



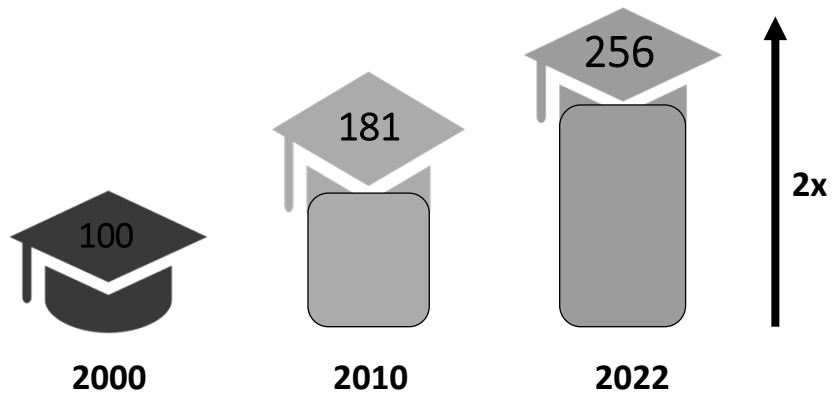
Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education

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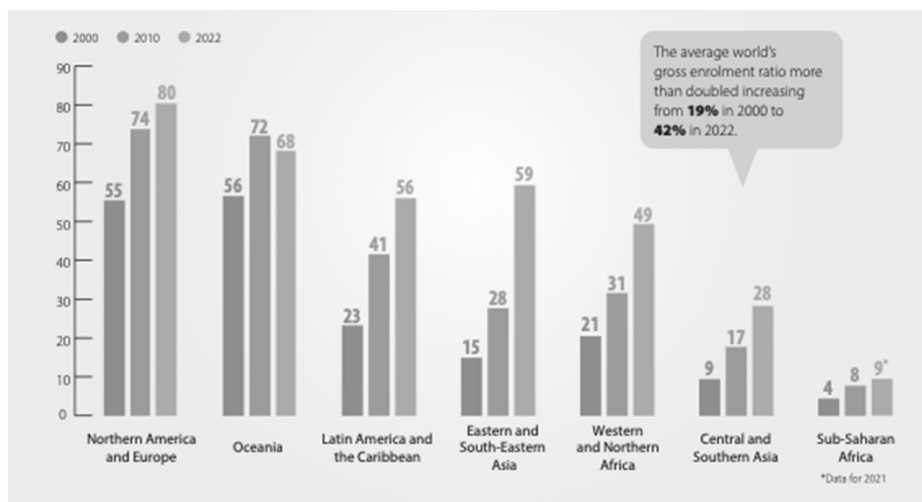
Gross tertiary education enrolment

Globally, the number of tertiary students (in millions) has more than doubled in the last two decades.



Source: UIS 2000-2022

Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education by region (%), 2000 – 2022



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics

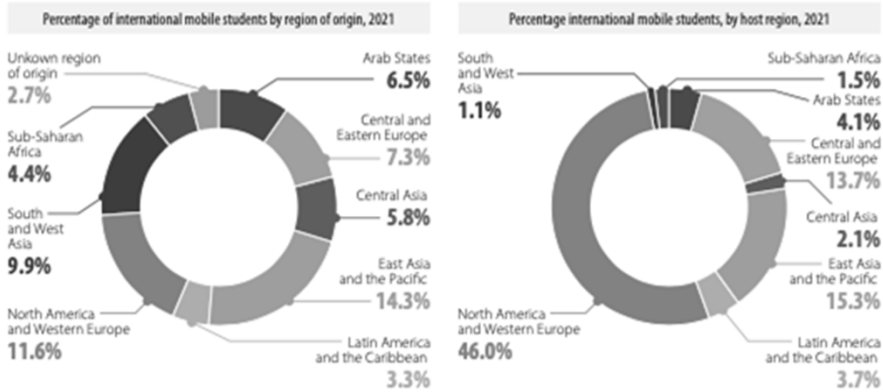


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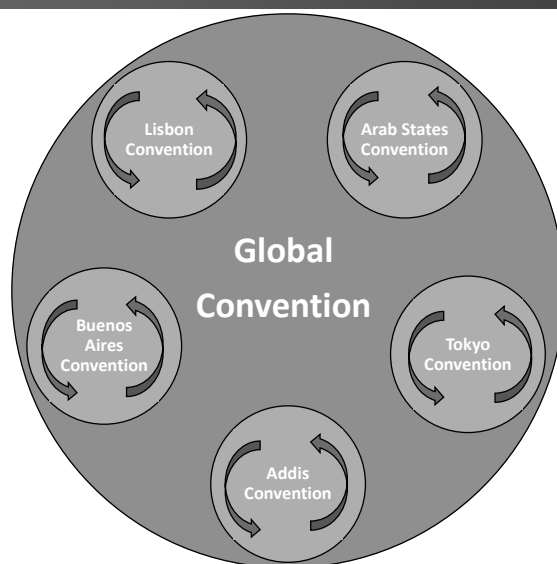
International Student Mobility, 2021

The number of internationally mobile students tripled between 2000 and 2021, from 2.1 to 6.4 million worldwide.
Internationally mobile students' share of total world enrolment rose from 2.1% to 2.6% in 2021.



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics

UNESCO's global ecosystem for the recognition of qualifications



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Global Convention: Background and rationale



- Adopted by UNESCO's General Conference in 2019 as the **first global UN treaty on higher education**.
- **Entered into force** in March 2023.
- Establishes **universal principles** for the recognition of qualifications.
- Open to UNESCO Member States and the Holy See.



Global Convention – Recent developments



- **Intergovernmental Conference** of the States Parties convened in July 2023 and March 2024, mandated with promoting the application of the convention and overseeing its implementation.
- **Bureau** – Norway (Chair), Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, Nicaragua, Japan, Tunisia, UK (VPs), Holy See (Rapporteur).
- 1st interim **work programme** (2024-2025) adopted in March 2024.
- **Key areas** – operational guidelines, subsidiary text on the relationship between the Global Convention and regional conventions, research, capacity development, advocacy.

Global Convention: 36 States Parties

1.6+ million (30%)

of the world's 6.4 million mobile students are hosted by the States Parties

Major actors

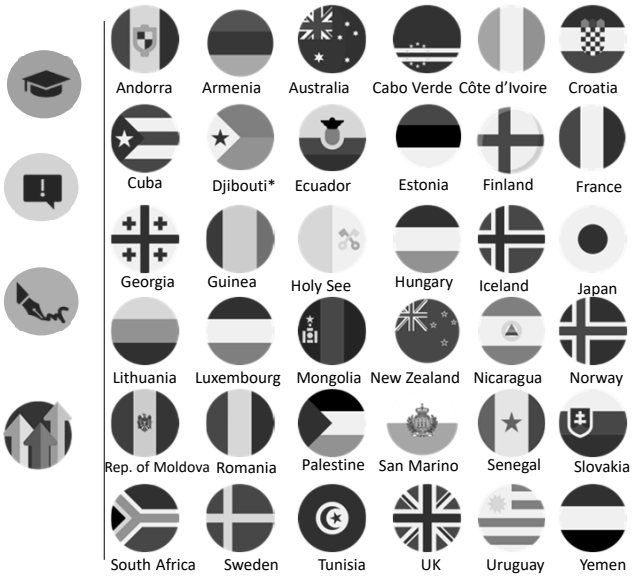
in international education

20+ Member States

Are reported to be well-advanced with ratification procedures, including countries in all UNESCO regions

Regional conventions

33 out of 36 countries that ratified the Global Convention are States Parties to one or more regional conventions



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Addis Convention – 14 States Parties

Ratified by:



Burkina Faso



Cabo Verde



Congo Brazzaville



Djibouti



Gambia



Guinea



Holy See



Liberia



Mauritius



Mauritania



Senegal



Seychelles



South Africa



Togo

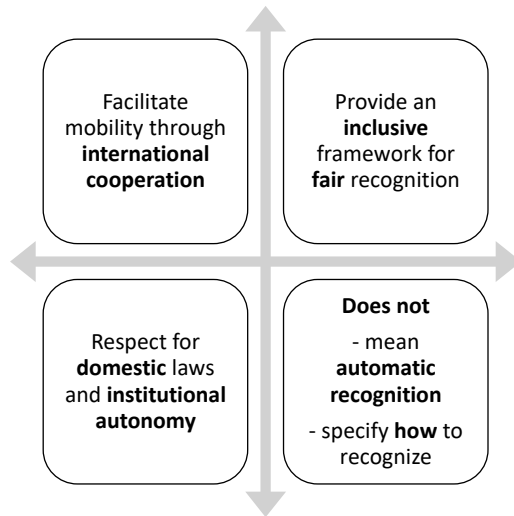


Zambia

- **Adopted** by UNESCO Member States in December 2014 and entered into force in December 2019.
- Establishes a **legal framework** for fair and transparent recognition of higher education qualifications in Africa.
- **14 States Parties** (Africa and the Holy See).
- At its first session in 2021, the Convention Committee adopted a **roadmap** focused on quality assurance, recognition of refugee qualifications, and information exchange.
- The 2nd session of the **Convention Committee** was held in Senegal in October 2023.
- The **African Network of National Implementation Structures** was launched in September 2022.
- The **2024/2025 work plan**, part of **Campus Africa**, focuses on regional networks, quality assurance, and refugee qualification tools.
- The **10th anniversary of the Addis Convention** highlighted a decade of progress in regional cooperation.



Objectives of the Global Convention



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Main Principles of the Global Convention

1 Timely and affordable assessment

States Parties shall recognize:

- qualifications giving access to higher education
- higher education qualifications
- partial studies
- prior learning
- non-traditional learning modes
- refugees/displaced persons, even in cases where documentation is lacking

...unless **substantial differences can be shown** that would **prevent** the applicant from succeeding with further studies or work

2 Individuals' **right to assessment** of their qualifications

States Parties must **provide information** on:

- higher education system
- qualifications and QA mechanisms
- **establish a national information centre**

Implementation structures:

- National implementation structures
- Networks of national structures
- Organizations for accreditation, quality assurance, qualifications frameworks and recognition
- Intergovernmental Conference
- Committees of regional conventions



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Elements of harmonization – principles of mutual recognition

1 Recognition based on substantial differences rather than equivalence

States Parties vow to to :

- Accepting certain differences between a foreign qualification and a corresponding national one (substantial differences)
- This is as long as the differences will not prevent the applicant from succeeding further in their studies and not insist that there should be equivalence in course content, curricula, workload, etc.

2 Quality assurance systems – ensuring mutual trust

States Parties vow to:

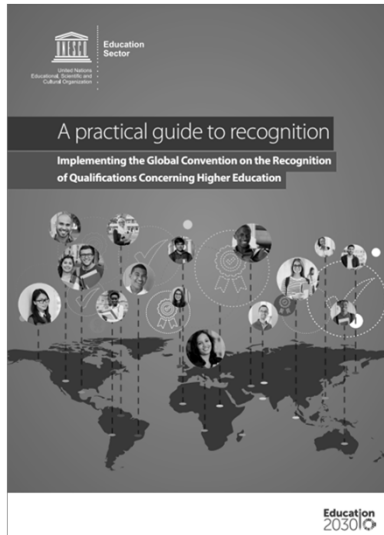
- Promote a culture of quality assurance
- Develop capacities for reliability, consistency and complementarity in quality assurance to build trust between systems, and support mutual recognition of foreign qualifications
- This includes qualifications acquired through recognized non-traditional learning modes, which are subject to comparable quality assurance mechanisms



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Useful Resources on Recognition



- **What is the Global Convention on Higher Education?** (benefits, how to ratify it, how to implement it)
www.unesco.org/en/education/higher-education/global-convention/about
- **A Practical Guide to Recognition**
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374905>
- **Resolutions** Intergovernmental Conference of the States Parties to the Global Convention
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000386727>
and
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000389637>
- **Regional recognition conventions**
www.unesco.org/en/higher-education/conventions
- **Model instrument of ratification** for all UNESCO conventions www.unesco.org/en/node/66846

Thank you

Learn more: www.unesco.org/education

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