



Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education

[Approved Draft: 22 March 2019]

PREAMBLE

The Parties to this Convention:

Inspired by a common will to strengthen educational, geographical, humanitarian, cultural, scientific and socioeconomic ties between Parties and to enhance dialogue between regions and their recognition instruments and practices;

Recalling the Constitution of UNESCO, which stipulates that the purpose of the Organization is “to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science, and culture”;

Mindful of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations of 1945; the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights of 1948; the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and its Protocol of 1967; the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons of 1954; the UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination in Education of 1960, and in particular its Article 4a; the United Nations International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights of 1966; the UNESCO Convention on Technical and Vocational Education of 1989; the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Indigenous People of 2007;

Mindful of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education of 1993; the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel of 1997; and the UNESCO Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers of 2017;

Building on the UNESCO Regional Conventions on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education;

Reaffirming their responsibility to promote inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels and lifelong learning opportunities for all;

Conscious of the increasingly international cooperation in higher education, the mobility of students, workers, professionals, researchers and academics and changes in scientific research, and the different modes, methods, developments and innovations in teaching and learning;

Considering higher education, provided by both public and private institutions, as a public good and a public responsibility, and being aware of the need to uphold and protect the principles of academic freedom and autonomy of higher education institutions;

Convinced that the international recognition of qualifications concerning higher education will facilitate interdependent learning and knowledge development via the mobility of learners and learning, academics, scientific research and researchers, and workers and professionals, and enhance international cooperation in higher education;

Respecting the cultural diversity among the Parties, including, *inter alia*, differences in education traditions and values of higher education;

Desiring to respond to the need for a Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education to complement the UNESCO Regional Recognition Conventions on Higher Education Qualifications and to enhance the cohesion between them;

Convinced of the need to find common, practical and transparent solutions to improve recognition practices globally;

Convinced that this Convention will promote international mobility, as well as communication and cooperation regarding fair and transparent procedures for recognition, and quality assurance and academic integrity in higher education at a global level,

Have agreed as follows:

SECTION I. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Article I.

For the purpose of this Convention, the following definitions shall apply:

Access (to higher education): the right provided to any individual holding a qualification to apply and to be considered for admission to a level of higher education.

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.

Applicant:

- a) an individual submitting a qualification, partial studies or prior learning for assessment and/or recognition to the competent recognition authority, or
- b) an entity acting with consent on behalf of an individual.

Assessment: the evaluation of an applicant's qualifications, partial studies, or of prior learning by a competent recognition authority engaged in the evaluation of qualifications.

Competent authority: an individual or organisation that has the authority, capacity, or power to perform a designated function.

Competent recognition authority: an entity that, in accordance with the laws, regulations, policies or practices of a Party, assesses qualifications and/or makes decisions on the recognition of qualifications.

Constituent Units of a Party to the Convention: official entities at the level of subnational jurisdictions, such as provinces, states, counties or cantons, in accordance with Article XX (b) of the Convention on Federal or Non-Unitary Constitutional Systems.

Cross-border education provision: all modes of delivery which involve the movement of people, knowledge, programs, providers and curriculum across Parties' borders, including – but not limited to – quality assured: international joint degrees, cross-border higher education, transnational education, offshore education, and borderless education.

Displaced person: an individual forced to move from his or her locality or environment and occupational activities to another locality or environment.

Formal education system: a Party's education system, including all national and subnational officially recognised entities with responsibility for education, as well as public and private education institutions at all levels recognised by a Party's competent authorities and authorised to deliver instruction and other education-related services.

Formal learning: learning derived from activities within a structured learning setting leading to a formal qualification, provided by an education institution recognized by a Party's competent authorities to deliver such learning activities.

Higher education: all types of study programmes or sets of courses of study at the post-secondary level which are recognised by the competent authorities of a Party as belonging to its higher education system.

Higher education institution: an establishment providing higher education and recognised by a competent authority of a Party, or a constituent unit as belonging to its higher education system.

Higher education programme: a post-secondary programme of study recognised by the competent authority of a Party or a constituent unit, as belonging to its higher education system, the successful completion of which provides the student with a higher education qualification.

Informal learning: learning that occurs outside the formal education system and resulting from daily life activities related to work, family, local community, or leisure.

International joint degree: a form of cross-border education provision, a single degree recognized and/or authorized and conferred jointly upon completion of an integrated, coordinated and jointly offered programme, by two or more higher education institutions belonging to more than one country.

Learning outcomes: a learner's acquired knowledge and skills upon completion of a learning process.

Lifelong learning: a process that refers to all learning activities, whether formal, non-formal or informal, covering the entire life span with the aim of improving and developing human capacities, knowledge, skills, attitudes and competencies.

Mobility: the physical or virtual movement of individuals outside their country to study, research, teach or work.

Non-formal learning: learning achieved within an education or training framework with emphasis on working life not belonging to the formal education system.

Non-traditional learning modes: formal, informal and non-formal mechanisms for the delivery of educational programmes and learning activities not primarily relying on face-to-face interaction between the educator and the learner.

Partial recognition: the partial recognition of a full and completed qualification, which cannot be fully recognised due to the demonstration of substantial differences by a competent recognition authority.

Partial studies: any part of a higher education programme that has been evaluated and, while not a complete programme in itself, represents a significant acquisition of knowledge, skills, attitudes and competencies.

Prior learning: the experience, knowledge, skills, attitudes and competencies that an individual has acquired as a result of formal, informal or non-formal learning, assessed against a given set of learning outcomes, objectives or standards;

Qualification:

(a) Higher education qualification: any degree, diploma, certificate or award, issued by a competent authority attesting to the successful completion of a higher education programme or validation of prior learning, where applicable;

(b) Qualification giving access to higher education: any degree, diploma, certificate or award issued by a competent authority attesting to the successful completion of an education programme or validation of prior learning, where applicable, and giving the holder of the qualification the right to be considered for admission to higher education.

Qualified applicant: an individual that has fulfilled relevant criteria and is considered eligible to apply for admission to studies in higher education.

Qualifications framework: a system for classification, publication and organization of quality assured qualifications according to a set of criteria.

Quality assurance: an ongoing process by which the quality of a higher education system, institution or programme is assessed by the competent authority(ies) to assure stakeholders that acceptable educational standards are continuously being maintained and enhanced;

Recognition: a formal acknowledgment by a competent recognition authority of the validity and academic level of a foreign education qualification or of partial studies or of prior learning for the purpose of providing an applicant, including, but not limited to:

- a) the right to apply for admission to higher education and/or,
- b) the possibility to seek employment opportunities.

Region: a region as defined by UNESCO classification of regions with a view to the execution by the Organization of regional activities comprising the following: Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Regional Recognition Conventions: the UNESCO conventions on the recognition of qualifications concerning higher education in each of the UNESCO regions, including the Mediterranean Convention.

Requirements:

(a) General requirements: conditions that must be fulfilled for access to higher education, or to a given level thereof, or for the award of a higher education qualification at a given level;

(b) Specific requirements: 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.

Substantial differences: significant differences between the foreign qualification and the qualification of the Party that would most likely prevent the applicant from succeeding in the desired activity such as, but not limited to, further study, research activities or employment opportunities.

SECTION II. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION

Article II

Building on and enhancing the coordination, revisions and achievements of the Regional Recognition Conventions, the objectives of this Convention are to:

1. Promote and strengthen international cooperation in higher education.
2. Support inter-regional initiatives, policies and innovations for international cooperation in higher education.
3. Facilitate global mobility and merit in higher education for the mutual benefit of qualification holders, higher education institutions, employers and other relevant stakeholders of the Parties to the Convention while understanding and respecting the diversity of the Parties' higher education systems.
4. Provide an inclusive global framework for the fair, transparent, consistent, coherent, timely and reliable recognition of qualifications concerning higher education.
5. Respect, uphold and protect the autonomy and the diversity of higher education institutions and systems.
6. Foster trust and confidence in the quality and reliability of qualifications, including through integrity and ethical practices.
7. Promote a culture of quality assurance in higher education institutions and systems and develop the capacities to achieve reliability, consistency and complementarity in quality assurance, qualifications frameworks and the recognition of qualifications to support international mobility.

8. Promote the development, collection and sharing of accessible, up-to-date, reliable, transparent and relevant information and best practices between stakeholders, Parties and regions.

9. Promote, through the recognition of qualifications, inclusive and equitable access to quality higher education and support lifelong learning opportunities for all, including refugees and displaced persons.

10. Foster an optimal use of human and educational resources globally in view of promoting education for sustainable development and contribute to structural, economical, technological, cultural, democratic and social development for all societies.

SECTION III. BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR THE RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION

Article III

For the recognition of qualifications concerning higher education, this Convention establishes the following principles:

1. Individuals have the right to have their qualifications assessed for the purposes of applying for admission to study or seeking employment opportunities.

2. Recognition of qualifications should be transparent, fair, timely and non-discriminatory in accordance with rules and regulations of each Party and should be affordable.

3. Recognition decisions are based on trust, clear criteria and fair, transparent and non-discriminatory procedures and underline the fundamental importance of equitable access to higher education as a public good and which may lead to employment opportunities.

4. Recognition decisions are based on appropriate, reliable, accessible and up-to-date information on higher education systems, institutions, programmes and quality assurance mechanisms provided through the competent authorities of the Parties, official national information centres or similar entities.

5. Recognition decisions are made with due respect to the diversity of higher education systems worldwide.

6. Competent recognition authorities undertaking recognition assessments, shall do so in good faith, giving clear reasons for decisions, and have appeal mechanisms against recognition decisions.

7. Applicants seeking recognition of their qualifications provide adequate and accurate information and documentation on their achieved qualifications in good faith, and have the right to appeal.

8. Parties commit to adopt measures to eradicate all forms of fraudulent practices

regarding higher education qualifications by encouraging the use of contemporary technologies and networking activities among Parties.

SECTION IV. OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

This Convention establishes the following obligations to the Parties:

Article IV. Recognition of Qualifications Giving Access to Higher Education

1. Each Party shall recognise, for the purpose of access to its higher education system, the qualifications and documented or certified prior learning obtained in other Parties that meet the general requirements for access to higher education in those Parties, unless substantial differences can be shown between the general requirements for access in the Party in which the qualification was obtained and those in the Party in which recognition of the qualification is sought. Alternatively, it shall be sufficient for a Party to enable the holder of a qualification issued in another Party to obtain an assessment of that qualification.

2. Qualifications acquired through recognised non-traditional learning modes that are subject to comparable quality assurance mechanisms will be assessed according to the rules and regulations of the Party or a constituent unit, using the same criteria as those applied to a similar qualification acquired by traditional learning modes.

3. Where a qualification gives access only to specific types of institutions or programmes of higher education in the Party in which the qualification was obtained, each Party shall grant holders of such qualifications access to similar specific types of institutions or programmes belonging to its higher education system if available, unless a substantial differences can be shown.

Article V. Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications

1. Each Party shall recognise a higher education qualification conferred in another Party, unless substantial differences can be shown between the qualification for which recognition is sought and the corresponding qualification in the Party in which recognition is sought. Alternatively, it shall be sufficient for a Party to enable the holder of a higher education qualification issued in another Party to obtain an assessment of that qualification, upon request by the holder.

2. Higher education qualifications acquired through recognised non-traditional learning modes that are subject to comparable quality assurance mechanisms, and that are considered a part of the higher education system of a Party, will be assessed according to the rules and regulations of the Party or a constituent unit, using the same criteria as those applied to a similar qualification acquired through traditional learning modes.

3. Higher education qualifications acquired through cross-border education provision, international joint degrees or any joint programme undertaken in more than one country, of which at least one is Party to this Convention, will be assessed according to the rules and regulations of the Party, or the constituent unit using the same criteria as those applied to qualifications acquired through programmes undertaken in a single country.

4. Recognition in a Party of a higher education qualification issued in another Party shall have at least one of the following outcomes:

- a) Provide an individual with the right to apply for admission to further higher education studies, on the same conditions as those applicable to holders of higher education qualifications of the Party in which recognition is sought;
- b) Entitle an individual to the use of the title of a higher education qualification, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Party or the constituent unit in which recognition is sought.

In addition, recognition and assessment may facilitate qualified applicants to seek employment opportunities subject to the laws and regulations of the Party or the constituent unit, in which recognition is sought.

5. In case a competent recognition authority can demonstrate substantial differences between the qualification for which recognition is sought and the corresponding qualification in the Party in which recognition is sought, the competent recognition authority shall seek to establish, whether partial recognition may be granted.

6. Each Party may make the recognition of higher education qualifications issued according to cross-border education provisions or by foreign educational institutions operating on its territory contingent upon specific requirements of legislation or regulations of the Party or a constituent unit, or specific agreements concluded with the Party of origin of such institutions.

Article VI. Recognition of Partial Studies and Prior Learning

1. Each Party may recognise, for the purpose of the completion of a higher education programme or continuation of higher education studies, where appropriate, and taking into account legislation of the Parties regarding access, documented or certified partial studies or documented or certified prior learning obtained in another Party, unless substantial differences can be shown between the partial studies or prior learning and the part of the higher education programme they would replace in the Party in which recognition is sought. Alternatively, it shall be sufficient for a Party to enable an individual who has undertaken documented or certified partial studies or documented or certified prior learning in another Party to obtain an assessment of these partial studies or prior learning, upon request by the individual concerned.

2. Documented or certified partial completion of higher education programmes delivered by recognised non-traditional learning modes that are subject to comparable quality assurance mechanisms, and that are considered to be part of the

higher education system of a Party, will be assessed according to the rules and regulations of the Party or the constituent unit, using the same criteria as those applied to partial studies delivered by traditional learning modes.

3. Documented or certified partial completion of higher education programmes delivered through cross-border education provision international joint degrees or any joint programme undertaken in more than one country, of which at least one is Party to this Convention, will be assessed according to the rules and regulations of the Party, or the constituent unit, using the same criteria as those applied to partial studies obtained in a single country.

Article VII. Recognition of Partial Studies and Qualifications held by Refugees and Displaced Persons

Each Party shall take necessary and feasible steps within its education system and in conformity with its constitutional, legislative, and regulatory provisions to develop reasonable procedures designed to assess fairly and efficiently whether refugees and displaced persons fulfil the relevant requirements for access to higher education, to further higher education programmes or to seek employment opportunities, including in cases where the partial studies, prior learning or qualifications obtained in another country cannot be proven through documentary evidence.

Article VIII. Information for Assessment and Recognition

1. Each Party shall establish transparent systems for the complete description of the qualifications and learning outcomes obtained in its territory.

2. Each Party, to the extent feasible based on its constitutional, legislative and regulatory situation and structure, shall put in place an objective and reliable system of approval, recognition, and quality assurance of its higher educational institutions in order to promote confidence and trust in its higher education system.

3. Each Party shall establish and maintain a national information centre or similar entities to provide access to relevant, accurate and up-to-date information about its higher education system.

4. Each Party shall encourage the use of technologies to facilitate easy access to information.

5. Each Party shall:

a) Provide access to authoritative and accurate information on the higher education systems, qualifications, quality assurance and qualification frameworks, if applicable, of the Party;

b) Facilitate the dissemination of and access to accurate information on the higher education systems and qualifications, and the qualifications giving access

to higher education of the other Parties;

c) Give advice and information, where appropriate, on recognition matters, including criteria and procedures for the assessment of qualifications, and the development of materials for good recognition practices, in accordance with laws, regulations and policies of the Party; and

d) Ensure the provision of adequate information within reasonable time on any institution belonging to its higher education system, and on any programme operated by these institutions, 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 IX. Assessment of an Application

1. In the first instance, the responsibility for providing adequate information rests with the applicant, who shall provide such information in good faith.

2. Each Party shall ensure that institutions belonging to their education systems provide to the extent available, upon request, within a reasonable timeframe and free of charge, relevant information to the holder of a qualification or to the institution or the competent recognition authorities of the Party in which recognition is sought.

3. Each Party shall ensure that the body undertaking assessment for the purposes of recognition demonstrates when an application does not fulfil the requirements or where substantial differences are identified.

Article X. Information on the Competent Recognition Authorities

1. Each Party shall provide the depository of this Convention with official notification of competent authorities that make decisions in recognition matters in its territory.

2. Where there are central competent recognition authorities of a Party, they shall immediately be bound by the provisions of this Convention and shall take necessary measures to ensure implementation of the provisions of this Convention in its jurisdiction.

3. Where the competence to make decisions in recognition matters lies with the constituent units, 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, and of any changes thereafter. In such cases, the competent recognition authorities of the constituent units so designated shall take, to the extent feasible within the Party's constitutional situation and structure, the necessary measures to ensure implementation of the provisions of this Convention within the Party's jurisdiction.

4. Where the competence to make decisions in recognition matters lies with

individual higher education institutions or other entities, each Party or constituent unit according to its constitutional situation or structure, shall transmit the text of this Convention to these institutions or entities and shall take all necessary steps to encourage the favourable consideration and application of its provisions.

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

Article XI. Additional Requirements for Admission to Higher Education Programmes

1. Where admission to particular higher education programmes is dependent on the fulfilment of specific requirements in addition to the general requirements for access, the competent authorities of the Party concerned may impose the specific requirements equally on holders of qualifications obtained in other Parties or assess whether applicants with qualifications obtained in other Parties fulfil such equivalent requirements.

2. Where qualifications giving access to higher education in one Party are issued 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 education systems.

3. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article IV, admission to a given higher education institution, or to a given programme within such an institution, may be restricted or selective, according to fair and transparent regulations.

4. With respect to paragraph 3 of this article, admission procedures should be designed with a view to ensuring that the assessment of foreign qualifications is carried out according to the principles of transparency, fairness and non-discrimination described in Article III.

5. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article IV, admission to a given higher education institution may be based on the condition of sufficient competence demonstrated by the holder of the qualification in the language or languages of instruction of the institution concerned, or in other specified languages.

6. For the purpose of admission to higher education programmes, each Party may recognize qualifications issued by foreign educational institutions operating in its jurisdiction contingent upon specific requirements of legislation and regulations of the Party or the constituent unit, or specific agreements concluded with the Party of origin of such institutions.

SECTION V. IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURES AND COOPERATION

Article XII. Implementation Structures

The Parties agree to implement the present Convention through, or in cooperation with:

1. National implementation structures;
2. Networks of national implementation structures;
3. National, regional and global organizations for accreditation, quality assurance, qualification frameworks, and recognition of qualifications;
4. The Intergovernmental Conference of the Parties;
5. Regional Recognition Convention Committees.

Article XIII. National Implementation Structures

1. In order to facilitate the recognition of higher education qualifications, the Parties undertake to implement this Convention through relevant organisations, including national information centres or similar entities.
2. Each Party will notify the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Conference of the Parties about their national implementation structures and of any modification in this regard.
3. National implementation structures should form and actively participate in networks.

Article XIV. Networks of National Implementation Structures

1. Under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Conference of the Parties, the Networks are composed of national implementation structures of the Parties and shall uphold and assist the practical implementation of this Convention.
2. The Networks shall provide information exchange, capacity building and technical support to the Parties upon request.
3. The Networks seek to strengthen the inter-regional co-operation under this Convention and uphold links to the Intergovernmental Conference of the Parties.
4. Parties may participate in existing regional networks established through the Regional Recognition Conventions or create new networks. Participation in existing regional networks is subject to the agreement of the relevant Regional Recognition Convention Committees.

Article XV. The Intergovernmental Conference of the Parties

1. An Intergovernmental Conference of the Parties, hereinafter referred to as “the Conference”, shall be established.

2. The Conference shall be composed of representatives of all Parties to the Convention.
3. The States that are not Parties to this Convention, and the Heads of the Regional Recognition Conventions Committees shall be invited to participate in the meetings of the Conference as observers.
4. Representatives of relevant international and regional organisations as well as representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of recognition of higher education qualifications may also be invited to attend meetings of the Conference as observers.
5. The Conference shall meet in ordinary session at least every two (2) years. It may meet in extra-ordinary sessions if it so decides or at the request of at least one-third of Parties. The Conference shall have an interim work programme concerning activities between sessions. The Conference shall submit a report at each of the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of UNESCO.
6. The Conference shall meet for the first time within two (2) years of the entry into force of this Convention, and at that time it shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.
7. The Conference shall promote the application of this Convention and shall oversee its implementation by adopting recommendations, declarations, models of good practices or any relevant subsidiary text at the global or inter-regional level.
8. The Conference may adopt operational guidelines for the Parties to this Convention, in consultation with Regional Recognition Conventions Committees.
9. The Conference shall support the follow-up of the monitoring and reporting activities to UNESCO's governing bodies concerning the implementation of the Convention.
10. The Conference shall cooperate with the Regional Recognition Conventions Committees under the auspices of UNESCO.
11. The Conference shall assure that there is the necessary information exchange between the Conference and the Regional Recognition Convention Committees.
12. The Conference shall examine for adoption the draft amendments to this Convention as described in Article XXIII. The adopted amendments shall not undermine the principles of transparency, fair, timely and non-discriminatory recognition stated in this Convention.
13. The Secretariat of the Conference shall be provided by the Director-General of UNESCO. The Secretariat shall prepare the documentation of the Conference, draft the agenda of its meetings, and shall ensure the implementation of its decisions.

SECTION VI. FINAL CLAUSES

Article XVI. Ratification, Acceptance or Approval by Member States

1. This Convention shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by Member States of UNESCO and the Holy See in accordance with their respective constitutional and legislative procedures.
2. The instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Director-General of UNESCO.

Article XVII. Accession

1. This Convention shall be open to accession by all States not Members of UNESCO but which are members of the United Nations are invited by the General Conference of UNESCO to accede to it.
2. This Convention shall also be open to accession by territories which enjoy full internal self-government recognized as such by the United Nations, but which have not attained full independence in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and which have competence over the matters governed by this Convention, including the competence to enter into treaties in respect of such matters.
3. The instrument of accession shall be deposited with the Director-General of UNESCO.

Article XVIII. Entry into Force

1. This Convention shall enter into force three (3) months after the date of deposit of the twentieth (20th) instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, but only with respect to those that have deposited their respective instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession on or before that date.
2. This Convention shall enter into force with respect to any other Party three (3) months after the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

Article XIX. Relationship of the Parties to this Convention and Parties to the Regional Recognition Conventions and other Treaties

1. The ratification, acceptance, approval or accession of any of the Regional Recognition Conventions shall not be a prerequisite for the ratification, acceptance, approval or accession of this Convention.
2. Parties to this Convention shall,
 - a) foster mutual support between this Convention and the other treaties to which they are parties, particularly the Regional Recognition Conventions; and,
 - b) take into account the relevant provisions of this Convention when interpreting and applying the Regional Recognition Conventions to which they are parties

or when entering into other international obligations.

3. Nothing in this Convention shall be interpreted as modifying rights and obligations of the Parties under the Regional Recognition Conventions and any other treaties to which they are Parties.

4. To ensure a coherent interaction between this Convention, the Regional Recognition Conventions, any other relevant bilateral or multilateral agreements, and any other existing or future treaty or convention to which a Party to this Convention may be or may become a party, nothing in this Convention shall be deemed to derogate from any provisions more favourable to recognition, in particular provisions about national information centres, networks and substantial differences.

Article XX. Federal or Non-Unitary Constitutional Systems

Recognizing that international agreements are equally binding on Parties regardless of their constitutional systems, the following provisions shall apply to Parties which have a federal or non-unitary constitutional system:

- a) With regard to the provisions of this Convention, the implementation of which comes under the legal jurisdiction of the federal or central legislative power, the obligations of the federal or central government shall be the same as for those Parties which are not federal States;
- b) With regard to the provisions of the Convention, the implementation of which comes under the jurisdiction of the constituent units such as provinces, states, counties or cantons which are not obliged by the constitutional system of the federation to take legislative measures, the federal government shall inform, as necessary, the competent authorities of the constituent units such as provinces, states, counties or cantons of the said provisions, with its recommendation for their adoption.

Article XXI. Denunciation

1. Any Party to this Convention may denounce, at any time, this Convention.
2. The denunciation shall be notified by an instrument in writing deposited with the Director-General of UNESCO.
3. The denunciation shall take effect twelve (12) months after the receipt of the instrument of denunciation. It shall, in no way, affect the obligations regarding the terms of this Convention to the Party denouncing the Convention until the date on which the withdrawal takes effect.
4. The denunciation to this Convention shall not have any impact with respect to:
 - a) Recognition decisions taken previously under the provisions of this Convention
 - b) The recognition assessments still in process under this Convention.

Article XXII. Depositary Functions

The Director-General of UNESCO, as the depositary of this Convention shall inform the Member States of the Organization, the States not members of the Organization referred to in Article XVII, as well as the United Nations, of:

- a) the deposit of all the instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession provided for in Articles XVI and XVII;
- b) the denunciations provided for in Article XXI;
- c) the amendments to the Convention adopted in accordance with Article XXIII and the date on which the amendments come into force proposed in accordance with Article XXIII.

Article XXIII. Amendments

1. A Party to this Convention may, by written communication addressed to the Director-General, propose amendments to this Convention. The Director-General shall circulate such communication to all Parties. If, within six (6) months from the date of dispatch of the communication, no less than one half (1/2) of the Parties to the Convention reply favourably to the request, the Director-General shall present such proposal to the next session of the Intergovernmental Conference for discussion and possible adoption.

2. Amendments shall be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of Parties present and voting.

3. Once adopted, amendments to this Convention shall be submitted to the Parties for ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

4. For Parties that have ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to them, amendments to this Convention shall enter into force three (3) months after the deposit of the instruments referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article by two-thirds (2/3) of the Parties. Thereafter, for each Party that ratifies, accepts, approves or accedes to an amendment, the said amendment shall enter into force three (3) months after the date of deposit by that Party of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

5. A State, which becomes a Party to this Convention after the entry into force of amendments in conformity with paragraph 4 of this Article shall, failing an expression of different intention, be considered to be:

- a) A Party to this Convention as so amended; and,
- b) A Party to the unamended Convention in relation to Parties which are not bound by the amendments.

Article XXIV. Registration with the United Nations

In conformity with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, this Convention shall be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO.

Article XXV. Authoritative Texts

This Convention has been drawn up in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, all six texts being equally authoritative.

- END -