Towards a Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications

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A GLOBAL CONVENTION

May the Recognition Force be With You

... It was the summer of 1974 and the first UNESCO Recognition Convention was born in
Recognition of Qualifications is now a global issue

- Increased internationalization of higher learning
- Diversification of provision and providers – and the use of ICTs
- Demographic challenges
- Massification of higher education
- Mobility – both inter and intra-regional
- Changes in the paradigms of learning
- Increased focus on quality assurance and qualifications frameworks
- The employability of graduates
- The emergence of competition among institutions
- Moves towards building regional higher education and research areas
Why a Global Convention...?

Recognition as a Global Right and Obligation for all Member States

- The right to have foreign qualifications evaluated
- The right to transparent, reliable and non-discriminatory procedures conducted within a reasonable timeframe
- The burden of proof placed on the recognition authority
- Recognition of qualifications for individuals without proper documentation (refugees and displaced persons)
- The right to appeal in every country
Why a Global Convention ...?

*International Consistency in Recognition Processes*

- Transparent information of quality assurance processes for HE
- Open mechanisms for information about higher education institutions and programs
- Trust building between different national institutions and competent recognition authorities
- Greater shared understanding of fair and reasonable processes and procedures for recognition
- Capacity building in processes
Why a Global Convention ...?  
**Recognition as an enabler for the quality enhancement of higher education**

- Retaining and attracting talent to higher education systems
- Facilitating knowledge and skills transfer across borders
- Increasing the quality of research and innovation capacities
- Improving the quality of teaching and learning in HEIs
- Improving graduate competencies
Why a Global Convention ... ?

Raising the Profile of Recognition

- High-level focus on the importance of recognition as an indicator of standards of higher education globally
- Focus on the importance of revising and ratifying the regional conventions
Why a Global Convention...?

More than just recognition at stake

• Promote international cooperation in higher education and research
• Enhance the quality of higher education provision
• Provide greater opportunities for cultural intelligence, dialogue and peace building
• Support sustainable development of knowledge societies and relevant labour markets
The Global Convention: Timeline and Working Methodologies

- (2011): Tokyo ICS – mandate to explore a Global Convention
- (2012) Feasibility Study Elaborated + Regional Meetings (Toledo, Abidjan, Nanjing)
- (2013) 37th General Conference Agrees to establish Experts Group
- (2015) 39th General Conference adopted the Report and the recommendation to establish a Drafting Committee
- (May 2016) First Meeting of the Drafting Committee (UNESCO, Paris)
- (September 2016) Second Meeting of the Drafting Committee (Holy See)
- (July 2017) Finalization of the Draft Text
- (October 2017) Draft Text presented to the 39th General Conference
The Drafting Committee of the Global Recognition Convention
UNESCO, Paris May 12 2016

Thank you.
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