapt** National priorities & Institutional autonomy
3. **Assure** Accreditation, Quality assurance & Regulatory approval
4. **Sustain** Continuous review, Mutual recognition, CPD & emerging science

At the end, we get Common standards, assured Local implementation/adaptation with sustainable Continuous improvement

A Practical Framework: A 4 Step Model Proposed

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Challenges	Safeguards
Loss of local relevance	Contextualised implementation
Resource disparities	Minimum regional standards
Faculty capacity gaps	Faculty development
Different regulatory systems	Regional collaboration
Rapidly changing science	Periodic curriculum review

Harmonisation should strengthen diversity, not replace it

Recommendations (Proposed Way Forward)

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1. Develop an AMCOA Regional Competency Framework
2. Align with WHO AFRO, WFME & Regional Economic Communities
3. Preserve national context & institutional autonomy
4. Strengthen regional accreditation & mutual recognition
5. Establish periodic curriculum review for emerging technologies

One African competency framework. Multiple national curricula. Shared standards.