

First Anniversary Adoption of the Global Convention on Higher Education: the 25th of November 2020

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

After eight years of preparation and a participatory consultation process, UNESCO spearheaded the *Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education*, which was unanimously adopted by all 193 Member States of the Organization on 25 November 2019.

Since today, more than 5 million people study abroad, of which 2.5 million of these learn outside their regions of origin, the Global Convention could not be more relevant to international cooperation and knowledge sharing. The Global Convention provides a critical regulatory framework to ensure the fair and unbiased recognition of foreign higher education qualifications and study periods.

The Convention is the first United Nations higher education treaty with a global scope, which offers the opportunity for a common commitment to establish mechanisms for the assessment and recognition of diplomas, certificates and qualifications in a transparent, consistent, timely and reliable manner.

2. Objectives and Outcomes

One year after its adoption, on the occasion of its first anniversary, UNESCO is convening this event to recall the importance of committing to this new Convention, to celebrate its first ratifications deposited by Norway and Nicaragua and to provide further information on the Secretariat's strategy towards the Convention entering into force.

The event will also see the launch of the "Practical Guide to Recognition – Implementing the Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education", which aims to operationalize the key obligations of the Convention by providing a step-by-step practical approach to recognition of foreign qualifications for credential evaluation practitioners and for individuals seeking recognition of their foreign qualifications.

3. Audience

With a view to raise awareness of the importance of the Global Convention and to promote the ratification process in their countries, the session is mainly addressed to Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, who will have the opportunity to raise questions. All Permanent Delegations to UNESCO will be invited and strongly encouraged to invite policy makers or any relevant stakeholders in their countries.

4. Technical Specifications

The event will be streamed virtually via Zoom webinar in the following link:
<https://unesco-org.zoom.us/j/94689643371>