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UNESCO's work on a Global Recognition Convention to Bridge the Regional Recognition Conventions

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UNESCO's work on a Global Recognition Convention to Bridge the Regional Recognition Conventions

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UNESCO the only UN agency with a mandate in higher education

- Application and **revision of existing normative instruments** on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications
- Elaboration a **Global Convention** on Recognition of HED Qualifications

Second Generation Regional Recognition Conventions

- Europe: Lisbon Convention (1997)
- Asia & Pacific: Tokyo Convention (2011)
- Africa: Addis Convention (2014)
- América Latina y el Caribe (adoption 2018?)
- Arab States (adoption 2019?)

➔ Still, regional conventions are not able to address increasing *inter-regional* student mobility.



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Why a Global Recognition Convention?

- Recognition **across regions**
- Open and **Fair Recognition** of Qualifications as a universal right
- International **coherence** in recognition processes
- Raising the profile and **importance of recognition**
- Recognition as an **enabler for quality enhancement** of higher education

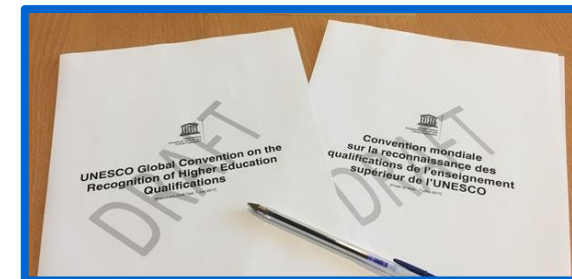
... more than just recognition at stake



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First Phase: Drafting Process

- In November 2015, UNESCO's General Conference requested the Director-General to appoint an expert committee to work a *preliminary draft*.
- 23 experts from all UNESCO regions were appointed by the Director-General in coordination with Member States
- All served on the Committee as experts in their private capacity, not as representatives of Member States.
- The Committee met four times between May 2016 and June 2017, and endorsed a [preliminary draft](#) in June 2017.





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On the Preliminary Draft

And its relation to the revised regional conventions

- The Drafting Committee has ensured that there is no conflict between the preliminary draft for the Global Convention and the existing revised regional recognition conventions.
- The Global Convention Draft builds on and complements regional conventions.
 - It creates a global framework that will facilitate interregional mobility.
 - It maintains regional conventions' main principle of committing State Parties to *assess and recognize* foreign qualifications, unless a substantial difference can be shown.
- Regional Conventions will coexist with Global Convention in order to address issues that are specific to each region.
 - For instance stronger emphasis on adult education, Qualification Frameworks and QA mechanisms in Addis Convention



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Why does my country need the Global Convention?

Some common doubts/objections

- My country already applies the Lisbon Convention on all applications, irrespective of the applicant's region of origin. We don't need to ratify the Global Convention!
 - ➔ A Global Convention will ensure that all States Parties are *obliged* to do this, not only on the basis of good will.
 - ➔ A Global Convention will ensure that countries outside your region are obliged to assess qualifications obtained in *your* country.



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Why does my country need the Global Convention?

Some common doubts/objections

- A Global Convention means streamlining of recognition processes worldwide. Individual states and existing networks will have less to say!
 - ➔ The regional conventions will remain in force together with their subsidiary texts and network structures.
 - ➔ The Global Convention aims at making regional conventions and recognition processes *compatible* with each other, not identical.



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Why does my country need the Global Convention?

Some common doubts/objections

- Of the revised regional conventions, only Lisbon has come into force. When not even the revised regional conventions have come into force, the Global Convention will never come into force or have any effect!
 - ➔ The ratifications and implementation processes of the revised regional conventions are moving ahead and there is a strong momentum to revise the remaining regional conventions (LAC and Arab states).
 - ➔ The adoption of a Global Convention will only be the starting point to achieve its aims, and implementation will go on for years.



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Next steps

UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of HE Qualifications

- **October 2017:** the [preliminary draft](#) of the convention text together with proposed modalities of further consultations with Member States and relevant stakeholders will be examined by the Executive Board [TODAY, 12 OCTOBER 2017](#).
- **November 2017:** if approved by the Executive board, these documents will then be submitted to the [General Conference](#).

Phase 2, if approved by the General Conference:

- **Jan–Sept 2018:** the Secretariat will undertake [wide and inclusive consultations with Member States and stakeholders](#) with a view to revisit, refine and update the draft.
- **Autumn 2018–Summer 2019:** All Member States are invited to [intergovernmental meetings](#) to discuss and negotiate the final draft.
- **August 2019:** Final draft sent to General Conference for [adoption](#) in **November 2019**.



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Thank you!

For more information:

<http://en.unesco.org/themes/higher-education/recognition-qualifications/global-convention>

The screenshot shows the UNESCO website page for the Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications Project. The page features the UNESCO logo and the tagline "Building peace in the minds of men and women". The main navigation menu includes links for ABOUT US, THEMES, COUNTRIES, PARTNERSHIPS, JOIN US, and RESOURCES. The page content includes a title, a paragraph about UNESCO's role since 1945, a paragraph about the increase in academic mobility, a paragraph about the need for a global regulatory framework, and a paragraph about the establishment of a Drafting Committee in March 2016. A sidebar on the right contains a "RELATED LINKS" section with links to a Background Report, General Conference Resolution (38/Resolution 12), Members of the Drafting Committee, and Making History: The Importance of a New Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications. Social media icons for Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Google+, YouTube, and LinkedIn are also present.

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UNESCO "Building peace in the minds of men and women"

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ABOUT US THEMES COUNTRIES PARTNERSHIPS JOIN US RESOURCES

Home > Higher education > Recognition of higher education qualifications > Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications Project

Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications Project

Since its creation in 1945, UNESCO has served as a global platform for discussion on the recognition of higher education qualifications and the promotion of academic mobility. UNESCO has therefore established a number of regional conventions in higher education (see [Conventions and Recommendations](#)).

Globally academic mobility is sharply on the increase with the overall population of mobile students doubling since 2002. Today more than 4 million students study outside their home country and it is estimated that by 2020 around 8 million students will be studying abroad.

This significant growth in mobile tertiary students calls for a global regulatory framework for the recognition of higher education qualifications. This framework will reduce the obstacles faced by students, teachers, researchers and job-seekers outside their countries of origin.

In March 2016, following a General Conference decision ([38/Resolution 12](#)), UNESCO established a Drafting Committee in consultation with its Member States. This committee will elaborate a draft text of a Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications. The text will be reviewed at the next UNESCO General Conference in 2017. In light of the [Education 2030 Agenda](#) and current global trends in higher education, the preparation of a Global Convention aims to facilitate academic mobility, improve quality and enhance international cooperation in higher education.

RELATED LINKS

- Background Report
- General Conference Resolution (38/Resolution 12)
- Members of the Drafting Committee
- Making History: The Importance of a New Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications

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