

7. How does governance relate to strategic planning in an organisation?

A Strategic Plan is a systematic plan for action over a period of time, taking into account the goals of the organization, its resources and capacity, the stakeholder interests, and the regulatory environment and broad context in which it operates. The purpose of strategic planning is to ensure success in what an organisation does.

A strategic plan gives the broad direction and focus, but this is underpinned by a number of more detailed operational plans, referred to as Action Plans. Action Plans are the tools that record responsibility for what happens (who will do what task), what resources (physical, people and budgetary) are needed and when the task is due. They are about implementation.

Undertaking strategic planning is one of the key functions of the people involved in governance at an organisation. It is the responsibility of those in authority to ensure that the organisation conforms to the relevant legislated requirements. In education and training organisations, this means aligning delivery to the principles and policies of the NQF; this in turn requires systematic and ongoing planning in relation to delivering quality teaching and learning.

There is more on strategic planning in the NQF Support Link Seminal Text for Module 2, The NQF and Strategic Governance, given in Useful Background Documents.

[Answer to FAQ 7, The NQF and Strategic Governance, the NQF Gateway]