

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>

5. Language

English will be the main working language. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French. Spanish-speaking participants will be able to express themselves in their own language and will be interpreted into English and French.

6. Contact

For any further questions, please contact Ms. Leticia Sakai, of UNESCO Section of Higher Education on l.sakai@unesco.org or (+33) 01 45 68 19 59.

7. Agenda

Wednesday, 25 November 2020		
1st SESSION: Joining the Convention	14:00 – 14:10	Opening of the meeting by the Chair <i>Ms. Maki Hayashikawa</i> , Director of the Division for Education 2030, UNESCO Welcome remarks <i>Ms. Stefania Giannini</i> , Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO Presentation of the video on <i>the UNESCO Global Convention on Higher Education</i>
	14:10 – 14:30	<i>The first countries to ratify: the benefits of the Global Convention at national level</i> Representative of the Kingdom of Norway <i>HE Mr. Henrik Asheim</i> , Norwegian Minister of Higher Education and Research Representative of the Republic of Nicaragua <i>Mr. Arturo Collado</i> , Technical Secretary of the National Council of Universities (CNU) of Nicaragua
	14:30-14:40	<i>The road to ratification: updates from Delegations</i> The floor will be open for representatives, who wish to share their interest to ratify or share updates on their ratification process
	14:40-14:50	<i>International Cooperation for the Global Convention: the Friends of the Global Convention</i> Representative of Australia <i>H.E. Ms. Megan Anderson</i> , Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
	14:50-15:10	Q & A
	2nd SESSION: Supporting the Ratification and Implementation of the Convention	15:10- 15:25
15:25-15:35		<i>Ratifying and Implementing the Regional Conventions under the umbrella of the Global Convention</i> <i>Mr. Francesc Pedró</i> , Director, UNESCO/IESALC <i>Mr. Libing Wang</i> , Chief of Section, UNESCO Bangkok <i>Mr. Abdoulaye Salifou</i> , Programme Specialist, UNESCO Abuja <i>Mr. Anasse Bouhlal</i> , Programme Specialist, UNESCO Beirut
15:35 – 15:40		<i>Launch of the UNESCO “Practical Guide to Recognition”</i> <i>Mr. Peter Wells</i> , Chief of Section, UNESCO Section of Higher Education
15:40 - 15:55		Q & A
15:55 – 16:00		<i>Concluding remarks and next steps</i> by the Chair <i>Ms. Maki Hayashikawa</i> , Director of the Division for Education 2030, UNESCO