REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) held two public working meetings on Friday 6 April 2018, that were provisionally chaired by Mr Everton Hannam, (Jamaica). It met on Friday 13 April 2018 to adopt the present report.

2. The Committee on Conventions and Recommendations examined the following item on the agenda of the Executive Board:

Item 18 Implementation of standard-setting instruments

Part I General monitoring (204 EX/18 Part I)

3. Introducing the item, the Director of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs, representing the Director-General, drew attention to document 204 EX/18 Part I containing a report on the situation of UNESCO conventions and recommendations that the CR Committee was required to monitor and an analysis of measures taken by the Secretariat in monitoring the implementation of standard-setting instruments and the difficulties encountered for each of the instruments. The representative of the Director-General also indicated that the document contains the timetable of work of the CR Committee for 2018-2021 as well as a timetable for submission of Member States’ reports on measures taken to implement the conventions and recommendations for the period 2018-2019.

4. The Director of the Division of Policy and Lifelong Learning Systems, representative of the Education Sector, presented the updated information on the implementation on normative instruments in the field of education.

5. Many members of the Committee congratulated the work of the Secretariat in the field of education and the clarity of the report. Some members stressed the importance of the standard-setting instruments, particularly the 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education, in view of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) – 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation. One member also highlighted the need to refresh the older instruments in the context of SDG 4 and to ensure efficient monitoring in cases where several instruments cover the same area. In response to a question on the implementation of Recommendation No. 92 of the open-ended Working Group on Governance, Procedures and Working Methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO, the Representative of the Director-General recalled that following the appointments to the Conciliation and Good Offices Commission at the 39th session of the General Conference, the Secretariat initiated the procedure for the election by correspondence of the new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Commission. Subsequently, she said that after these elections, the new members of the Commission will be consulted to propose any possible measure to revitalize the functioning of this treaty body. The result of this consultation will be submitted to the CR Committee no later than the 206th session of the Executive Board in spring 2019. The comments of the CR Committee on the functioning of the Commission will be transmitted to the Legal Committee of the 40th Session of the General Conference.
6. Questions were also raised regarding the articulation between the monitoring processes of standard-setting instruments and other mechanisms, such as SDG 4, or through the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report. One member asked about the reasons for the low ratification rate of the 1989 Convention on Technical and Vocational Education. He also commended the efforts to implement the Strategy to improve visibility, ratification, implementation, monitoring and cooperation of education-related standard-setting instruments (hereinafter “the Strategy”) and its roadmaps, notably the work related to the Observatory on the Right to Education, and requested further information on the articulation of these initiatives with the work of the United Nations in this field. He finally suggested that the Secretariat should focus on the issue of commercialization of education.

7. The representative of the Russian Federation mentioned that in Ukraine a new education law and its provisions relating to the use of national minorities’ languages in schools, violates the 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education and UNESCO’s general principles. The representative of the Russian Federation explained that according to this new law, Ukrainian would become the required language of study in state schools at the secondary level. She raised a similar concern with regard to the use of the Russian minority language in schools in Latvia, where a similar law has been adopted. Finally, she estimated that this issue was not a bilateral conflict, but concerned all Member States and the principles promoted by UNESCO, insisting that UNESCO should not ignore this “form of discrimination” in Ukraine and Latvia.

8. Responding on the articulation between UNESCO’s monitoring of its standard-setting instruments and SDG 4, the representative of the Education Sector cited the example of the 1974 Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which monitors progress on target 4.7. Another example is the 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education. He added that the GEM Report goes beyond the monitoring of standard-setting instruments, while being complementary. On higher education, he recalled that the future Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications builds on the regional conventions and that a harmonization of the content is being ensured through the revision process. Furthermore, he informed that an intergovernmental meeting on the revision of the 1974 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean took place in Buenos Aires (4 - 5 April 2018) and that the second one is scheduled for Cordoba (Argentina) during the Regional Conference on Higher Education (CRES) in June 2018.

9. Concerning the 1989 Convention on Technical and Vocational Education, the representative of the Education Sector recalled that the report prepared by the Secretariat in 2011 identified some of the obstacles that explain the low level of ratification. These include the complexity of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), its dependence on the labour market and the rapid evolution of the economic context that makes it difficult to adopt a normative framework as well as the fact that this domain is regulated by several ministries in many countries. In relation to the articulation between UNESCO’s normative work and the United Nations system, he referred the renewed cooperation with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) in the context of SDG4, and the roadmap that is detailing its modalities. Regarding the issue of privatization, he mentioned the Resolution on the right to education adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council in June 2017, inviting States to put in place a regulatory framework for private providers. Based on collaboration with civil society organizations and consultations during 2017, guiding principles were developed in this field. He called upon the CR to indicate how far the Committee wanted to continue in this process.

10. On the minority language issues raised by a member of the Committee, the representative of the Education Sector recalled that, in line with its guiding principles, UNESCO does not spare any effort to encourage the use of minorities’ languages and mother tongues in education and to promote multiculturalism within and through education. He referred to the existence of the Conciliation and Good Offices Commission, on the basis of Articles 12 and 13 of the Protocol of 1962 instituting it.
11. The Deputy Director of the Division for Heritage, representative of the Culture Sector, presented guidelines for the preparation of reports on the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, including a Glossary of Definitions, and recalled that the second consolidated report will be presented to the Executive Board for examination at its 206th session in spring 2019 and submitted to the General Conference for its consideration at its 40th session. The Committee was also informed of the August 2018 deadline for responses to the online questionnaire and the dedicated web page where further information could be downloaded. In his presentation, the representative of the Culture Sector highlighted synergies between the recently adopted Davos Declaration: Towards a high-quality Baukultur for Europe (2018) and the 2011 Recommendation, which highlight the importance of the integrated management of urban environment. The Committee was also informed of the capacity building activities, namely the 2nd Coordination meeting of the UNESCO category 2 institutes and centres (C2Cs) and UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs related to culture (November 2017, Paris), which had a voluntary session on the Recommendation; the 2nd Annual Workshop of the Regional Network on the Management of Historic Walls and Fortifications in Urban World Heritage Properties in Europe on the Walled Cities-Open Societies (March 2018, Sibenik – Croatia); and the International Expert Meeting on the 2011 Recommendation (March 2018, Shanghai – China).

12. The Committee commended the support provided to Members States on the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation. In addition to the monitoring process identified, one Member of the Committee requested more information on the relation between the New Urban Agenda (UN-Habitat) and the 2011 Recommendation, and how UNESCO Chairs play a role in this process. In response to these inquiries, the Committee was informed that the dedicated web page already contains detailed information on the linkages between the 2011 Recommendation, SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. Furthermore, the recent 9th World Urban Forum (February 2018, Kuala Lumpur) highlighted shared views that are pertinent to cultural heritage, as reflected in its final declaration.

13. Concerning the collaboration with UNESCO Chairs, the representative of the Culture Sector noted that they have been an integral part of the activities conducted thus far, in particular the University of Technology, Jamaica UNITWIN/UNESCO CHAIR Network 231: “Sustainable Built Environment SIDS/Historic Urban Landscape” (SBESIDS/HUL), which is specifically working on the 2011 Recommendation.


15. In regard to the 2003 Recommendation, the representative of the Secretariat shared information regarding the continued implementation of the Roadmap towards UNESCO’s World Atlas of Languages, UNESCO’s collaboration with Talkmate to develop the 2017 “Language Champion Challenge” campaign, and UNESCO’s role as the lead agency for the organization of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages.

16. In view of the implementation of the 2015 Recommendation, the representative of the Communication and Information noted past and upcoming regional consultations led by UNESCO to address specific needs of Member States in terms of preservation and access to documentary heritage. He also highlighted consultations facilitated by the Memory of the World (MoW) Secretariat. He reported on a workshop held in March 2018 in the Caribbean aimed at strengthening MoW National Committees as frameworks for delivering upon the 2015 Recommendation. Furthermore, he pointed to the consultation on the 2015 Recommendation held in January 2018 by the French Ministry of Culture, the French National Commission for UNESCO, the French MoW Committee and the National Library of France. He concluded by saying that the European Network of Cooperating National Commissions for UNESCO had also completed an online survey on how the
Implementation Guidelines for the 2015 Recommendation, commissioned by the MoW Secretariat, could be improved for more effective reporting by Member States.

17. Concerning the 2017 Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers, the Director of the Policies and Programmes Division of the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS), representative of the Social and Human Sciences Sector, reminded the Committee that the General Conference, at its 39th session in November 2017, adopted a revised Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers (1974), that is now entitled the Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers (39 C/Resolution 85). The 2017 Recommendation aims at strengthening scientific communities and contains important norms on the conduct of scientific research and on how to develop scientific excellence. The representative of the SHS Sector informed the members of the Committee that copies of the 2017 Recommendation in the six working languages of the General Conference were expected to be authenticated by the President of the General Conference and the Director-General shortly, after which certified copies of the 2017 Recommendation would be transmitted to Member States. The Secretariat will also transmit the text of the 2017 Recommendation to UNESCO’s various partners such as the United Nations bodies and other international organizations, identified in Annex of the Recommendation. The Director-General’s circular letter is a reminder to Member States that they are required to transmit the text to the relevant authorities, in accordance with the UNESCO Constitution, Article IV, paragraph 4. In this regard, Member States are encouraged to translate the 2017 Recommendation into their national languages and to transmit the new linguistic versions to the Secretariat, which will make these available online on a dedicated web page. Field Offices are also supporting translations of the 2017 Recommendation to new languages. Overall, Member States’ implementation, promotion and dissemination can begin immediately. Member States are invited to promote and champion the ideas on science contained in the 2017 Recommendation, which are so vital to sustainable development and are closely related to implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG 9) and its Target 9.5 on innovation, scientific research and experimental development.

18. A member of the Committee, expressing appreciation of the work done by the Secretariat on the revision and adoption of the new 2017 Recommendation, noted that in his country the links between science and sustainable development are considered as crucial for the future common well-being of our societies and underlined the importance of technology transfer and capacity-building in developing countries to ensure justice and equal access to the benefits from scientific progress by the developing and developed countries. In reply to his request to clarify the monitoring process of the 2017 Recommendation, the representative of the SHS Sector described in detail the main actions that will be undertaken by the Secretariat, during the different stages of the 2018-2021 monitoring exercise, which is presented in paragraphs 58 and 59 of document 204 EX/18 Part I. The representative of the SHS Sector also thanked the Committee for the positive evaluation of the Secretariat’s previous and current work in this area.

19. Furthermore, in reply to another question about how Member States could be involved in the process of forming the main directions for the implementation of the 2017 Recommendation, the representative of the SHS Sector said that the Secretariat was already negotiating with a number of Member States that had expressed their interest in collaborating on this issue, including at the meetings of the CR Committee during the 202nd session of the Executive Board and the SHS Commission during the 39th session of the General Conference. Other Member States, interested in assisting the Secretariat in the task of elaborating guidance on how best to advance the implementation of the 2017 Recommendation, are invited to join their efforts with the Secretariat.

20. The representative of the Social and Human Sciences Sector also informed the Committee that the major forthcoming international scientific meetings in the areas of natural and social and human sciences would present excellent occasions for the Secretariat to promote the 2017 Recommendation and to discuss with the different scientific communities how to make the 2017 Recommendation an effective science policy tool, especially for scientific research, education and training, as well as what cooperation is needed to ensure that science is innovative, socially responsible, ethical, inclusive, gender balanced, sustainable and respectful of the environment and
that its benefits are fairly shared in line with the universal human right to benefit from scientific progress and its applications (Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights). The Secretariat intends to organize round table debates on various thematic issues covered by the 2017 Recommendation during such events as: the Founding Assembly on the new International Science Council (Paris, France, 3-5 July 2018), the World Social Sciences Forum (Fukuoka, Japan, 25-28 September 2018), the 8th Latin American Conference of Social Sciences – CLACSO Forum (Buenos-Aires, Argentina, 19-23 November 2018), the 15th Assembly of CODESRIA (Dakar, Senegal, 17-21 December 2018), as well as during other events, which may be organized in cooperation with UNESCO’s field offices.

21. At the end of the discussions, the members of the Committee decided to recommend the following draft decision to the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,


2. Having examined document 204 EX/18 Part I, and the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon (document 204 EX/33),

3. Urges all Member States, once again, to fulfil their legal obligations under Article VIII of the Constitution of UNESCO regarding periodic reports on the action taken upon the conventions and recommendations;

4. Takes note of the timetable of work of the CR Committee for 2018-2021 contained in Annex I to document 204 EX/18 Part I, on the understanding that this timetable may be subject to further adjustments;

5. Also takes note of the timetable for submission of Member States’ reports on measures taken to implement the conventions and recommendations for 2018-2019, contained in Annex II to document 204 EX/18 Part I;

6. Requests the Director-General to continue to ensure the implementation of the legal framework concerning standard-setting instruments, adopted at its 177th session and amended at its 196th session, by the programme sectors and the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS), which have responsibility for the conventions and recommendations monitored by the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR);

7. Decides to continue consideration of this item at its 205th session.

Part II Implementation of the 2015 Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) – Preparations for the next consultation (204 EX/18 Part II)

22. Upon invitation by the Chairperson, the Director of the Division of Policy and Lifelong Learning Systems of the Education Sector, representative of the Director-General, introduced the item. He recalled that the Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) was last revised in 2015, adopting a broader definition of TVET with a focus on lifelong learning in the context of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4). He explained that the consolidated report on the implementation of the 2015 Recommendation should be submitted to the 207th session of the Executive Board, followed by the 40th session of the General Conference in
2019. This item therefore presents the draft guidelines, or questionnaire, that Member States should use to prepare their reports. After they have been approved, the guidelines will be sent by September 2018 to national authorities in charge of preparing the reports, establishing 15 January 2019 as the submission deadline. To encourage the participation of a maximum number of Member States and for cost-effectiveness, the Secretariat suggests that the consultation be made available online.

23. Two members of the Committee requested that the questionnaire be made available in languages other than English and French, in particular Spanish, to facilitate its completion by a larger number of Member States. One Member explained how recent policy developments in the context of TVET were facilitated by and aligned with the 2015 Recommendation. Another member asked for an update on the ratification of the 1989 Convention on Technical and Vocational and how this is being addressed in the guidelines.

24. In his response, the representative of the Director-General explained that the questionnaire will be made available in English, French and Spanish. He clarified that the 1989 Convention has been ratified by 18 Member States and that a consultation on the issue of the ratification and future of the Convention will be carried out in 2021 in the context of the evaluation of the TVET Strategy. Following a short discussion, it was suggested that the text of the proposed decision be amended to reflect the proposal for the inclusion of an item on the 1989 Convention in the guidelines and questionnaire for reporting.

25. At the end of the discussions, the members of the Committee decided to recommend the following draft decision to the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

1. Bearing in mind Member States' obligations under Article VIII of UNESCO’s Constitution and Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution,

2. Recalling 177 EX/Decision 35.I and 196 EX/Decision 20 on the specific multi-stage procedure for the monitoring of the implementation of UNESCO conventions and recommendations for which no specific institutional mechanism is provided,

3. Also recalling 38 C/Resolution 14,

4. Having examined document 204 EX/18 Part II and the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon (204 EX/33),

5. Underlining the importance of the 2015 Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as a means to support the implementation and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 4 – Education 2030, particularly Targets 4.3 and 4.4,

6. Invites the Director-General to include in the guidelines for the preparation of reports by Member States on the implementation of the 2015 Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), as annexed to document 204 EX/18 Part II, a question on the obstacles related to the ratification of the 1989 Convention on Technical and Vocational Education;

7. Approves the guidelines as complemented by the preceding paragraph;

8. Requests the Director-General to invite Member States to submit their reports on the implementation of the 2015 Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET);
9. Also requests the Director-General to submit to it at its 207th session the first consolidated report concerning the implementation of the 2015 Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), with a view to transmitting that report, together with the Executive Board’s comments thereon, to the General Conference at its 40th session.

Part III Implementation of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist – Preparations for the next consultation (204 EX/18 Part III)

26. The Chief of the Section of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of the Culture Sector, representative of the Director-General, presented the draft guidelines for the preparation of reports on the implementation of the 1980 Recommendation on the Status of the Artist, which had been developed with a view to promote synergies with the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. She recalled that the Secretariat had provided support to Member States in the past biennium to implement the 1980 Recommendation as part of the 2005 Convention’s capacity development programme, and that monitoring the 1980 Recommendation in synergy with the 2005 Convention will continue in the 39 C/5. She highlighted that the alignment of the two instruments’ monitoring mechanisms would result in a better integration of the monitoring of the 1980 Recommendation with that of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

27. The Committee thanked the representative of the Director-General for her presentation and commended the efforts made to pursue synergies between the 1980 Recommendation and the 2005 Convention and for the support it has provided to Members States to design and implement new laws on the Status of Artist. In addition to the four areas of monitoring identified, some Members requested that the questionnaire include upfront a section where countries could provide a general overview of the measures adopted to implement the Recommendation and the challenges governments faced to promote the economic and social status of artists in their country. The Committee also requested that a question on measures to promote patronage of the arts be added and that questions on intellectual property issues not be limited to those on the digital environment. Finally, they requested to include a question on measures to promote access to equipment and spaces for experimentation in the digital age.

28. At the end of the discussions, the members of the Committee decided to recommend the following draft decision to the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

1. Bearing in mind Member States’ obligations under Article VIII of UNESCO’s Constitution and Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution,

2. Recalling 177 EX/Decision 35.I and 196 EX/Decision 20 on the specific multi-stage procedure for the monitoring of the implementation of UNESCO conventions and recommendations for which no specific institutional mechanism is provided,

3. Further recalling 38 C/Resolution 95,

4. Having examined document 204 EX/18 Part III and the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon (204 EX/33),

5. Underlining the importance of strengthening synergies in monitoring the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions as instruments that
promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially artistic freedom and artists’ social and economic rights as well as gender equality,

6. Invites Member States to consider the possibility of financially supporting the re-designed Aschberg programme for Artists and Cultural Professionals to enable the Secretariat to continue its efforts to enhance synergies in the implementation and monitoring of the two instruments;

7. Approves the draft guidelines for the preparation of reports by Member States on the implementation of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist, as annexed to document 204 EX/18 Part III and amended in the light of the discussions during the meeting of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations;

8. Requests the Director-General to invite Member States to submit their reports on the implementation of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist before the deadline of 30 October 2018;

9. Further requests the Director-General to submit to it at its 207th session the fourth consolidated report on the implementation of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist, with a view to transmitting that report, together with the Executive Board’s comments thereon, to the General Conference at its 40th session.

Part IV Implementation of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education - Preparations for the next consultation (204 EX/18 Part IV and Corr.)

29. Upon invitation by the Chairperson of the CR, the Director of the Division of Policy and Lifelong Learning Systems of the Education Sector, representative of the Director-General, introduced this item. He explained that UNESCO monitors the 1993 Recommendation as a matter of priority through the regional and interregional recognition conventions and provided an update on developments in each region. At regional level, the 2011 Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (the “2011 Tokyo Convention”) entered into force on 1st February 2018; the 2014 Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States (the “2014 Addis Convention”) received its first ratification on 6 February 2018; and the revisions of the 1974 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (the “1974 Convention for LAC”) and the Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in the Arab States (the “1978 Arab States Convention”) should be finalized in the first half of 2019. The Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications is foreseen to be adopted at the 40th session of the General Conference.

30. The representative of the Director-General recalled that the next consolidated report on the implementation of the 1993 Recommendation should be submitted to the 207th session of the Executive Board, followed by the 40th session of the General Conference in 2019. This item therefore presents the draft guidelines, or questionnaire, that Member States should use to prepare their reports, covering the period 2016 to 2019.

31. A member of the Committee stressed the importance of ensuring the implementation of the regional recognition conventions and having synergies among all higher education normative instruments. A few proposals were made regarding the guidelines annexed to document 204 EX/18 Part IV: (i) adding “and the Caribbean” in the name of the 1974 Convention for LAC in question 1.2; (ii) revising question 2.3 about the existing legislation to regulate recognition by removing “laws” and including which implementation mechanisms are in place to enforce the law; (iii) including “refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation in question 3.4 about the priorities for
recognition policy; and (iv) including “professional bodies” in the list of question 4.2, concerning stakeholders.

32. In his response, the representative of the Director-General informed that a questionnaire on the draft Global Convention was sent to Member States in March 2018. Based on the feedback received, a report and a revised Convention text will be prepared for a foreseen meeting of the Special Committee in December 2018 (invitations for the meeting are presented in 204 EX/30). He stressed that the process of revising the regional conventions has been carried out in parallel with the preparation of the Global Convention. The principles stipulated in the revised regional conventions are also reflected in the Global Convention and the regional implementation structures will also be responsible for the implementation of the Global Convention.

33. At the end of the discussions, the members of the Committee decided to recommend the following draft decision to the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

1. Bearing in mind Member States’ obligations under Article VIII of UNESCO’s Constitution and Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution,

2. Recalling 177 EX/Decision 35.I and 196 EX/Decision 20 on the specific multi-stage procedure for the monitoring of the implementation of UNESCO conventions and recommendations for which no specific institutional mechanism is provided,

3. Also recalling 38 C/Resolution 93,

4. Further recalling 202 EX/Decision 24.V by which the Executive Board invited the Director-General to submit to it at its 204th session the draft guidelines for reporting on the implementation of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education,

5. Having examined document 204 EX/18 Part IV and Corr. as well as the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon (204 EX/33),

6. Underlining the importance of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education as a means to support the implementation and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 4 – Education 2030, to address inter-regional issues relating to recognition of qualifications and quality assurance in the global context,

7. Approves the guidelines for the preparation of reports by Member States on the implementation of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education, as annexed to document 204 EX/18 Part IV and amended in the light of the discussions during the meeting of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations;

8. Requests the Director-General to invite Member States to submit their reports on the implementation of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education;

9. Also requests the Director-General to submit to it at its 207th session the next consolidated report on the implementation of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education, with a view to transmitting that report, together with the Executive Board’s comments thereon, to the General Conference at its 40th session.
Part V Implementation of the 2003 Recommendation concerning the promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace – Preparations for the next consultation (204 EX/18 Part V)

34. The Chief of the Section for Universal Access and Preservation of the Knowledge Societies Division of the Communication and Information Sector (CI), representative of the Director-General introduced the item concerning the approval of the draft reporting guidelines for the preparation of reports by Member States on the application of the 2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace.

35. A member of the Committee stressed the importance of the 2003 Recommendation due to the growing role of cyberspace, the pace of technological changes and the impact on society. The member also pointed out that the reporting guidelines on implementation of the 2003 Recommendation contained more questions on multilingualism and less on issues related to access to and usage of information in cyberspace. The representative of the Director-General noted that since the Recommendation was adopted 15 years ago, the usage and access to cyberspace has evolved, and he argued that special importance must now be given to contemporary challenges, such as cybersecurity, cyberbullying and ethics in cyberspace. To highlight those challenges, two members of the Committee proposed updating the text of the 2003 Recommendation, in light of the changes that have occurred over the last 15 years.

36. The representative of the Director-General agreed that cyberspace has evolved in this period since the Recommendation was adopted. Nevertheless, he reminded Member States of the existing procedures and limitations for changing the text of a normative instrument adopted by the General Conference.

37. As a way of moving forward, a member of the Committee suggested adding a question to the proposed guidelines for reporting by Member States, in paragraph 5.2 of the Annex of document 204 EX/18 Part V, that would address the main gaps Member States find in the 2003 Recommendation. Another member of the Committee noted that dealing with contemporary challenges through the Internet should be included in the Recommendation. Two members of the Committee expressed concerns on modifying the Recommendation so rapidly, and suggested waiting and analysing first the answers that Member States would give to the new question added to the guidelines.

38. At the end of the discussions, the members of the Committee decided to recommend the following draft decision to the Executive Board:

   The Executive Board,

1. Bearing in mind Member States' obligations under Article VIII of UNESCO's Constitution and Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution,

2. Recalling 177 EX/Decision 35.I and 196 EX/Decision 20 on the specific multi-stage procedure for the monitoring of the implementation of UNESCO Conventions and Recommendations for which no specific institutional mechanism is provided,

3. Further recalling C/Resolution 97,

4. Having examined document 204 EX/18 Part V and the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon (204 EX/33),

5. Underlining the importance of the 2003 Recommendation Concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace as a mean to provide the
basis for the promotion of linguistic diversity and multilingualism as a key pillar in fostering pluralistic, equitable, open and inclusive knowledge societies,

6. Approves the reporting guidelines for the preparation of reports by Member States on the implementation of the 2003 Recommendation Concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace, as annexed to document 204 EX/18 Part V and amended in the light of the discussions during the meeting of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations;

7. Requests the Director-General to invite Member States to submit their reports on the implementation of the 2003 Recommendation Concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace;

8. Also requests the Director-General to submit to it at its 206th session the fourth consolidated report on the implementation of the 2003 Recommendation Concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace, with a view to transmitting that report, together with the Executive Board’s comments thereon, to the General Conference at its 40th session with a view to its possible updating.

Part VI Implementation of the 2015 Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to documentary heritage, including in digital form - Preparations for the next consultation (204 EX/18 Part VI)

39. The representative the Communication and Information Sector, representative of the Director-General introduced the item concerning the approval of the draft reporting guidelines for the preparation of reports by Member States on the application of the Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to documentary heritage, including in digital form (2015).

40. Without debate, the members of the Committee decided to recommend the following draft decision to the Executive Board:

The Executive Board,

1. Bearing in mind Member States’ obligations under Article VIII of UNESCO’s Constitution and Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution,

2. Recalling 177 EX/Decision 35.I and 196 EX/Decision 20 on the specific multi-stage procedure for the monitoring of the implementation of UNESCO Conventions and Recommendations for which no specific institutional mechanism is provided,

3. Further recalling 38 C/Resolution 55,

4. Having examined document 204 EX/18 Part VI and the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon (204 EX/33),

5. Underlining the importance of the 2015 Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage Including in Digital Form,

6. Approves the questionnaire for the preparation of reports by Member States on the implementation of the 2015 Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage Including in Digital Form, as annexed to document 204 EX/18 Part VI;

7. Requests the Director-General to invite Member States to submit their reports on the implementation of the 2015 Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage Including in Digital Form;
8. **Also requests** the Director-General to submit to the Executive Board at its 206th session the first consolidated report on the implementation of the 2015 Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage Including in Digital Form, with a view to transmitting that report, together with the Executive Board’s comments thereon, to the General Conference at its 40th session.