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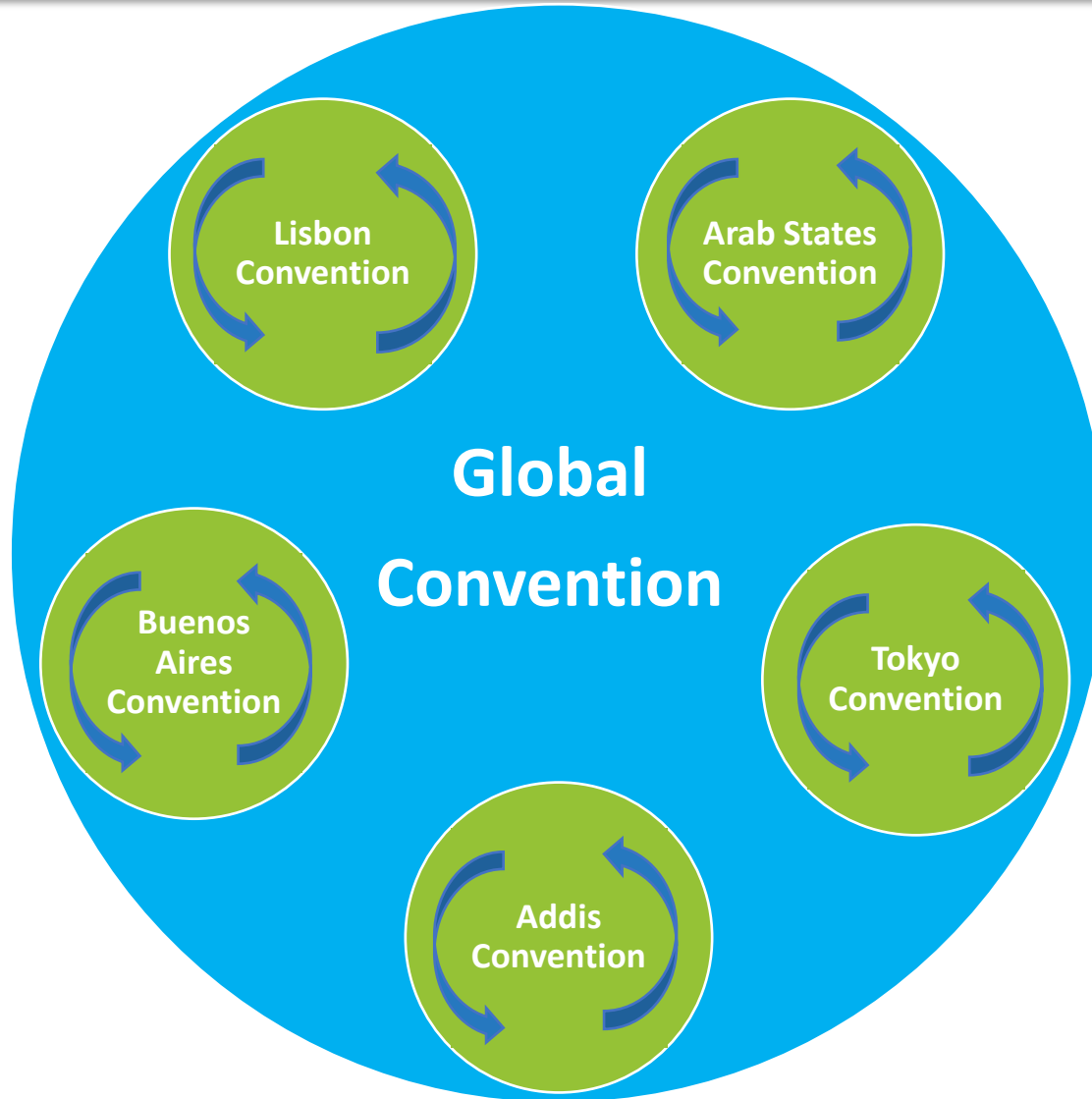
# ENQA General Assembly

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UNESCO

# UNESCO's global ecosystem for the recognition of foreign qualifications



# Global Convention – Background and rationale



- Adopted by UNESCO's General Conference in November 2019 as the **first UN treaty on higher education** with a global scope.
- More than **235 million** people are currently enrolled in higher education globally.
- **6.3 million are international students** – a number that has more than doubled in the past 20 years and is likely to double again in the next two decades.
- 50 % of these **study outside their home region**.
- The Global Convention establishes **universal principles** for the recognition of qualifications in a **fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner**.
- Builds on and complements the five **regional recognition conventions**.

# Global Convention – Recent developments



- **Entered into force** in March 2023.
- **23 countries** have ratified the Global Convention.
- **20+ countries report to be advanced** in their ratification procedures, with at least 5 expected to deposit by early 2024.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Intergovernmental Conference** of the States Parties convened in July 2023 in Paris, mandated with promoting the application of the convention overseeing its implementation.
- The revised interim **work programme** is being elaborated by a Working Group and will be submitted for adoption at an Extraordinary Session in March 2024.

# 23 States Parties (as of 6 January 2024)

**1.6+ million (25%)**

of the world's 6.3 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



Andorra



Armenia



Australia



Cabo Verde



Côte d'Ivoire



Croatia



Cuba



Estonia



France



Finland



Holy-See



Iceland



Japan



Lithuania



Nicaragua



Norway



Palestine



Romania



Slovakia



Sweden



Tunisia



United Kingdom

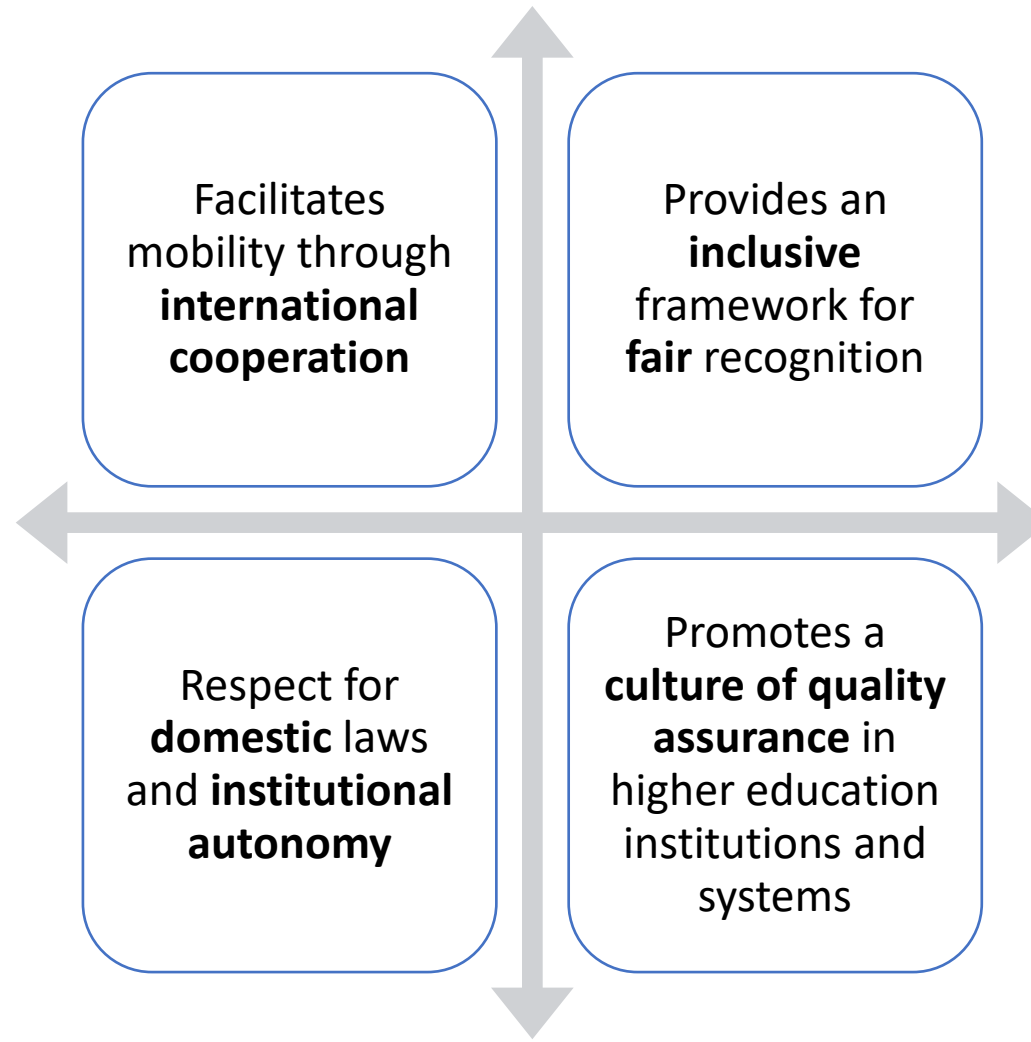


Uruguay

# States Parties to the Global Convention and regional conventions

	Global Convention	Addis Convention	Arab States Convention	Tokyo Convention	Buenos Aires Convention	Lisbon Convention
ANDORRA	2022					2008
ARMENIA	2022			2021		2005
AUSTRALIA	2022			2014		2002
CABO VERDE	2022	2022				
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	2022					
CROATIA	2021					2002
CUBA	2022				2021	
ESTONIA	2021					1998
FINLAND	2023 (deposited)					1998
FRANCE	2021					1999
HOLY SEE	2021	2019		2018	2023	2001
ICELAND	2022					2001
JAPAN	2022			2017		
LITHUANIA	2022					1998
NICARAGUA	2020					
NORWAY	2020					1999
PALESTINE	2022		2022			
ROMANIA	2021					1999
SLOVAKIA	2022					1999
SWEDEN	2022					2001
TUNISIA	2021					
UNITED KINGDOM	2022					2003
URUGUAY	2023				2022	

# Objectives of the Global Convention



# Global Convention main principles

Individuals' **right to assessment** of their qualifications for applying for studies or employment.

**Timely and affordable** assessment.

## **States Parties shall recognize:**

- qualifications giving access to higher education
- higher education qualifications
- partial studies
- prior learning
- qualifications acquired through non-traditional learning modes
- qualifications of refugees/DPs, even in cases where documentation is lacking unless **substantial differences can be shown**.

= Differences that would **prevent** the applicant from succeeding with further studies or work.

➔ **Burden of proof** on competent authorities and gives individuals the **right to appeal**.

States Parties must provide information on their higher education systems, qualifications and quality assurance mechanisms and **establish a national information centre**.

## **Implementation structures:**

- National implementation structures
- Networks of national structures
- Organizations for accreditation, QA, QFs, and recognition
- Intergovernmental Conference of the States Parties
- Committees of regional conventions



# Relationship with the regional recognition conventions

## For recognition decisions:

- States Parties shall take into account the relevant provisions of the Global Convention when interpreting and applying the regional recognition conventions (Article XIX.2);
- However, nothing in the Global Convention shall be deemed to derogate from any provisions *more favourable to recognition* (Article XIX.4).

## For implementation structures:

- Heads of the regional recognition convention committees participates in the Intergovernmental Conference of the States Parties to the Global Convention (Article XV.3);
- The committees of the regional conventions will be consulted on important decisions (Article XV.8);
- The networks of national information centres are identified as key implementation structures of the Global Convention (Article XII).

# Model instrument of ratification

## INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION

Whereas the ... *(title of the Convention)* ... is open to ratification by ... *(name of the country)* ..., under the terms of its Article ... *(number of applicable Article)*,

Now therefore the Government of ... *(name of the country)* ... having considered the aforesaid Convention hereby ratify the said Convention and undertake faithfully to carry out the stipulations therein contained.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have signed and sealed this instrument of ratification.

Done at ... *(place)* ..., this day of ... *(date)* ...

*(Signature)*

Head of State or Head of Government or Minister of Foreign Affairs

(Seal)

# Thank you

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