The Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific

Introduction

Overview
The six conventions on the recognition of higher education studies and qualifications adopted under the aegis of UNESCO date from the late seventies and early eighties. Six normative instruments to regulate mutual recognition of higher education studies and degrees were adopted, starting with the regional convention on the recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean (June 1975). This was followed over the next ten years by five similar conventions covering all regions of the world: the International Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in the Arab and European States bordering on the Mediterranean (the Mediterranean Convention) (1976), the Arab States (1978), Europe (1979), Africa (1981), Asia and the Pacific (1983).

The Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific was adopted at the International Conference of States in Bangkok, Thailand on 16th December 1983. This convention desires to ensure that studies, diplomas, and degrees in higher education are recognized as widely as possible, considering the great diversity of education systems in the Asia-Pacific region and the richness of its cultural, social, political, philosophical, religious and economic backgrounds.

Since 1983, there have been some significant changes in higher education which have included the exponential growth of both private and public providers, increase of cross-border providers, information and communication technology, the continued massification in higher education, which has dramatically changed the governance and administration of higher education institutions; the emergence of lifelong education competent authorities; qualifications earned through distance learning; a greater focus on quality assurance; the development of national qualification frameworks; lifelong learning; developing assessment tools to measure learning outcomes; the need to build national capacity and sustainable national higher education systems.

These factors have resulted in greater pressure to ensure that qualifications acquired in one country are recognised in other countries and hence the need to ensure that these factors should be included and covered by the reviewed conventions. To respond to these new changes in higher education in the Asia-Pacific region, it was proposed to revise the 1983 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas, Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific during the Ninth Regional Committee Meeting held in Seoul, Korea in May 22-23, 2007.

The Revision Process
Further to the recommendations of the ninth Session of the regional committee meeting, a review process was convened and led by a technical working group with the assistance of two consultants. The revised Asia Pacific Regional Convention aimed to: 1) facilitate the establishment of mechanisms to recognise academic mobility as a major strategy to promote mutual understanding and solidarity across the Asia Pacific region; 2) reinforce cultural identity to achieve fruitful regional cooperation in higher education; and 3) recognize the unique nature and diversity of academic programmes offered in the various countries across the region and the complexity of establishing comparability of competencies and qualifications in order to promote lifelong learning.

At the 181st session of the UNESCO Executive Board (Spring 2009), the revision process of the 1983 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific was discussed and approved. The draft of the Revised Regional Convention was presented to the tenth Session of the Regional Committee which approved the draft with minor amendments and a
recommendation that the Revised Regional Convention be forwarded to the UNESCO General Conference in October 2009.

The Revised Convention
The Asia and Pacific countries view the importance of integrating the following elements/sections in the revisions: competencies of authorities, basic principles related to assessment of qualifications, periods of study, and recognition of qualifications held by refugees, displaced persons, and persons in similar situation, information on assessment of higher education institutions and programmes and implementation mechanisms. This revision will entail transparency and the presence of reliable information on the recognition of qualifications and quality assurance. It will also enable the region to effectively respond to the impact of globalization on higher education in the Asia Pacific region.

The member States of Asia and the Pacific (48) have automatic rights to ratify and participate in this Convention. While at present, Twenty (21)* countries have acceded to its ratification, other member States are waiting for its amendments with a less-prescriptive legal texts.

The revised Asia-Pacific Regional Convention is a legal framework which provides general guidelines intended to facilitate the implementation of regional co-operation regarding recognition of studies and degrees through national, bilateral, sub-regional and regional mechanisms that are already in place or created for this purpose. It is envisaged that the revised Asia-Pacific Regional Convention will be a dynamic tool which must be adjusted regularly to the developments in higher education at both the Asia-Pacific regional level as well as international levels.

List of current signatories to the Regional Convention are:

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<th>States</th>
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<td>Australia</td>
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PREAMBLE

The States of Asia and the Pacific and other Parties to this Convention,

Guided by a common will to strengthen their geographical, cultural, educational and economic ties;

Recalling that, as stated in the Constitution of UNESCO, ‘the purpose of the Organization is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, communication and culture;

Recognizing the substantial diversity which exists in Asia and the Pacific Region in educational traditions, systems and values;

Convinced that the diversity of the cultures and higher education systems existing in Asia and the Pacific Region constitutes an exceptional resource;

Committed to strengthen and extend their collaboration with a view to making optimum use of their human potential so as to encourage the advancement of knowledge and to continually improve the quality of higher education within Asia and the Pacific Region;

Desirous of the need to enable the peoples of Asia and the Pacific Region to take full advantage of this cultural resource by facilitating access for the nationals of each State, in particular its students and academics, to the educational resources of each other, with due regard to domestic regulation.

Convinced that within the framework of such collaboration, the recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education, will allow students and academics to move freely;

Mindful of the need to intensify their cultural exchanges with a view to facilitating the economic, social, cultural and technological development of each and all of the countries of the region of Asia and the Pacific and to promoting peace;

Recalling that many Contracting States have already bilateral or sub-regional agreements in comparability and recognition among themselves desirous of strengthening such efforts by extending their collaboration in the whole region in Asia and the Pacific by means of the Convention;

Mindful that this Convention should also be considered in the context of the UNESCO Recognition conventions covering other Regions of the world, as well as the 1993 recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education;

Willing to promote active international collaboration at the global level with Parties of the other UNESCO Regional Conventions

Conscious of the wide ranging changes in higher education in Asia and the Pacific Region since these Conventions were adopted, resulting in considerably increased diversification within and between national education systems, and of the need to adapt the legal instruments and practice to reflect these developments;

Conscious of the need to find common solutions to practical recognition challenges in Asia and the Pacific region;

Conscious of the need to improve current recognition practice and to make it more transparent and better adapted to the current situation of higher education in Asia and the Pacific Region;
Considering that the recognition by all the Contracting States of studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees obtained in another country represents an important measure for promoting academic mobility between the Parties;

Desirous of ensuring the recognition as widely as possible of studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees in promoting lifelong education and the democratization of education suited to the cultural context of each country;

Respectful of each country’s right to create and grant a system for qualification, and of the autonomy of its institution;

Have agreed as follows:

SECTION I. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purposes of this Convention, the following terms shall have the following meaning:

Access (to higher education)
The right of qualified candidates to apply and to be considered for admission to higher education.

Accreditation
A process of assessment and review that enables a higher education programme or institution to be recognized or certified as meeting appropriate standards

Admission (to higher education institutions and programmes)
The act of, or system for, allowing qualified applicants to pursue studies in higher education at a given institution and/or a given programme.

Assessment (of institutions or programmes)
The process for establishing the educational quality of a higher education institution or programmes.

Assessment (of individual qualifications)
The written appraisal or evaluation of an individual's foreign qualifications by a competent recognition authority.

Competent recognition authority
A body officially charged with making decisions on the recognition of foreign qualifications.

Higher education
Post-secondary level education, training or research which is recognized by the relevant authorities of the Party as belonging to a higher education system.

Higher education institution
An establishment providing higher education.

Higher education programme
A programme of study recognised by the relevant authorities of a Party as belonging to its system of higher education, and the completion of which provides the student with a higher education qualification.

**Mutatis Mutandis** - A Latin word meaning “with respective differences taken into consideration”.

**Non-traditional Qualifications**
Is the mode of obtaining qualifications that do not necessarily meet the general requirements for higher education such as part time, mixed modes, ladderised and non-degree based programmes.

**Period of study**
Any component of a higher education programme which has been evaluated and documented and, while not a complete programme of study in itself, represents a significant acquisition of knowledge or skill.

**Requirements**
- **A. General requirements for admission to Higher Education**
  Conditions that must in all cases be fulfilled for access to higher education.

- **B. Specific requirements for admission to Higher Education**
  Conditions that must be fulfilled, in addition to the general requirements, in order to gain admission to a particular higher education programme, or for the award of a specific higher education qualification in a particular field of study.

**Recognition of Qualifications**
A formal acknowledgment by a competent authority of the value of a foreign educational qualification with a view to giving access to educational and/or employment activities.

**Secondary Education**
That stage of studies of any kind which follows primary, elementary, preparatory or intermediate or basic education and the aims of which may include preparing students for higher education, leading to a secondary school leaving certificate or enabling students to enroll in higher education.

**Qualifications**
- **A. Higher education qualification**
  Any degree, diploma or other certificate issued by a higher education institution attesting the successful completion of a higher education programme.

- **B. Qualification giving access to higher education**
  Any qualification issued by a relevant authorities attesting the successful completion of an education programme and giving the holder of the qualification the right to be considered for admission to higher education.

**Quality Assurance**
An on-going process of evaluating and enhancing the quality of a higher education system, institution or programme to assure stakeholders that acceptable standards of education, scholarship and resources for delivery are being maintained and enhanced.
SECTION II. THE COMPETENCIES OF AUTHORITIES

Article II.1
1. Where central authorities of a Party are competent to make decisions in recognition cases, that Party shall be immediately bound by the provisions of this Convention and shall take the necessary measures to ensure the implementation of its provisions on its territory.

2. Where the competence to make decisions in recognition matters lies with components of the Party, the Party shall furnish the depository with a brief statement of its constitutional situation or structure at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, or any time thereafter. In such cases, the competent authorities of the political subdivision of the Parties so designated shall take the necessary measures to ensure implementation of the provisions of this Convention on their territory.

3. Where the competence to make decisions in recognition matters lies with individual higher education institutions or other entities, each Party according to its constitutional situation or structure, shall transmit the text of this Convention to these institutions or entities, and shall take all possible steps to encourage the favourable consideration and application of its provisions.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this article shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the obligations of the Parties under subsequent articles of this Convention.

Article II.2
At the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, or at any time thereafter, each Party shall inform the depository of the present Convention of the authorities which are competent to make different categories of decisions in recognition cases.

Article II.3
Nothing in this Convention shall be deemed to derogate from any more favourable provisions concerning the recognition of higher education qualifications issued in one of the Parties contained in or stemming from an existing or a future treaty to which a Party to this Convention may be or may become a Party.

SECTION III. BASIC PRINCIPLES RELATED TO THE ASSESSMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Article III.1
1. Holders of qualifications issued in one of the Parties shall have adequate access, upon request to the appropriate body to an assessment of these qualifications in a timely manner.

2. In order to assure this right, each Party undertakes to make appropriate arrangements for the assessment of an application for recognition of qualifications solely on the basis of knowledge and skills achieved.

Article III.2
Each Party shall ensure that the procedures and criteria used in the assessment and recognition of qualifications are transparent, coherent and reliable.

Article III.3
1. Decisions on recognition shall be made on the basis of appropriate information on the qualifications for which recognition is sought.

2. In the first instance, the responsibility for providing adequate information rests with the applicant, who shall provide such information in good faith.
3. Notwithstanding the responsibility of the applicant, the institutions having issued the qualifications in question shall have a duty to provide, upon request of the applicant and within a reasonable timeframe, relevant information to the holder of qualifications, to the institution, or to the competent authorities of the country in which recognition is sought.

4. The Parties shall instruct or encourage, as appropriate, all education institutions belonging to their education systems to comply with any reasonable request for information for the purpose of assessing qualifications earned at the said institutions.

5. The responsibility to demonstrate that an application does not fulfill the relevant requirements lies with the body undertaking the assessment.

Article III.4
Each Party shall ensure, in order to facilitate the recognition of qualifications, that adequate and clear information on its education system is provided.

Article III.5
Decisions on recognition of qualifications shall be made within a reasonable time limit specified beforehand by the competent recognition authority and calculated from the time all necessary information in the case has been provided. If recognition is withheld, the reasons for the refusal to grant recognition shall be stated, and information shall be given concerning possible measures the applicant may take in order to obtain recognition at a later stage. If recognition is withheld, or if no decision is taken, the applicant shall be entitled to make an appeal within a reasonable time limit.

SECTION IV - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS GIVING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Article IV.1
Each Party shall recognize for the purpose of access to each higher education programme, the qualifications issued by the other Parties meeting the general requirements for access to their respective higher education programmes, unless a substantial difference can be shown between the general requirements for access in the Party, in which the qualification was obtained and in the Party in which recognition of the qualification is sought.

Article IV.2
Alternatively, it shall be sufficient for a Party to enable the holder of a qualification issued in one of the other Parties to obtain an assessment of that qualification, upon request by the holder, and the provisions of Article IV.1 shall apply mutatis mutandis to such a case.

Article IV.3
Where admission to particular higher education programme is dependent on the fulfillment of specific requirements in addition to the general requirements for access, the competent authorities of the Party concerned may impose the additional requirements on holders of higher education qualifications obtained in the other Parties or assess whether applicants with higher education qualifications obtained in other Parties fulfill comparable requirements.

Article IV.4
Where, in the Party in which they have been obtained, school leaving certificates give access to higher education only in combination with additional qualifying examinations as a prerequisite for access, the other Parties may make access conditional on these requirements or offer an alternative for satisfying such additional requirements within their own educational systems.
Article IV.5
Without prejudice to the provisions of Sections 1 to 4 of this section, admission to a given higher education
institution, or to a given programme within such an institution, may be restricted or selective. In such cases in
which admission to a higher education institution and/or programme is selective, admission procedures
should be designed with a view to ensuring that the accreditation of foreign higher education qualifications is
carried out according to the principles of fairness and non-discrimination described in Section III.

Article IV.6
Without prejudice to the provisions of Articles IV.1 to IV.5, admission to a given higher education institution
may be made conditional on demonstration by the applicant of sufficient competence in the language or
languages of instruction of the institution concerned, or in other specified languages in order for the applicant
to profitably undertake the studies in question.

Article IV.7
In the Parties in which access to higher education and qualifications may be obtained on the basis of non-
traditional modes, similar qualifications obtained in other Parties shall be assessed in a similar manner as
non-traditional qualifications earned in the Party in which recognition is sought.

Article IV.8
For the purpose of admission to higher education programmes, each Party may make the recognition of
qualifications issued by foreign educational institutions operating in its territory contingent upon specific
requirements of national legislation or specific agreements concluded with the Party of origin of such
institutions.

SECTION V - RECOGNITION OF PERIODS OF STUDY

Article V.1
Each Party shall appropriately recognise periods of study completed within the framework of a higher
education programme in another Party. This recognition shall comprise such periods of study towards the
completion of a higher education programme in the Party in which recognition is sought, unless substantial
differences can be shown between the periods of study completed in another Party and the part of the higher
education programme which they would replace in the Party in which recognition is sought.

Article V.2
Alternatively, it shall be sufficient for a Party to enable a person who has completed a period of study within
the framework of a higher education programme in another Party to obtain an assessment of that period of
study, upon request by the person concerned, and the provisions of Article V.1 shall apply mutatis mutandis
such a case.

Article V.3
In particular, each Party shall facilitate recognition of periods of study when:
(a) there has been a previous agreement between:
   (i) the higher education institution or the competent authority responsible for the relevant period of study
   and,
   (ii) the higher education institution or the competent recognition authority responsible for the recognition
   that is sought; and

(b) the higher education institution in which the period of study has been completed has issued a certificate
or transcript of academic records attesting that the student has successfully completed the stipulated
requirements for the said period of study.
SECTION VI - RECOGNITION OF HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS

Article VI.1
To the extent that a recognition decision is based on the knowledge and skills certified by the higher education qualification, each Party shall recognize the higher education qualifications conferred in another Party, unless a substantial difference can be shown between the qualification for which recognition is sought and the corresponding qualification in the Party in which recognition is sought.

Article VI.2
Alternatively, it shall be sufficient for a Party to enable the holder of a higher education qualification issued in one of the other Parties to obtain an assessment of that qualification, upon request by the holder, and the provisions of Article VI.1 shall apply mutatis mutandis to such a case with respective differences taken into consideration.

Article VI.3
Recognition in a Party of a higher education qualification issued in another Party shall have one or both of the following consequences:
(a) access to further higher education studies, including relevant examinations and/or to preparations for the doctorate, on the same conditions as those applicable to holders of qualifications of the Party in which recognition is sought.
(b) the use of an academic title, subject to the laws and regulations of the Party or a jurisdiction thereof, in which recognition is sought subject to laws and regulations of the Party, or a jurisdiction thereof, in which recognition is sought, such recognition may facilitate access to the labour market.

Article VI.4
An assessment in a Party of a higher education qualification issued in another Party may take the form of advice:
(a) for general employment purposes;
(b) to an educational institution for the purpose of admission into its programmes;
(c) to any other competent recognition authority.

Article VI.5
Each Party may make the recognition of higher education qualifications issued by foreign educational institutions operating in its territory contingent upon specific requirements of national legislation or specific agreements concluded with the Party of origin of such institutions.

SECTION VII - RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS HELD BY REFUGEES, DISPLACED PERSONS AND PERSONS IN A REFUGEE-LIKE SITUATION

Article VII
Each Party shall take all feasible and reasonable steps within the framework of its education system and in conformity with its constitutional, legal, and regulatory provisions to develop procedures designed to assess fairly and expeditiously whether refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation fulfill the relevant requirements for access to higher education programmes or for recognition of qualifications for employment activities, even in cases in which the qualifications obtained in one of the Parties cannot be proven through documentary evidence.
SECTION VIII - INFORMATION ON THE ASSESSMENT/ACCREDITATION AND RECOGNITION MATTERS

Article VIII.1
Each Party shall provide adequate information on any institution belonging to its higher education system, and of its quality assurance system, with a view to enabling the competent authorities of other Parties to ascertain whether the quality of the qualifications issued by these institutions justifies recognition in the Party in which recognition is sought.

Article VIII.2
Each Party shall make adequate provisions for the development and maintenance of a national information centre that will provide higher education information, specifically on the following:
(a) a description of higher education systems;
(b) an overview of the different types of higher education institutions belonging to its higher education system, with the typical characteristics of each type of institution;
a list of recognised and/or accredited higher education institutions (public and private) belonging to its higher education system, indicating their powers to award different types of qualifications and the requirements for gaining access to each type of institution and programme;
(c) a list of educational institutions located outside its territory which the Party considers as belonging to its education system.

Article VIII.3
Each Party shall provide relevant, accurate and up-to-date information in order to facilitate the recognition of qualifications concerning higher education, by
(a) facilitating access to authoritative and accurate information on the higher education system and qualifications of the country in which it is located;
(b) facilitating access to information on the higher education systems and qualifications of the other Parties; and
(c) giving advice or information on recognition matters and assessment of qualifications, in accordance with national laws and regulations.

Every Party shall provide its national information centre with the necessary means to enable it to fulfill its functions.

Article VIII.4
The Parties shall promote, through the national information centre or otherwise the use of the:
(a) “UNESCO Diploma Supplement” and/or any comparable document by the higher education institutions of the Parties.
(b) The UNESCO/OECD Guidelines for Cross-border Higher Education and/or any comparable document by the higher education institutions of the Parties subject to their national legislation and regulations.

SECTION IX - IMPLEMENTATION

Article IX.1
The body to oversee, promote and facilitate the implementation of the Convention shall be the Committee of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region, hereafter referred to as “the Committee”.

Article IX.2
1. The Committee which is hereby established, shall be composed of one representative of each Party.
2. The States which are not Parties to these conventions may participate in the meetings of the Committee as observers. Representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations active in the field of recognition in the Region may also be invited to attend meetings of the Committee as observers.

3. The Committee may adopt, by a majority of the Parties, recommendations, declarations, protocols and models of good practice to guide the competent authorities of the Parties in their implementation of the Convention and in their consideration of applications for the recognition of higher education qualifications. While they shall not be bound by such texts, the Parties shall use their best endeavours to apply them, to bring the texts to the attention of the competent authorities and to encourage their application.

4. Under the auspices of UNESCO, the Committee shall maintain links to the UNESCO Regional Committees for the Application of Conventions on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education.

5. A simple majority of the Parties shall constitute a quorum.

6. The Committee shall adopt its Rules of Procedure. It shall meet in ordinary session at least every three years. The Committee shall meet for the first time within a year of the entry into force of this Convention and annually for the first five years in order to manage implementation.

7. The 1983 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas, Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific will remain in force until such time as there are more than 21 countries which accede or ratify the new Convention. Meetings of the 1983 Regional Convention will be held with the Committee of the Revised Convention until such time more than 21 countries sign the revised Regional Convention.

8. The Secretariat of the Committee shall be entrusted to the Director-General of UNESCO.

Article IX.3

1. The Asia-Pacific Network of national information centres on academic mobility and recognition shall be established and shall uphold and assist the practical implementation of the Convention by the competent national authorities.

2. Each Party shall appoint a member of their national information centre to the Asia-Pacific Network of national information centres. In cases in which more than one national information centre is established or maintained, all these shall be members of the Network, but the national information centre concerned shall dispose of only one vote.

3. The Asia-Pacific Network of national information centres shall meet annually in plenary session. It shall elect its President and Bureau.

4. The Secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Network of national information centres shall be entrusted to the Director-General of UNESCO.

5. The Asia-Pacific Network of national information centres shall collect relevant information from the Parties relating to academic recognition and mobility.
SECTION X- FINAL CLAUSES

Article X.1
1. This Convention shall be open for signature by:
   (a) the member States of the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Region;
   (b) any other signatory, contracting State or Party to the UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Asia-Pacific Region, which have been invited to the diplomatic conference entrusted with the adoption of this Convention.

2. These Contracting Parties may express their consent to be bound by:
   (a) A signature without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval; or
   (b) A signature, subject to ratification, acceptance or approval, followed by ratification, acceptance or approval; or
   (c) An accession.

3. Signatures shall be made with the depository. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be deposited with the depository.

Article X.2
The 1983 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas, Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific will remain in force until the revised Convention comes into force.

Article X.3
This Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of the period of one month after five States from the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Region, have expressed their consent to be bound by the Convention. It shall enter into force for each other State on the first day of the month following the expiration of the period of one month after the date of expression of its consent to be bound by the Convention. The 1983 Regional Convention on Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific will remain in force until such time as more than twenty-one States express their consent to be bound by the revised Convention.

Article X.4
1. After the entry into force of this Convention, any State other than those falling into one of the categories listed under Article X.1 may request accession to this Convention. Any request to this effect shall be addressed to depository, who shall transmit it to the Parties at least three months before the meeting of the Committee of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region. The depository shall also inform the Executive Board of UNESCO.

2. The decision to invite a State which so requests to accede to this Convention shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the Parties.

3. In respect of any acceding States, the Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of the period of one month after the deposit of the instrument of accession with the depository.

Article X.5
1. Any State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, specify the territory or territories to which this Convention shall apply.
2. Any State may, at any later date, by a declaration addressed to the depository, extend the application of this Convention to any other territory specified in the declaration. In respect of such territory the Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of one month after the date of receipt of such declaration by the depository.

3. Any declaration made under the two preceding paragraphs may, in respect of any territory specified in such declaration, be withdrawn by a notification addressed to the depository. The withdrawal shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of one month after the date of receipt of such notification by the depository.

**Article X.6**
1. Any Party may, at any time, denounce this Convention by means of a notification addressed to the depository.

2. Such denunciation shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of twelve months after the date of receipt of the notification by the depository. However, such denunciation shall not affect recognition decisions taken previously under the provisions of this Convention.

3. Termination or suspension of the operation of this Convention as a consequence of a violation by a Party of a provision essential to the accomplishment of the object or purpose of this Convention shall be addressed in accordance with the international law.

**Article X.7**
1. Any contracting Party may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, declare that it reserves the right not to apply, in whole or in part, one or more of the following Articles of this Convention: Article IV.7, Article V.2, Article VI.3, Article VIII.2, and Article VIII.4 No other reservation may be made.

2. Any Party which has made a reservation under the preceding paragraph may wholly or partly withdraw it by means of a notification addressed to depository. The withdrawal shall take effect on the date of receipt of such notification by the depository.

3. A Party which has made a reservation in respect of a provision of this Convention may not claim the application of that provision by any other Party; it may, however, if its reservation is partial or conditional, claim the application of that provision in so far as it has itself accepted it.

**Article X.8**
1. Draft amendments to this Convention may be adopted by the Committee of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region by a two-thirds majority of the Parties. Any draft amendment so adopted shall be incorporated into a Protocol to this Convention. The Protocol shall specify the modalities for its entry into force which, in any event, shall require the expression of consent by the Parties to be bound by it.

2. No amendment may be made to Section III of this Convention under the procedure of paragraph 1 above.

3. Any proposal for amendments shall be communicated to the depository, who shall transmit it to the Parties at least three months before the meeting of the Committee. The depository shall also inform the Executive Board of UNESCO.
Article X.9
1. The Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation shall be the depository of this Convention.

2. The depository with whom an act, notification or communication has been deposited shall notify the Parties to this Convention, as well as the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Region of:
   (a) any signature;
   (b) the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession;
   (c) any date of entry into force of this Convention in accordance with the provisions of Articles IX.2 and IX.3;
   (d) any reservation made in pursuance of the provisions of Article X.7 and the withdrawal of any reservations made in pursuance of the provisions of Article X.7;
   (e) any denunciation of this Convention in pursuance of Article X.6;
   (f) any declarations made in accordance with the provisions of Article II.1, or of Article II.2;
   (g) any declarations made in accordance with the provisions of Article IV.4;
   (h) any request for accession made in accordance with the provisions of Article X.4;
   (i) any proposal made in accordance with the provisions of Article X.8;
   (j) any other act, notification or communication relating to this Convention.

In witness thereof the undersigned representatives, being duly authorised, have signed this Convention.

Done at xxx, in the English, Chinese, French, and Russian languages, the four texts being equally authoritative, in two copies, one of which shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. A certified copy shall be sent to all the States referred to in Article X.1, to the Holy See and to the Secretariat of the United Nations.