

The Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific

**Adopted at the International Conference of States
Bangkok, 12-16 December 1983**



UNESCO PRINCIPAL REGIONAL OFFICE
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Bangkok

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CONTENTS

1. The Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies,
Diplomas and degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific
adopted at the International Conference of States, Bangkok
12-16 December 19831
2. Final Act of The International Conference of States with a view to
adoption of the regional convention on the recognition of studies,
diplomas and degrees in higher education in Asia and the Pacific 19
3. Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications
in Higher Education29
adopted by the General Conference at its twenty-seventh session
Paris. 13 November 1993
4. Rules of Procedure 37
adopted at its first session of the Regional Committee, Bangkok
12-15 February 1990
5. List of Member States invited for adoption of the Convention,
Signatories of the Convention and States Parties, as of end of 199649

**THE REGIONAL CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION OF STUDIES,
DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES IN HIGHER EDUCATION
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**adopted at the International Conference of States
Bangkok 12-16 December 1983**

**THE REGIONAL CONVENTION ON
THE RECOGNITION OF STUDIES,
DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES IN HIGHER EDUCATION
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

PREAMBLE

The States of Asia and the Pacific, Parties to this Convention,

Guided by a common will to strengthen the bonds by which geography and history have linked them,

Recalling that, as stated in the Constitution of UNESCO, ‘the purpose of the Organization is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture’,

Mindful of the need to intensify their cultural exchanges with a view to facilitating the economic, social, cultural and technological development of each and all of the countries of the region of Asia and the Pacific and to promoting peace there,

Anxious in particular to strengthen and extend their collaboration with a view to making optimum use of their potential so as to encourage the advance of knowledge and continually improve the quality of higher education and **convinced** that, within the framework of such collaboration, the recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education, by allowing students and specialists to move more freely, constitutes a prerequisite for accelerating the development of the region, which demands the training and full employment of increasing numbers of scientists, technicians and specialists,

Convinced that the great diversity of the cultures and higher education systems existing in the Asia and the Pacific region constitutes an exceptional resource and anxious to enable their peoples to take full advantage of this cultural resource by facilitating access for the nationals of each Contracting State, in particular its students, teachers, researchers and members of the professions, to the educational resources of the other Contracting States by authorizing them to continue their training and research in the higher educational institutions of the other States, with due regard for their domestic legislation,

Recognizing also the substantial diversity which exists in the region in educational traditions and systems, in traditions and requirements for professional practice and in constitutional, legal and administrative arrangements,

Recalling also that many Contracting States have already concluded bilateral or subregional agreements on equivalence and recognition among themselves, but **desirous**, after making efforts at bilateral and subregional level and strengthening such efforts, of extending their collaboration to the whole region of Asia and the Pacific,

Considering that because of the diversity and complexity of courses it may not always be feasible to establish between diplomas or degrees of different countries, or even of different higher educational institutions in the same country, an equivalence based on the notion of a strict equality of value and that, for the purposes of authorization to move on to further stages of study, recourse should be had to a method of recognition of studies which, in the interests of both social and international mobility, allows of evaluating the level of competence reached, consideration being given to the learning attested by the diplomas or degrees obtained and to any other experience regarded by the authorities concerned as guaranteeing that competence,

Considering that the recognition by all the Contracting States of studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees obtained in any one of them is calculated to develop the mobility of persons and the exchange of ideas, knowledge and scientific and technological experience,

Noting that this recognition constitutes one of the conditions necessary for:

1. enabling means of education existing in their territories to be used as effectively as possible for the common good,
2. ensuring that teachers, students, research workers and members of the professions have greater mobility,
3. alleviating the difficulties encountered on their return by persons who have been trained abroad,

Desiring to ensure that studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees are recognized as widely as possible, taking into account the principles of the promotion of lifelong education, the democratization of education, and the adoption and application of an education policy allowing for structural, economic, technological and social changes and suited to the cultural context of each country,

Determined to sanction and organize their future collaboration in these matters by means of a convention which will be the starting-point for concerted dynamic action taken in particular by means of national, bilateral, subregional and multilateral machinery already existing or set up for the purpose,

Mindful that the ultimate objective set by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization consists in 'preparing an international convention on the recognition and the validity of degrees, diplomas and certificates issued by establishments of higher learning and research in all countries', have agreed as follows:

I. DEFINITIONS

Article 1

1. For the purpose of this Convention, the 'recognition' of a foreign certificate, diploma or degree of higher education means its acceptance by the competent authorities of a Contracting State and the granting to the holder of the rights enjoyed by persons possessing a national certificate, diploma or degree with which the foreign one is assessed as comparable by competent authorities within the Contracting State. Such rights extend to either the pursuit of studies or the practice of a profession, or both, according to the applicability of the recognition.
 - (a) Recognition of a certificate, diploma or degree with a view to undertaking or pursuing studies at the higher level shall entitle the holder to be considered for admission to the higher educational and research institutions situated in any Contracting State under the same conditions as those applying to holders of a comparable certificate, diploma or degree issued in the Contracting State concerned. Such recognition does not exempt the holder of the foreign certificate, diploma or degree from complying with any conditions (other than those relating to the holding of a diploma or degree) which may be required for admission by the higher educational or research institution concerned in the State granting such recognition.
 - (b) Recognition of a foreign certificate, diploma or degree with a view to the practice of a profession constitutes recognition that the holder has received the technical training required for the practice of that profession. Such recognition does not exempt the holder of the foreign certificate, diploma or degree from complying with any other conditions for the practice of the profession concerned which may be laid down by the competent governmental or professional authorities of Contracting States concerned.
 - (c) However, recognition of a certificate, diploma or degree may not entitle the holder in another Contracting State to more rights than he would enjoy in the country in which it was conferred.
2. For the purposes of this Convention:
 - (a) 'secondary education' means that stage of studies of any kind which follows primary or elementary education and the aims of which may include the preparing of pupils for access to higher education;
 - (b) 'higher education' means all education, training or research at post-secondary level.
3. For the purposes of this Convention 'partial studies' means periods of study or training which, although not constituting a complete course of study, are such that they add significantly to the acquisition of knowledge or skills.

II. AIMS

Article 2

1. The Contracting States intend to contribute through their joint action to the promotion of the active co-operation of all the nations of the Asia and the Pacific region in the cause of peace and international understanding and to the development of more effective collaboration with other Member States of Unesco with regard to a more comprehensive use of their educational, technological and scientific potential.
2. The Contracting States solemnly declare their firm resolve to co-operate closely within the framework of their legislative and constitutional structures with a view to:
 - (a) enabling the educational and research resources available to them to be used as effectively as possible in the interests of all the Contracting States, and, for this purpose:
 - (i) making their higher educational institutions as widely accessible as possible to students or researchers from any of the Contracting States;
 - (ii) recognizing the studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees of such persons;
 - (iii) elaborating and adopting terminology and evaluation criteria that are as similar as possible in order to facilitate the application of a system capable of ensuring the comparability of credits, subjects of study, certificates, diplomas and degrees, and of the conditions of access to higher education;
 - (iv) adopting a dynamic approach in matters of admission to further stages of study, bearing in mind knowledge acquired, as attested by certificates, diplomas and degrees, and also the individual's other relevant qualifications, so far as these may be deemed acceptable by competent authorities;
 - (v) adopting flexible criteria for the evaluation of partial studies, based on the educational level reached and on the content of the courses taken, bearing in mind the interdisciplinary character of knowledge at higher educational levels;
 - (vi) establishing and improving the system for the exchange of information regarding the recognition of studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees;
 - (b) constantly improving curricula in the Contracting States and methods of planning and promoting higher education, including harmonization of the conditions of access to higher education on the basis of not only the requirements for economic, social and cultural development, the policies of each country and also the objectives that are set out in the recommendations made by the competent organs of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization concerning the continuous improvement of the quality of education, the promotion of lifelong education and the democratization of education, but also the aims of the full development of the human personality and of understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations and in general all aims concerning human rights assigned to education by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Unesco Convention against Discrimination in Education;
 - (c) promoting regional and worldwide co-operation in the matter of comparability and recognition or equivalence of studies and academic qualifications.

3. The Contracting States agree to take all feasible steps at the national, bilateral and multilateral levels, in particular by means of bilateral, subregional, regional or other agreements, arrangements between universities or other higher educational institutions and arrangements with the competent national or international organizations and other bodies, with a view to the progressive attainment of the goals defined in the present article.

III. UNDERTAKINGS FOR IMMEDIATE APPLICATION

Article 3

1. The Contracting States agree to take all feasible steps to give recognition, as defined in Article 1, paragraph 1 (a), to secondary school leaving certificates and other diplomas issued in the other Contracting States that grant access to higher education with a view to enabling the holders to undertake studies in institutions of higher education situated in the respective territories of the Contracting States.
2. However, admission to a given educational institution may, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 1, paragraph 1 (a), be dependent on the availability of places and also on the conditions concerning linguistic knowledge required in order profitably to undertake the studies in question.

Article 4

1. The Contracting States agree to take all feasible steps with a view to:
 - (a) giving recognition as defined in Article 1, paragraph 1 (a), to certificates, diplomas and degrees with a view to enabling the holders to pursue advanced studies and training and undertake research in the institutions of higher education situated in their territory;
 - (b) defining, so far as possible, the procedure applicable to the recognition, for the purpose of the pursuit of studies, of the partial studies pursued in higher educational institutions situated in the other Contracting States.
2. The provisions of Article 3, paragraph 2, above shall apply to the cases covered by this article.

Article 5

The Contracting States agree to take all feasible steps to ensure that certificates, diplomas or degrees issued by the competent authorities of the other Contracting States are effectively recognized for the purpose of practicing a profession within the meaning of Article 1, paragraph 1 (b)

Article 6

Where decisions relating to admission to educational institutions and to credit for partial studies or entry to professional practice in the territory of a Contracting State are outside the control of that State, it shall transmit the text of the Convention to the institutions and authorities concerned and use its best endeavors to obtain the acceptance by them of the principles stated in sections II and III of the Convention.

Article 7

1. Considering that recognition refers to the studies followed and the certificates, diplomas or degrees obtained in the recognized institutions of a given Contracting State, any person, of whatever nationality or political or legal status, who has followed such studies or obtained such certificates, diplomas or degrees shall be entitled to benefit from the provisions of Articles 3, 4 and 5 above.
2. Any national of a Contracting State who has obtained in the territory of a non-Contracting State one or more certificates, diplomas or degrees comparable to those defined in Articles 3, 4 and 5 above may avail himself of those provisions which are applicable, on condition that his certificates, diplomas or degrees have been recognized in his home country and in the country in which he wishes to continue his studies.

IV. MACHINERY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Article 8

The Contracting States shall undertake to work for the attainment of the objectives defined in Article 2 and shall make their best efforts to ensure that the undertakings set forth in Articles 3, 4, 5 and 6 above are put into effect by means of

- (a) national bodies;
- (b) the Regional Committee defined in Article 10 hereafter;
- (c) bilateral or subregional bodies,

Article 9

1. The Contracting States recognize that the attainment of the goals and the execution of the undertakings defined in this Convention will require, at the national level, close co-operation and co-ordination of the efforts of a great variety of national authorities, whether governmental or non-governmental, particularly universities, validating bodies and other educational institutions. They therefore agree to entrust the study of the problems involved in the application of this Convention to appropriate national bodies, with which all the sectors concerned will be associated and which will propose appropriate solutions. The Contracting States will furthermore take all feasible measures required to speed up the effective functioning of these national bodies.

2. The Contracting States shall co-operate with each other to collect all information of use to them in their activities relating to studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education and other academic qualifications.
3. Every national body shall have at its disposal the necessary means to enable it either to collect, process and file all information of use to it in its activities relating to studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education, or to obtain the information it requires in this connection at short notice from a separate national documentation centre.

Article 10

1. A Regional Committee composed of representatives of the governments of Contracting States is hereby set up. Its secretariat is entrusted to the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
2. The function of the Regional Committee shall be to promote the application of this Convention. It shall receive and examine the periodic reports which the Contracting States shall communicate to it on the progress made and the obstacles encountered by them in the application of the Convention and also the studies carried out by its secretariat on the said Convention. The Contracting States undertake to submit a report to the Committee at least once every two years. Another function of the Regional Committee shall be to promote the collection, dissemination and exchange, among the States of the region, of information and documentation concerning studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education.
3. The Regional Committee shall, where appropriate, address to the Contracting States recommendations of a general or individual character concerning the application of this Convention.

Article 11

1. The Regional Committee shall elect its Chairman for each session and adopt its Rules of Procedure. It shall meet in ordinary session at least every two years. The Committee shall meet for the first time three months after the sixth instrument of ratification, approval or acceptance has been deposited.
2. The secretariat of the Regional Committee shall prepare the agenda for the meeting of the Committee, in accordance with the instructions it receives from the Committee and the provisions of the Rules of Procedure. It shall help national bodies to obtain the information needed by them in their activities.

V. DOCUMENTATION

Article 12

1. The Contracting States shall engage in exchanges of information and documentation pertaining to studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees in higher education and other academic qualifications.
2. They shall endeavour to promote the development of methods and machinery for collecting, processing, classifying and disseminating all the necessary information pertaining to the recognition of studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees in higher education, taking into account existing methods and machinery as well as information collected by national, regional, subregional and international bodies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

VI. CO-OPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Article 13

The Regional Committee shall make all the appropriate arrangements for associating with its efforts, for the purpose of ensuring that this Convention is applied as fully as possible, the competent international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

VII. INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF MORE THAN ONE STATE

Article 14

1. The provisions of this Convention apply to studies pursued at, and to certificates, diplomas and degrees obtained from, any institution of higher education under the authority of a Contracting State, even when this institution is situated outside its territory.
2. When an institution of higher education is under the authority of a number of States, not all of which are Contracting Parties to this Convention, it shall be the responsibility of the contracting States concerned to obtain the assent of the non-Contracting State or States in question to the full and unrestricted application of the Convention to the institution in question, and to inform the Director-General accordingly by depositing with him an official statement to that effect.

VIII. RATIFICATION, APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, ACCESSION AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

Article 15

This Convention shall be open for signature and ratification, approval or acceptance by the States of the Asia and the Pacific region which have been invited to take part in the Diplomatic Conference entrusted with the adoption of this Convention.

Article 16

1. Other States which are members of the United Nations, of one of the Specialized Agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency or which are Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice may be authorized to accede to this Convention.
2. Any request to this effect shall be communicated to the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization who shall transmit it to the Contracting States at least three months before the meeting of the ad hoc committee referred to in paragraph 3 of this article.
3. The Contracting States shall meet as an ad hoc committee comprising one representative for each Contracting State, with an express mandate from his government to consider such a request. In such cases, the decision of the committee shall require a two-thirds majority of the Contracting States.
4. This procedure shall apply only when the Convention has been ratified, approved or accepted by at least six of the States referred to in Article 15.

Article 17

Ratification, approval or acceptance of this Convention or accession to it shall be effected by depositing an instrument of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Article 18

This Convention shall enter into force one month after the second instrument of ratification, approval or acceptance has been deposited, but solely with respect to the States which have deposited their instruments of ratification, approval or acceptance. It shall enter into force for each other State one month after that State has deposited its instrument of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession.

Article 19

1. The Contracting States shall have the right to denounce this Convention.
2. The denunciation shall be signified by an instrument in writing deposited with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
3. The denunciation shall take effect twelve months after the instrument of denunciation has been received. However, persons having benefited from the provisions of this Convention who may be pursuing studies in the territory of the State denouncing the Convention will be able to complete the course of studies they have begun.

Article 20

Any dispute between two or more Contracting States concerning the interpretation or implementation of the Convention shall be settled through consultation between the Contracting Parties concerned.

Article 21

This Convention shall not affect in any way the treaties and conventions already in force between the Contracting States or the national legislation adopted by them in so far as such treaties, conventions and legislation offer greater advantages than those provided for in the Convention.

Article 22

The Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization shall inform the Contracting States and the other States mentioned in Articles 15 and 16 above and also the United Nations of the Deposit of all the instruments of ratification, approval or acceptance referred to in Article 17, accession referred to in Article 16 or official statements referred to in Article 14, as well as of the denunciations provided for in Article 19 of this Convention.

Article 23

In conformity with Article 102 of the United Nations Charter, this Convention shall be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations at the request of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

IN FAITH WHEREOF the undersigned representatives, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Convention.

Done at Bangkok, this sixteenth day of December 1983, in the Chinese, English, French and Russian languages, the four texts being equally authoritative, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations. A certified copy shall be sent to all the States referred to in Article 15 and 16 and to the United Nations.

阿富汗民主共和国

For the Democratic Republic
of Afghanistan
Pour la République démocratique
d'Afghanistan
За Демократическую Республику
Афганистан

澳大利亚

For Australia
Pour l'Australie
За Австралию

孟加拉人民共和国

For the People's Republic
of Bangladesh
Pour la République populaire
du Bangladesh
За Народную Республику Бангладеш

不丹王国

For the Kingdom of Bhutan
Pour le Royaume du Bhoutan
За Королевство Бутан

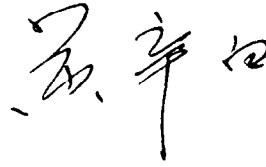
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. Sanyal', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

缅甸联邦社会主义共和国

For the Socialist Republic of
the Union of Burma
Pour la République socialiste
de l'Union birmane
За Социалистическую Республику
Бирманский Союз

中华人民共和国

For the People's Republic of
China
Pour la République populaire
de Chine
За Китайскую Народную Республику

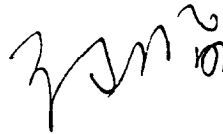


民主柬埔寨

For Democratic Kampuchea
Pour le Kampuchea démocratique
За Демократическую Кампучию

朝鲜民主主义人民共和国

For the Democratic People's Republic
of Korea
Pour la République populaire
démocratique de Corée
За Корейскую Народно-Демократическую
Республику



斐济

For Fiji
Pour Fidji
За Фиджи

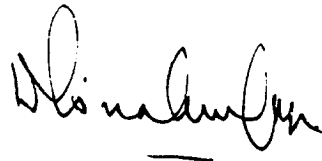
印度共和国

For the Republic of India
Pour la République de l'Inde
За Республику Индия

M. R. Kolkatkar

印度尼西亚共和国

For the Republic of Indonesia
Pour la République d'Indonésie
За Республику Индонезия



伊朗伊斯兰共和国

For the Islamic Republic
of Iran
Pour la République islamique
d'Iran
За Исламскую Республику Иран

日本国

For Japan
Pour le Japon
За Японию

老挝人民民主共和国

For the Lao People's Democratic
Republic
Pour la République démocratique
populaire lao
За Лаосскую Народно-Демократическую
Республику



马来西亚

For Malaysia
Pour la Malaisie
За Малайзию

马尔代夫共和国

For the Republic of Maldives
Pour la République des Maldives
За Мальдивскую Республику

蒙古人民共和国

For the Mongolian People's
Republic
Pour la République populaire
mongole
За Монгольскую Народную
Республику

尼泊尔王国

For the Kingdom of Nepal
Pour le Royaume du Népal
За Королевство Непал

Khemendra Prasad Pandey
Dec 16, 1983

新西兰

For New Zealand
Pour la Nouvelle-Zélande
За Новую Зеландию

巴基斯坦伊斯兰共和国

For the Islamic Republic of
Pakistan
Pour la République islamique
du Pakistan
За Исламскую Республику
Пакистан

巴布亚新几内亚

For Papua New Guinea
Pour la Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée
За Папуа-Новую Гвинею

菲律宾共和国

For the Republic of the
Philippines
Pour la République des Philippines
За Республику Филиппины

[Signature] *Dec. 16, 1983*

大韩民国

For the Republic of Korea
Pour la République de Corée
За Корейскую Республику

萨摩亚

For Samoa
Pour le Samoa
За Самоа

新加坡共和国

For the Republic of Singapore
Pour la République de Singapour
За Республику Сингапур

越南社会主义共和国

For the Socialist Republic of
Viet Nam
Pour la République socialiste
du Viet Nam
За Социалистическую Республику
Вьетнам

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斯里兰卡民主社会主义共和国

For the Democratic Socialist
Republic of Sri Lanka
Pour la République socialiste
démocratique de Sri Lanka
За Демократическую Социалистическую
Республику Шри-Ланка

泰国

For the Kingdom of Thailand
Pour le Royaume de Thaïlande
За Королевство Таиланд

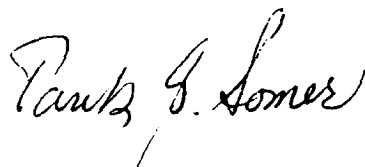
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汤加王国

For the Kingdom of Tonga
Pour le Royaume des Tonga
За Королевство Тонга

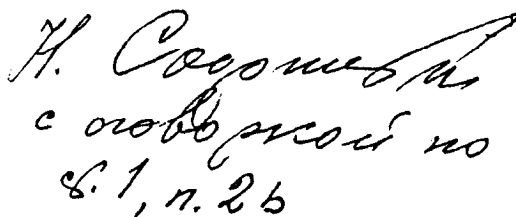
土耳其共和国

For the Republic of Turkey
Pour la République turque
За Турецкую Республику



苏维埃社会主义共和国联盟

For the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics
Pour l'Union des républiques
socialistes soviétiques
За Союз Советских Социалистических
Республик



**FINAL ACT OF
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATES WITH A VIEW TO
ADOPTION OF THE REGIONAL CONVENTION ON THE
RECOGNITION OF STUDIES,
DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES IN HIGHER EDUCATION
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

FINAL ACT
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATES WITH A VIEW
TO ADOPTION OF THE REGIONAL CONVENTION ON
THE RECOGNITION OF STUDIES, DIPLOMAS
AND DEGREES IN HIGHER EDUCATION
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The International Conference of States convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with a view to adoption of the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific was held at Bangkok, at the invitation of the Government of Thailand, from 12 to 16 December 1983, with H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, Minister of Education, head of the delegation of Thailand, as President, and in the presence of Mr. Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, Director-General of Unesco.

The Conference established a Credentials Committee, chaired by H.E. Mr. Khelendra Prasad Pandey, Ambassador of Nepal to Thailand, and a Drafting Committee, chaired by Dr. F.S.C.P. Kalpage, head of the delegation of Sri Lanka and General Rapporteur of the Conference.

The Conference examined the text drawn up by the Special Committee of Governmental Experts responsible for preparing a Draft Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific, which met at Unesco Headquarters, Paris, from 6 to 10 December 1982.

The Conference, having made a few amendments to the text, adopted the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific and a report on its work, prepared by its General Rapporteur.

The text of the Convention is established in the Chinese, English, French and Russian languages, the four versions being equally authentic.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, the delegates of the States participating in the Conference have signed this Final Act.

Done at Bangkok, this sixteenth day of December 1983, in the Chinese, English, French and Russian languages, the original to be deposited in these four languages in the archives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

阿富汗民主共和国

For the Democratic Republic
of Afghanistan
Pour la République démocratique
d'Afghanistan
За Демократическую Республику
Афганистан

澳大利亚

For Australia
Pour l'Australie
За Австралию



孟加拉人民共和国

For the People's Republic
of Bangladesh
Pour la République populaire
du Bangladesh
За Народную Республику Бангладеш

不丹王国

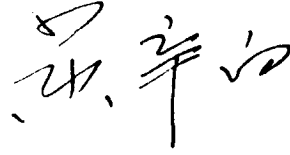
For the Kingdom of Bhutan
Pour le Royaume du Bhoutan
За Королевство Бутан



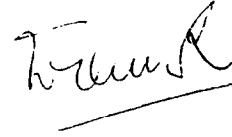
缅甸联邦社会主义共和国

For the Socialist Republic of
the Union of Burma
Pour la République socialiste
de l'Union birmane
За Социалистическую Республику
Бирманский Союз

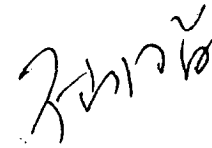
中华人民共和国
For the People's Republic of
China
Pour la République populaire
de Chine
За Китайскую Народную Республику



民主柬埔寨
For Democratic Kampuchea
Pour le Kampuchea démocratique
За Демократическую Кампучию

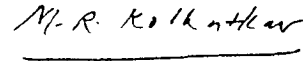


朝鲜民主主义人民共和国
For the Democratic People's Republic
of Korea
Pour la République populaire
démocratique de Corée
За Корейскую Народно-Демократическую
Республику

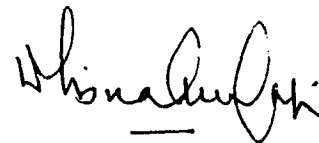


斐济
For Fiji
Pour Fidji
За Фиджи

印度共和国
For the Republic of India
Pour la République de l'Inde
За Республику Индия



印度尼西亚共和国
For the Republic of Indonesia
Pour la République d'Indonésie
За Республику Индонезия



伊朗伊斯兰共和国

For the Islamic Republic
of Iran
Pour la République islamique
d'Iran
За Исламскую Республику Иран

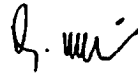
日本国

For Japan
Pour le Japon
За Японию



老挝人民民主共和国

For the Lao People's Democratic
Republic
Pour la République démocratique
populaire lao
За Лаосскую Народно-Демократическую
Республику



马来西亚

For Malaysia
Pour la Malaisie
За Малайзию



马尔代夫共和国

For the Republic of Maldives
Pour la République des Maldives
За Мальдивскую Республику

蒙古人民共和国

For the Mongolian People's
Republic
Pour la République populaire
mongole
За Монгольскую Народную
Республику

尼泊尔王国

For the Kingdom of Nepal
Pour le Royaume du Népal
За Королевство Непал

Khalendra Prasad Pandey.
Dec 16, 1983

新西兰

For New Zealand
Pour la Nouvelle-Zélande
За Новую Зеландию

A. J. Johns 16 Dec 1983

巴基斯坦伊斯兰共和国

For the Islamic Republic of
Pakistan
Pour la République islamique
du Pakistan
За Исламскую Республику
Пакистан

J. Zubin

巴布亚新几内亚

For Papua New Guinea
Pour la Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée
За Папуа-Новую Гвинею

Dec 16, 1983.

W. Liagum 16th. Dec. 1983.

菲律宾共和国

For the Republic of the
Philippines
Pour la République des Philippines
За Республику Филиппины

[Signature] Dec. 16, 1983

大韩民国

For the Republic of Korea
Pour la République de Corée
За Корейскую Республику

Tai Bom Chang

萨摩亚

For Samoa
Pour le Samoa
За Самоа

新加坡共和国

For the Republic of Singapore
Pour la République de Singapour
За Республику Сингапур

越南社会主义共和国

For the Socialist Republic of
Viet Nam
Pour la République socialiste
du Viet Nam
За Социалистическую Республику
Вьетнам

h x t e u

斯里兰卡民主社会主义共和国

For the Democratic Socialist
Republic of Sri Lanka
Pour la République socialiste
démocratique de Sri Lanka
За Демократическую Социалистическую
Республику Шри-Ланка

BLB Kalang

泰国

For the Kingdom of Thailand
Pour le Royaume de Thaïlande
За Королевство Таиланд

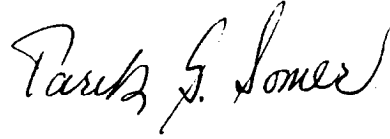
Hum Lu mi

汤加王国

For the Kingdom of Tonga
Pour le Royaume des Tonga
За Королевство Тонга

土耳其共和国

For the Republic of Turkey
Pour la République turque
За Турецкую Республику



苏维埃社会主义共和国联盟

For the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics
Pour l'Union des républiques
socialistes soviétiques
За Союз Советских Социалистических
Республик



**RECOMMENDATION ON THE RECOGNITION OF STUDIES
AND QUALIFICATIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

**ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
AT ITS TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION
PARIS, 13 NOVEMBER 1993**

RECOMMENDATION ON THE RECOGNITION OF STUDIES AND QUALIFICATIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

PREAMBLE

The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), meeting in Paris from 25 October to 16 November 1993, at its twenty-seventh session,

Recalling that, as stated in its Constitution, ‘The purpose of the Organization is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture’,

Conscious of the fact that education is a human right, and that higher education, which is instrumental in the pursuit and advancement of knowledge, constitutes an exceptionally rich cultural and scientific asset,

Considering that knowledge is universal, being part of the common heritage of humankind, and that means of making knowledge and learning more accessible to each individual must be sought,

Aware that the great diversity of the cultures and higher education systems existing in the world constitutes an exceptional resource that must be preserved, promoted and fostered,

Considering that higher education increasingly has an international dimension, owing to the rapid expansion and internationalization of knowledge and to the links and solidarity established within the scientific and university community, and that wider access to educational resources worldwide through greater mobility for students, researchers, teachers and specialists is essential to this international dimension,

Considering that, given the great diversity of the laws, regulations, practices and traditions that determine the organization and functions of higher education systems and institutions, and the diversity of the constitutional, legal and regulatory requirements and arrangements regulating the practice of professions, it is essential, for the purpose of access to and pursuance and completion of higher education and for preparation for the practice of professions, to put into practice policies of evaluation of competence that take into account not only the qualifications obtained but also courses of study taken and skills, knowledge and experience acquired,

Bearing in mind the need for mutual recognition of studies and qualifications in higher education by all competent authorities and institutions as a means of increasing mobility of persons and the exchange of ideas, knowledge and scientific and technological experience, and in order ultimately to promote improvements everywhere in the quality of higher education,

Considering that this recognition will also promote:

- an overall increase in the number of people able to benefit from higher education,
- the best possible use by all countries of the means available for education and training, and the development of human resources,
- greater mobility for teachers, students, researchers and professionals,
- a reduction in the difficulties encountered by persons who have been trained or educated abroad and who wish to study or practice a profession,
- a rapprochement and better understanding between cultures and peoples, with mutual respect for their diversity,

Considering that the six regional conventions on the recognition of studies and qualifications in higher education already adopted under the aegis of UNESCO have proved the worth of international co-operation in this field and that in order to come closer to the ultimate objective set by the General Conference they should be supplemented by a universal standard-setting instrument,

Adopts the present Recommendation this thirteenth day of November 1993.

I. DEFINITIONS

1. For the purposes of this Recommendation and without prejudice to the definitions States may use in their internal administrative systems and laws,
 - (a) 'higher education' means all types of studies, training or training for research at the post-secondary level, provided by universities or other educational establishments, that are approved as institutions of higher education by the competent State authorities;
 - (b) 'qualification in higher education' means any diploma, degree or other qualifying certificate that is awarded by an institution of higher education, or another appropriate authority, that establishes that the holder has successfully completed a course of study and qualifies him or her either to continue to a further stage of study or to practice a profession not requiring further special preparation;
 - (c) 'partial studies' means any homogeneous fraction of a course at the first stage or at more advanced stages of higher studies that has been evaluated and authenticated and, while not a complete course in itself, can be equated with a significant acquisition of knowledge or skill;
 - (d) 'secondary education' means studies of any kind that follow primary, elementary or basic education and are a prerequisite for admission to higher education;
 - (e) 'recognition' of a foreign qualification in higher education means its acceptance by the competent authorities of the State concerned (whether they be governmental or non-governmental) as entitling its holder to be considered under the same conditions as those holding a comparable qualification awarded in that State and deemed comparable, for the purposes of access to or further pursuit of higher education studies, participation in research, the practice of a profession if this does not require the passing of examinations or further special preparation, or all the foregoing, according to the scope of the recognition;

- (f) 'recognition of a foreign certificate of secondary education for the purpose of undertaking studies at the higher level means its acceptance by the competent authorities of the State concerned as entitling its holder to be considered for admission to its higher education institutions under the same conditions as the holder of a comparable qualification or certificate awarded in that State;
 - (g) 'recognition' of a foreign qualification or of a foreign certificate of partial studies of higher education means acceptance by the competent authorities of the State concerned that the holder is entitled to be considered for further studies at its higher education and research institutions under the same conditions as those pertaining to the holder of a comparable qualification or certificate awarded in that State;
 - (h) 'recognition' of a foreign qualification in higher education with a view to the practice of a profession means acceptance by the competent authorities of the professional preparation of the holder for the practice of the profession concerned, without prejudice, however, to the legal and professional rules or procedures in force in the States concerned and provided the holder would be entitled to practice the same profession in the State in which the professional preparation and qualification had been obtained; such recognition does not exempt the holder of the foreign qualification from complying with any other conditions for the practice of the profession concerned that may be laid down by the competent governmental or professional authorities in the States concerned.
2. Recognition of a qualification or certificate may not give a greater right to consideration in another State than in the State in which it was conferred.

II. AIMS AND UNDERTAKINGS

General measures

- 3. When considering the measures to be taken to achieve broader recognition of qualifications in higher education, Member States should apply the provisions spelled out below by taking whatever legislative or other steps may be required to give effect, within their respective territories, to the principles set forth in this Recommendation.
- 4. Member States that have not done so should be encouraged to become parties to the regional conventions on the recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education and make every effort to contribute to reinforcing the work of the regional committees for the application of these conventions.
- 5. Member States should bring this Recommendation to the knowledge of the authorities, agencies and organizations concerned, whether governmental or non-governmental, particularly institutions of higher education, validating bodies, professional organizations and other educational institutions and associations.
- 6. All Member States, as well as those non-Member States that are already parties to one or more regional conventions, should examine the provisions of this Recommendation and take measures to implement them.
- 7. Member States should submit to the General Conference of UNESCO, on the dates and in the form determined by it, reports on the action undertaken, the measures adopted and progress achieved by them in the application of this Recommendation.

National policies and practices

8. Member States should take all feasible steps within the framework of their national systems and in conformity with their constitutional, legal and regulatory provisions to encourage the competent authorities concerned to give recognition, as defined in paragraph 1(f), to certificates of secondary education and other diplomas necessary for access to higher education, awarded in other Member States, with a view to enabling their holders to undertake studies in institutions of higher education situated in the territory of the receiving State, subject to all academic admission requirements obtaining for nationals of that State. Admission to an institution of higher education may nevertheless be dependent on other conditions, such as the availability of places, the passing of entrance examinations, or adequate knowledge of the language of instruction.
9. Member States should take all feasible steps within the framework of their national systems and in conformity with their constitutional, legal and regulatory provisions to encourage the competent authorities concerned to give recognition, as defined in paragraph 1(e), to qualifications in higher education that are awarded in the other Member States, with a view to enabling their holders to pursue further studies, training or research in their institutions of higher education, subject to all academic admission requirements obtaining for nationals of that State. Member States should also take steps to define procedures for the recognition, as defined in paragraph 1(g), of partial studies carried out in higher education institutions in the other States, for the purpose of the pursuit of higher education. In evaluating a qualification obtained abroad for the purpose of further studies, authorities should take into account the stages of study in the country in which the qualification was obtained, in order to permit people having completed one stage to continue to the next stage when they move to another country. Admission to an institution of higher education for the purpose of pursuing further studies, may, nevertheless, be dependent on other conditions, such as the availability of places, the passing of entrance examinations, or adequate knowledge of the language of instruction.
10. Member States should take all feasible steps within the framework of their national systems and in conformity with their constitutional, legal and regulatory provisions, to facilitate recognition of preparation at the higher education level for the practice of a profession as defined in paragraph 1(h). To that effect, policies should be evolved, in co-operation with all the parties concerned (such as higher education institutions, professional associations, governmental bodies and employers' associations) that favour objective evaluation of skills and qualifications obtained abroad with a view to enabling people to practice the professions for which they have been trained or which they have already practiced, and in order to favour optimum use of human resources available and the full integration into society of all of its members.
11. In establishing procedures for the evaluation of qualifications for all the purposes mentioned under paragraphs 8 to 10 above, the competent authorities and institutions concerned should take into account the wide diversity of institutions, types of study, programme content and teaching methods, including distance teaching and other non-traditional forms of higher education. In evaluating the comparability of a foreign qualification, authorities should also take into account the rights that would have been enjoyed by its holder in the country in which it was obtained.

12. Member States should set up national bodies or designate, and if necessary reinforce, existing bodies and facilitate the functioning of these bodies so that they can co-ordinate matters relating to the application of this Recommendation and co-operate with the existing committees for the application of the regional conventions. Since attainment of the aims and application of the provisions of this Recommendation requires close co-operation and co-ordination of the efforts of a great variety of national authorities, all the authorities concerned should be encouraged to co-operate, whether they be governmental or non-governmental, particularly institutions of higher education, validating bodies, professional organizations and other educational institutions and associations.
13. Institutions of higher education in each Member State should work together and with national bodies in order to establish, as far as possible, common or comparable policies with respect to the evaluation of qualifications, in line with the principles set forth in this Recommendation.
14. Member States should take all feasible steps within the framework of their national systems and in conformity with their constitutional, legal and regulatory provisions to alleviate the difficulties encountered by those returning home after having studied abroad and wishing to pursue their studies or practice a profession, so that the reintegration of such persons into the life of the home country may be achieved in the manner most beneficial both to the individual and to the community concerned. This could entail, among other things, steps to be taken by mutual agreement with all the parties involved so that persons returning do not experience undue delays in obtaining evaluation of their qualifications and decisions concerning recognition. Member States should encourage the establishment of mechanisms whereby individuals can present documents and other evidence of competence and skills when disagreements arise between individuals and institutions.
15. Member States should take all feasible steps within the framework of their national systems and in conformity with their constitutional, legal and regulatory provisions in order to develop procedures designed to assess fairly and expeditiously the skills and competence acquired through higher education of refugees and displaced persons who cannot provide documentary evidence of their studies.
16. In the case of a higher education institution in the territory of a State not under the direct or indirect authority of that State but under separate and independent authorities, the national authorities should transmit the text of this Recommendation to the institution concerned so that the institution can put its provisions into practice.
17. Eligibility for recognition should not be dependent on nationality or legal status.

International co-operation: development and exchange of relevant information

18. Member States, in co-operation with regional networks where possible, should improve the exchange of information, by such measures as establishing and communicating to each other regularly updated lists of approved institutions of higher education situated in their territories; for this purpose, in each State, national bodies in charge of matters relating to this Recommendation could be reinforced and given the task of establishing such lists and communicating to other bodies specific recognition problems.
19. Member States should encourage the setting up of mechanisms such as evaluation and accrediting bodies for the purpose of assuring the quality of higher education studies and should encourage international co-operation among such mechanisms and bodies.
20. Member States should work together, through competent authorities, bodies and institutions, to facilitate the comparison of subjects of study, credits and qualifications, by such measures as exchanging relevant information for evaluating them and undertaking comparative studies on evaluation criteria and on national terminologies of higher education so as to harmonize their mutual understanding and interpretation.

Bilateral and multilateral agreements

21. Member States should take measures at the international level, by way of bilateral, multilateral or other agreements, to achieve the aims and accelerate the progressive application of this Recommendation.
22. Member States should encourage international co-operation among higher education institutions through such measures as bilateral and multilateral agreements and other networking arrangements in order to achieve widespread recognition of studies and qualifications.
23. When appropriate, the committees responsible for the application of the conventions on the recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education should co-operate in cataloguing bilateral and other agreements between States and between institutions, and in making them more widely known, in order to encourage and intensify the establishment of such agreements.
24. The provisions of this Recommendation should apply to studies pursued at, and to qualifications obtained from, any institution of higher education coming under the authority of a Member State, even when that institution is situated outside its territory, provided that both the competent authorities of that State and those of the State in which the institution is situated recognize its qualifications in the same way as those awarded by institutions of their systems of higher education.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

**ADOPTED AT ITS FIRST SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE
BANGKOK, 12-15 FEBRUARY 1990**

RULES OF PROCEDURE

RULE 1

Composition

- Convention
Art. 10 (1)
1. The governments of States having deposited instruments of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession to the Regional Convention of the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific, adopted in Bangkok on 16 December 1983, shall be members of the Regional Committee under the conditions provided for in the Convention.
 2. Each member of the Committee shall communicate to its Secretariat the names of the representatives it has designated for each session of the Committee.

RULE 2

Terms of Reference

- Convention
Art. 10 (2)
and (3)
1. The function of the Committee shall be to promote the application of the Convention. It shall receive and examine periodic reports from the Contracting States on progress to date and difficulties met with in applying the Convention, as well as studies on the Convention prepared by its Secretariat.
 2. The Committee shall make general or specific recommendations to the Contracting States.

RULE 3

Sessions

- Convention
Art. 11
1. The Committee shall meet at least once every two years in ordinary session.
 2. The first ordinary session of the Committee shall be convened by the Director-General of UNESCO. Subsequent ordinary sessions shall be convened by the Secretariat of the Committee in accordance with the instructions of the Bureau of the Committee and with the agreement of the Director-General of UNESCO.

3. Extraordinary sessions shall be convened by decision of the Bureau, through its Chairman. The place and date of extra-ordinary sessions shall be fixed by the Chairman in agreement with the Director-General of UNESCO.
4. The sessions of the Committee shall normally be held at the place where the Secretariat of the Committee has its headquarters.
5. Any member of the Committee may invite the Committee to hold an ordinary or extra-ordinary session on its territory. The Secretariat shall inform the members of the Bureau of any invitation of this kind. The Bureau, through its Chairman, shall decide upon such invitations in agreement with the Director-General of UNESCO.

RULE 4

Agenda

- I. The provisional agenda of the first session of the Committee shall be drawn up by the Director-General of UNESCO.
2. The provisional agenda of subsequent ordinary sessions shall be drawn up by the Secretariat of the Committee after consulting the members of the Bureau
3. The provisional agenda of ordinary sessions shall be communicated to members of the Committee at least two months before the opening of each session.
4. The provisional agenda of an ordinary session of the Committee shall include:
 - items whose inclusion has been ordered by the Committee;
 - items proposed by members of the Committee;
 - items proposed by the Director-General of UNESCO.
5. The provisional agenda of an extra-ordinary session shall include only those items for whose consideration the session has been convened by the Bureau.
6. The provisional agenda of an extra-ordinary session shall be communicated to members of the Committee at least ten days in advance.
7. The Committee shall adopt its agenda at the beginning of each session.
8. During an ordinary session the Committee may change the order of items on the agenda and add or delete items. For that purpose a two-thirds majority shall be necessary.

RULES

Bureau

- Convention
Art. 11
1. At the beginning of each of its ordinary sessions, the Committee shall elect a Chairman, a First Vice-Chairman, a Second Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur, who shall constitute the Bureau of the Committee and who shall remain in office until the beginning of the subsequent ordinary session.
 2. The Bureau shall be responsible for co-ordinating the work of the Committee and, in general, assisting the Chairman in his duties.
 3. Members of the Bureau shall be eligible for re-election.
 4. The Bureau may meet in the interval between sessions of the Committee by decision of its Chairman reached in agreement with the Director-General of UNESCO.

RULE 6

Subsidiary Bodies

The Committee shall establish any subsidiary body it may deem necessary in order to consider the items on its agenda.

RULE 7

Representatives and Observers

1. Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO other than those referred to in Rule 1 may be represented by observers.
2. Member States which are not members of UNESCO but which are members of the United Nations, one of the United Nations Specialized Agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, or which are parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, may send observers if invited to do so by decision of the Committee.
3. The United Nations and other organizations and institutions in the United Nations system may send representatives to sessions of the Committee.
4. Inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations invited by decision of the Regional Committee may also send observers to sessions of the Committee.
5. Representatives and observers may take part in the work of the Committee without the right to vote, subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 of Rule 11 and without the right to make formal proposal.

RULE 8

General Powers of the Chairman

1. In addition to exercising the powers which are conferred upon him elsewhere by these Rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each session of the Committee. He shall direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, control the proceedings and maintain order. He shall not vote, but may designate a member of his delegation to vote in his place.
2. If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Committee or is unable to perform his duties, the First Vice-Chairman shall act as Chairman for the remainder of the Chairman's term of office. If that Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Committee or is unable to perform his duties, the Second Vice-Chairman shall act as Chairman for the remainder of the Chairman's term of office.
3. If the Chairman is absent during a session, his functions shall be exercised successively by the Vice-Chairmen.

RULE 9

Publicity of Proceedings

Unless otherwise decided by the Committee or by the body in question, all sessions of the Committee and of its subsidiary bodies shall be held in public.

RULE 10

Quorum

1. At plenary meetings of the Committee, a majority of the governments referred to in Rule 1 who are present at the session will constitute a quorum.
2. In the subsidiary bodies of the Committee a majority of their members shall form a quorum.
3. If after five minutes' adjournment, there be still no quorum as above defined, the Chairman may request the agreement of all Member States actually present temporarily to waive the preceding paragraphs of this rule.

RULE 11

Order of Speeches and Time-Limit on Speeches

1. The Chairman of the meeting shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their wish to speak.
2. The Chairman of the meeting may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker when circumstances make this desirable.
3. The representatives and observers referred to in Rule 7 may speak with the prior consent of the Chairman.

RULE 12

Points of Order

1. In the course of a debate, any member of the Committee may raise a point of order, and such point of order shall be immediately decided by the Chairman.
2. An appeal may be made against the ruling of the Chairman. It shall be put to the vote immediately, and the Chairman's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

RULE 13

Procedural Motions

1. In the course of a debate, any member of the Committee may move the suspension or adjournment of the meeting, or the adjournment or closure of the debate.
2. Such motions shall be immediately put to the vote. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 1 of Rule 12, the following motions shall have precedence, in the following order, over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:
 - (a) to suspend the meeting;
 - (b) to adjourn the meeting;
 - (c) to adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
 - (d) for the closure of the debate on the item under discussion.

RULE 14

Conclusions and Recommendations; Amendments

1. Draft conclusions and recommendations and amendments to such drafts may be submitted by members of the Committee. They shall be transmitted in writing to the Secretariat of the Committee, which shall circulate copies to all members.
2. As a general rule, no draft conclusion, recommendation or amendment may be discussed or put to the vote unless copies of it have been circulated sufficiently in advance to all members, in the working languages of the Committee.

RULE 15

Working Language

1. The working language of the Committee is English.
2. Speakers may, however, use any other language, on condition that they make their own arrangements for interpretation of their speeches into the working language, and provided that it is technically possible.
3. In view of the provisions of paragraph 1 above, the working documents of the Committee shall be issued in its working language.

RULE 16

Voting

1. Each member of the Committee shall have one vote in the Committee and in each of its subsidiary bodies on which that member is represented.
2. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Convention or in these Rules, decisions shall be taken by a majority of members present and voting.
3. For the purpose of these Rules, the expression 'members present and voting' means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members abstaining from voting are considered 'non-voters'.
4. Normal voting shall be by show of hands.
5. When the result of a vote by show of hands is in doubt, the Chairman of the meeting may take a second vote, by role-call. A vote by roll-call shall also be taken if it is requested by not less than two members before voting takes place.

6. When an amendment to a proposal is moved, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments to a proposal are moved, the Committee shall first vote on the amendment deemed by the Chairman to be furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment deemed by the Chairman to be the next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.
7. If one or more amendments are adopted, the entire amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.
8. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal.

RULE 17

Records

1. At each of its session, the Committee shall adopt a report on proceedings, including the text of the conclusions and recommendations it has adopted.
2. After each session of the Committee, a final report shall be issued by the Secretariat.

RULE 18

Special Consultations by Correspondence

Should the approval of the Committee be required for measures of exceptional urgency and importance while the Committee is not in session, the Chairman may, through the Secretariat, consult the members by correspondence. The proposed measure shall be adopted if it is approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.

RULE 19

Secretariat of the Committee

1. The Director-General of UNESCO or his representative shall participate, without the right to vote, in the work of the Committee, of its Bureau and of its subsidiary bodies. They may at any time make oral or written statements to the Committee, to the Bureau or to any subsidiary body.
2. The Director-General shall place at the disposal of the Committee a member of the Secretariat of UNESCO who shall act as Secretary of the Committee, together with the staff and other facilities necessary for the work of the Committee.
3. The Secretary of the Committee shall attend all meetings of the Committee, of the Bureau and of the subsidiary bodies.

RULE 20

Adoption, Amendment and

Suspension of the Rules of Procedure

Convention
Art. 11 (1)

1. The Committee shall adopt its Rules of Procedure in plenary meeting by a majority decision of members present and voting.
2. The Committee may amend these Rules of Procedure, except those based on provisions of the Convention, by a decision in plenary meeting taken by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.
3. Any of these Rules of Procedure, other than those based on provisions of the Convention, may be suspended by a decision taken by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

**LIST OF MEMBER STATES INVITED FOR
ADOPTION FOR THE CONVENTION,
SIGNATORIES OF THE CONVENTION AND STATES PARTIES
AS OF END OF 1996**

**SIGNATORIES OF AND STATES PARTIES TO THE REGIONAL CONVENTION ON
THE RECOGNITION OF STUDIES, DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES
IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
AS OF 15.051997**

This convention entered into force on 23 October 1985. It subsequently entered into force for each State one month after the date of deposit of that State's instrument, except in cases of succession, where the entry into force occurred on the date on which the State assumed responsibility for conducting its international relations

Member States invited to the International Conference with the right to vote (Bangkok, Thailand 12 - 16 December 1983) (31 States)	Signatories of the Convention (14 signatories)	States Parties (17 States Parties)
Afghanistan	Australia	America* 21.09.91
Australia	Bhutan	Azerbaijan 24.09.95
Bangladesh	China	Australia 23.09.85
Bhutan	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	China 25.09.84
Burma*	India	Democratic People's Republic of Korea 26.04.89
China	Indonesia	Holy See 10.08.95
Democratic Kampuchea**	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Kazakhstan* 16.12.91
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Nepal	Kirghizistan* 13.08.91
Fiji	Philippines	Maldives 14.05.90
India	Sri Lanka	Mongolia 19.10.91
Indonesia	Thailand	Nepal 02.11.89
Iran	Turkey	Republic of Korea 29.08.89
Japan	USSR	Russian Federation* 12.06.90
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Viet Nam	Sri Lanka 10.01.86
Malaysia		Tajikistan* 09.09.91
Maldives		Turkey 28.04.88
Mongolia		Turkmenistan* 27.10.91
Nepal		
New Zealand		
Pakistan		
Papua New Guinea		
Philippines		
Republic of Korea		
Samoa		
Singapore		
Sri Lanka		
Thailand		
Tonga		
Turkey		
USSR***		
Viet Nam		
* Now Myanmar		* State-successor
** Now Cambodia		
*** Now Russian Federation		

Revised: 15.05.97