



THE 1ST NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS CONFERENCE

PROGRAMME BOOKLET

12th to 14th May 2026

Emara Ole-Sereni, Nairobi, Kenya

KNOWLEDGE



DR

National Qualifications Conference – Nairobi, Kenya, 2026

- Conference Theme:** A Decade of Transformation and Reimagining Qualifications in Kenya: Advancing Quality, Relevance, Inclusion and Recognition in Kenya's Qualifications and Skills for Lifelong Learning and Employability
- Methodology:** Hybrid (In-person— Nairobi / Virtual)
- Dates:** 12th - 14th May 2026
- Venue:** Nairobi— with Virtual Streaming

1.0 Introduction and Background

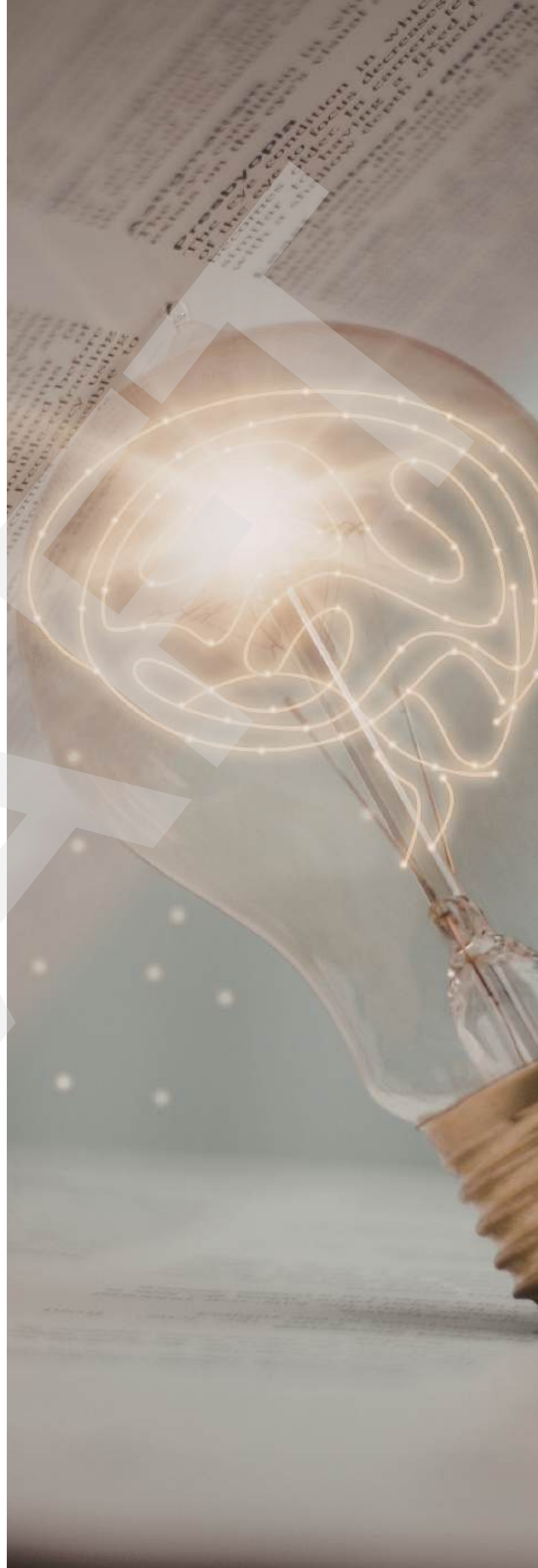
Across the globe, stakeholders recognise National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs) as powerful tools for strengthening the quality, relevance, and comparability of qualifications. A centralised NQF defines the standards a qualification must meet to be considered credible, which ensures alignment with national development goals and international benchmarks.

The Kenya National Qualifications Authority maintains the KNQF. A coordinated system of sub-frameworks anchors its governance, where regulatory bodies assure quality and uphold standards within their respective education and training sectors. This structure guarantees that qualifications which institutions develop and award across basic, technical, higher, professional, and industrial training remain coherent, comparable, and aligned to the National Qualifications Framework.

The Framework serves as a key instrument for promoting skills development, lifelong learning, the recognition of prior learning, and labour market relevance. As Kenya transitions toward a more skills-oriented economy, the Authority recognises an urgent need to translate the KNQF into tangible outcomes that benefit learners, workers, and employers. To achieve this, the Authority has organised a Conference to shape dialogue on translating skills into recognisable qualifications. This event explores how the KNQF drives meaningful change in the qualifications landscape, skills development, and lifelong learning.

2.0 Rationale of the Conference

Over a decade of its implementation in the Country, the KNQF has come of age. The Framework has evolved and traversed the various phases of its development, institutionalization, and implementation, generating critical insights into its strengths, gaps and opportunities. This milestone presents an opportune moment to take stock of progress and to engage in a reflective and evidence-based dialogue on the Framework's functionality and impact. The Conference thus provides a timely platform to hear directly from both the implementers and beneficiaries of the KNQF, those who apply and experience the Framework in practice. Through these shared perspectives, the Conference aims to distill lessons learned and co—create actionable strategies with stakeholders to strengthen the KNQA's effectiveness in advancing skills development and lifelong learning.



3.0 General Objective

To strengthen Kenya's Qualifications landscape for enhanced quality, recognition, access and relevance.

3.1 Specific Objectives



To promote a coherent, credible and robust qualifications landscape through reflection on progress, achievements, and lessons learnt over the past decade;



To enhance national and regional recognition and mobility of qualifications through dialogue on comparability and mutual recognition;



To strengthen partnerships and coordination among stakeholders for a more integrated and efficient qualifications system;



To expand flexible and inclusive access to learning and qualifications through RPL, KCATS, UNESCO Qualifications Passport (UQP), modularization, and micro-credentials; and



To align qualifications and skills development with labour market demand and national development priorities.



4.0 Conference Thematic Objectives

The Conference is anchored in the structure and functional pillars of the KNQF, which provide an integrated system for the overall quality assurance of qualifications across all levels in the qualifications landscape. The thematic focus aims to translate policy into action by examining how the KNQF can effectively strengthen skills development and lifelong learning in an evolving qualification and labour market landscape.

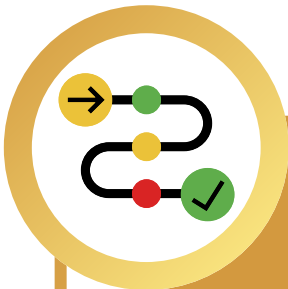
The Conference will therefore be organised around key themes and sub-themes that align with the qualifications awarding system and the KNQF, while incorporating emerging global and national development priorities.

Main Theme:

“ A Decade of Transformation and Reimagining Qualifications in Kenya: Advancing Quality, Relevance, Inclusion and Recognition in Kenya’s Qualifications and Skills for Lifelong Learning and Employability ”



Conference Themes and Sub-themes



KNQF Implementation – Governance, policy and practice

1. KNQF architecture and strengthening a well-governed and globally aligned KNQF that supports attainment of SDG 4, mutual recognition, and a clear vision for the next decade
2. Partnership, collaboration and coordination of implementation of in the KNQF
3. The KNQF as a tool for Inclusivity: Integrating informal and non-formal learning
4. Policy Legal and Institutional Framework for NQF Implementation



Industry Linkages, Employability, and Skills Development

1. Matching the demand and supply of skills-CBE/CBET
2. Labour market intelligence and its role in shaping qualifications
3. Shaping the future of qualifications through Competency-based education
4. Role of Research, Innovation in Qualifications Awarding landscape
5. Employer Perspectives on KNQF Aligned Qualifications
6. The KNQF and Labour Migration: Facilitating Mobility for skilled Kenyan professionals



Lifelong Learning and Recognition of Qualifications

1. Flexible qualifications' pathways through KCATS, RPL, Micro credentials, UQP and Modularization of curriculum
2. Facilitating progression and portability of learners within and across sectors
3. International comparability and mutual recognition of qualifications



Emerging trends in the qualifications awarding system

1. CBET/CBC
2. Greening the Qualifications Framework
3. Building a Skilled Workforce for the Blue Economy



Digital Transformation, Data Systems, and the National Qualifications Register

1. Digitalisation, Innovation, and the Future of Qualifications
2. Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Quality, Relevance and Global Competitiveness
3. Digital credentials, badges, e-certificates, and blockchain in qualification verification
4. Digitalising qualification records for efficiency, transparency, and portability-NQD
5. Integrating Qualifications MIS with the National Database, LMIS, E-learning, e-assessment



Quality Assurance and Relevance

1. Standardisation and harmonisation of Qualifications Across all Sub-Frameworks/Sectors
2. Internal and External Quality Assurance.
3. Stakeholder Engagement, Labour Market Alignment, and Continuous System Improvement for relevance
4. Quality Assurance in RPL Processes and Assessment Standards

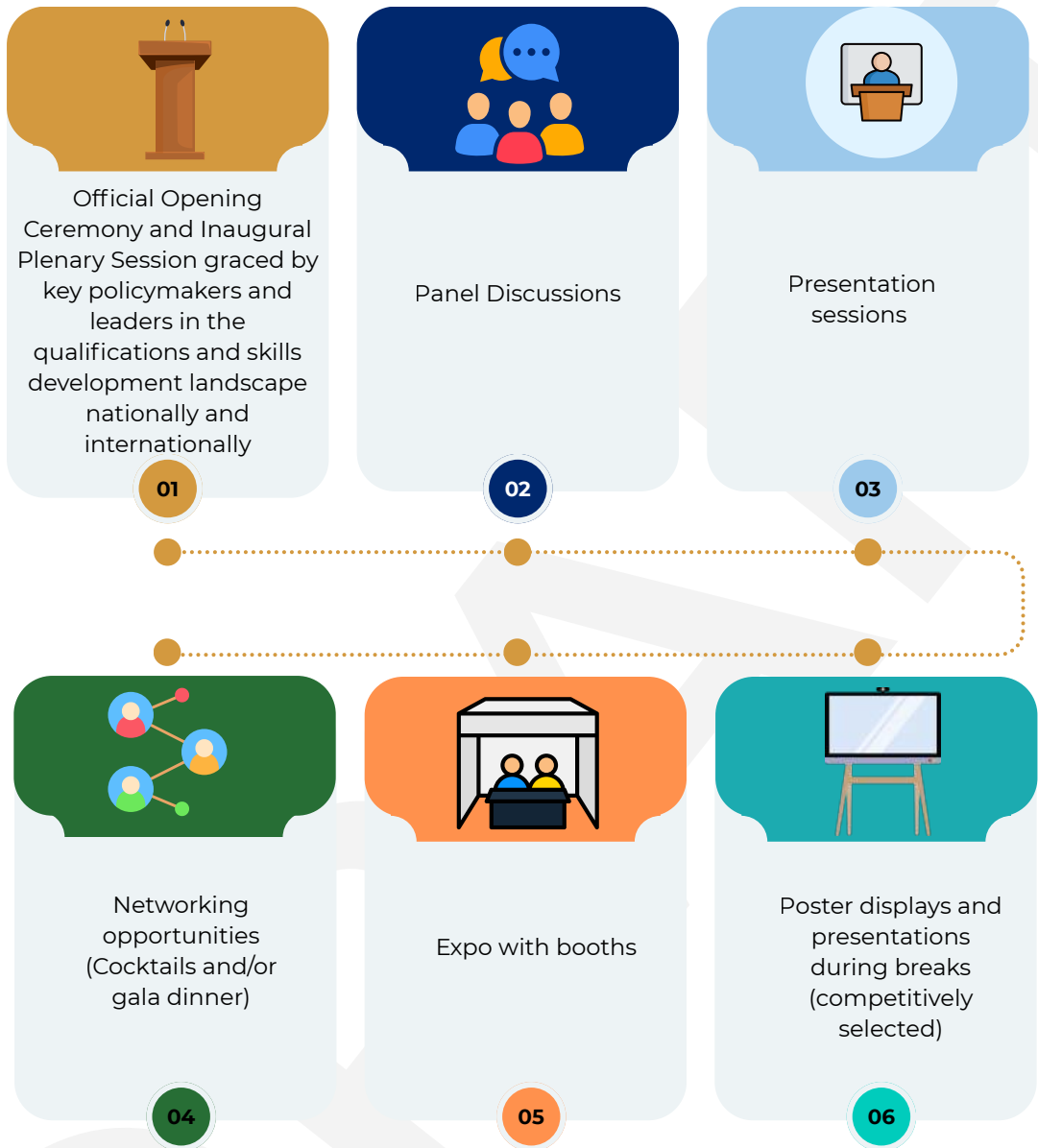
5.0 Expected Conference Outcomes

Overall, the outcomes from the Conference are expected as follows:

- 1 Actionable insights for enhancing the Qualifications landscape;
- 2 Strengthened collaboration among actors in the Qualifications landscape;
- 3 Enhanced recognition, mobility and attainment of lifelong learning;
- 4 KNQF positioned as a strategic tool for strengthening skills, lifelong learning, and employability; and
- 5 Built trust, stakeholder buy-in, and ownership of Kenyan qualifications.

6.0 Conference Organisation and Structure

The Conference will last for two and a half days. Events will include:



7.0 Key Participants

The Conference will bring together approximately 300 participants (in-person) representing a broad spectrum of stakeholders in the education, training, and skills development ecosystem and the labour market.

Participants will include:

-  Researchers
-  Policymakers
-  Regulators
-  Development partners
-  Representatives of international and regional organizations'
-  Youth engaged in the qualifications and lifelong learning agenda
-  Civil society actors
-  Employers
-  Practitioners

THEME

**A Decade of Transformation and Reimagining Qualifications in Kenya:
Advancing Quality, Relevance, Inclusion and Recognition of Qualifications
and Skills for Lifelong Learning and Employability**

EAT Time	DAY 1: Tuesday, 12th May 2026 Opening Ceremony	Facilitators
8.00 am - 9.00 am	Registration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrival• Registration (Digital Check In)	KNQA Secretariat
9.00 am - 10.30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate Setting• Entertainment• National Anthem and EAC Anthem led by the Choir Opening Remarks <p>a) Dr. Alice Kande, PhD, Director General / CEO, KNQA b) HE. Hon. Stanley Kiptis, EBS, Council Chairperson, KNQA c) Dr. Esther Muoria, PhD, CBS, Principal Secretary, State Department for TVET</p> Entertainment to usher in Guest of Honor Official Opening Hon. Julius Migos Ogamba, EBS, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education Photo Session (Groups) Transition note/reflection of the KNQA@10-year journey-Documentary/KNQF@10 Videography-DG	MC
10.30 -11.00 am	Health Break and Media Briefing	

SESSION 1: REFLECTING ON KNQF IMPLEMENTATION – GOVERNANCE, POLICY AND PRACTICE 10+ YEARS LATER

<p>11.00 am – 1.00 pm</p>	<p>Keynote Address 1: Architecting Trust in Skills and Qualifications: The Historical Evolution and Global Positioning of the KNQF</p> <p>Presenter -Hon. Julius Melly -Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Education</p> <p>Discussants: a) Principal Secretary, State Department for TVET - Dr. Esther Muoria, PhD b) Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education- Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, PhD c) Principal Secretary, State Department for Basic Education- Amb. Prof. Julius Kibet Bitok, PhD, CBS d) Principal Secretary, State Department for Industry- Dr. Juma Mukhwana, PhD, CBS e) Principal Secretary, State Department for Labour and Skills Development- Mr. Shadrack Mwadime, CBS</p> <p>Moderator- MC</p>	<p>MC</p>
<p>1.00- 2.00 pm Health Break, Networking</p>		
<p>2.00 pm - 3.00 pm</p>	<p>Keynote address 2: National Qualifications Framework as a Tool for Inclusion and Regional Integration</p> <p>Presenter: Ms. Maria Rosenstock</p> <p>Panelists: a) Ms. Nadia Starr – CEO South Africa Qualifications Authority (SAQA) b) Ms. Mercy Ngoma – CEO Zambia Qualifications Authority (ZAQA) c) Dr. Alice Kande – CEO, Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) d) Namibia / Cape Verde Qualifications Authority</p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Mike Kuria, CEO, Commission for University Education</p>	<p>MC</p>

3.00 pm - 4.00 pm	<p>Key note Address 3: Harmonizing standards, Empowering futures: Qualification frameworks as catalysts for global collaboration</p> <p>Presenter- Prof. Massamba Diouf</p> <p>Panelists a) CEO, KNATCOM - Dr. James Njogu, HSC b) Prof. Meshack Obonyo - IUCEA c) Nicholas Ouma, Senior Youth Advisor, AU Commission</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. David Katiambo, State Department for Diaspora Affairs</p>	MC
4.00 pm - 4.30 pm	Wrap-up and Reflection's: Synthesis of Day One Discussions and Emerging Insights	Dr.Winnie Bulimo
<p>4.30 – 5.00 pm HEALTH BREAK AND END OF DAY ONE</p>		

Day 2: Wednesday, 13th May 2026

SESSION 2: INDUSTRY ALIGNMENT, EMPLOYABILITY AND LABOUR MOBILITY

8.00 am – 9.00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrival• Registration (Digital Check-in)	KNQA Secretariat
9:00 am – 10:30 am	<p>Keynote Address 4: From Qualifications to Jobs: Building African Skills Systems for Employability, Mobility and Lifelong Learning</p> <p>Presenter - Ms. Caroline Njuki (Chief Technical Advisor, ILO)</p> <p>Panelists a) Dr. Wanjiru Kariuki – Secretary, State Department for Labour b) Mrs. Jacqueline Mugo, EBS - CEO Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) c) Arch. Nyamai Wambua - CEO, Kenya National Federation of Juakali Association (KNFJKA) d) Eng. Joseph Njau – Member of Council, KNQA</p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Maurice Okoth</p>	MC
10.30 -11.00	Health Break and Networking	
11.00 am - 12.30 pm	<p>Keynote Address 5: Designing Future-Ready Qualifications: Competency-Based Systems and Emerging Skills for National Growth</p> <p>Presenter: Prof. Charles Ong'ondo, CEO - KICD</p> <p>Panelists Panelists a) CEO, TVET CDACC - Prof. Kisilu Kitainge b) CEO, KNEC - Dr. David Njengere, PhD, MBS c) CEO, TVETA - Mr. Timothy Katiambo d) CEO, CUE - Prof. Mike Kuria e) CEO, KASNEB - Prof. Nicholas Letting, PhD, EBS, HSC</p> <p>Moderator: CEO, KNQA - Dr. Alice Kande, PhD</p>	MC

12.30 pm - 1.00 pm	<p>Keynote Address 6:</p> <p>1.Expanding Access and Inclusion: Building Flexible and Lifelong Learning Pathways by embracing Micro Credentials</p> <p>Presenter: Albert Okal – Skills & Lifelong Learning Specialist (ILO)</p> <p>2.Shaping Kenya’s Foundational Digital and AI Literacy Micro-Credential</p> <p>Presenter: Winnie Karanu - AI Skills Director (Microsoft)</p> <p>Discussants</p> <p>a) Eduarda Castel Branco - Expert in lifelong learning & qualifications systems,</p> <p>b) Dr. Purity Ngina – CEO, National Gender Equality Commission (NGEC)</p> <p>c) Mr Elias Gitau - Registrar Academic Affairs, Nyeri National Polytechnic</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Carol Hunja, SA – SDHER</p>	MC
1.00 pm - 2.00 pm	Health Break and Networking	

SESSION 3: QUALITY AND TRUST: STRENGTHENING ASSURANCE SYSTEMS FOR RELEVANT AND CREDIBLE QUALIFICATIONS

Abstract Presentation are capped to 15 min (32 sessions)

2.00 pm – 4.30 pm	Break out room 1	Break out room 2	Break out room 3	Break out room 4
	<p>Theme 1: KNQF Implementation – Governance, Policy and Practice</p> <p>(5 abstract presentations)</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Paul Wanyeki (TVETA)</p>	<p>Theme 2: Industry Linkages, Employability & Skills Development</p> <p>(8 abstract presentations)</p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Lilechi (MMUST)</p>	<p>Theme 3: Lifelong Learning & Recognition of Qualifications</p> <p>(12 abstract presentations)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Landin</p>	<p>Theme 4: Emerging Trends in the Qualifications Awarding System</p> <p>(8 abstract presentations)</p> <p>Moderator:</p>
4.30 pm - 6.30 pm	Health break and networking			
6.00 pm - 9.30 pm	Networking Dinner/ Cocktail - MC & Beatrice Bii / Collins Oyuu.			

DAY 3: Thursday, 14th May 2026:
SESSION 4: EMERGING TRENDS IN QUALIFICATIONS, DIGITALIZATION DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND DATA SYSTEMS IN QUALIFICATIONS

8.00 am – 9.00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival • Registration (Digital Check-in) 			KNQA Secretariat
9.00 am - 10.30 am	<p>Keynote Address 7: Greening Qualifications and tapping into AI potential for future-ready skills</p> <p>Presenter: Ms. Eduarda Castel Branco</p> <p>Discussant</p> <p>a) HE Ambassador Phillip Thigo, MBS – Office of President, Special Envoy on Technology b) Anne Kamonjo – SDTVET, Director Greening TVETS c) Ms. Winnie Karanu – AI Skills Director at Microsoft d) Prof. Eng. Peter Muchiri, EBS - Vice Chancellor, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) e) Dr. Zephania Opati - Riara University</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Jessy Maruti, CEO ICT AUTHORITY</p>			MC
10.30 am - 11.00 am	Health Break and Networking			
11.00 am - 12.45 pm	Break out Room 1	Breakout Room 2	Breakout Room 3	Breakout Room 4
	<p>Microsoft/ Pathways Technologies</p> <p>Moderator: Becky Abraham</p>	<p>Theme 2: Industry Linkages, Employability & Skills Development (8 abstract presentations)</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Wekesa</p>	<p>Theme 5 : Digital Transformation, Data Systems and National Qualifications Register (5 Abstract presentation)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Koech</p>	<p>Theme 6: Quality Assurance and Relevance (6 Abstract presentation)</p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Anne Assey</p>

12.45 pm - 1.00 pm	Conference Way Forward/Communique	Dr. Nzomo
1.00 pm - 2.00 pm	Closing Ceremony a) Director General, KNQA - Dr. Alice Kande, PhD b) Council Chairperson, KNQA - Hon. Stanley Kiptis, EBS c) Principal Secretary, State Department for TVET - Dr. Esther Muoria, PhD	
HEALTH BREAK AND DEPARTURE		

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