

Committee of the Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates,
Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States

ROADMAP

Lomé, Togo, 9 – 10 December 2021

We, representatives of States Parties to the Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States (hereinafter “the Addis Convention”) gathered in Lomé, Togo on 9 and 10 December 2021 for the first meeting of the Committee of the Addis Convention.

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular SDG 4 which aims, by 2030, to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all”,

Further recalling Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and its Goal on “well-educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation”,

Reaffirming the importance of mobility and the recognition of studies, certificates, diplomas and other academic qualifications (including micro-credentials, partial studies and those studies that do not lead to qualifications) for expanding higher education and promoting the social and economic development of Africa,

Conscious of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on higher education systems in Africa and the need to strengthen cooperation to ensure inclusive, quality assured higher education provision in the recovery,

1. **Reiterate** our commitment to implement the Addis Convention in order to strengthen academic recognition, mobility and inter-university cooperation among our countries, giving particular attention to the creation and regular operation of quality assurance mechanisms which should be empowered to carry out periodic evaluations of higher education institutions and programmes, according to agreed standards and guidelines,
2. **Underline** the importance of inclusion in higher education and **reaffirm** our determination to establish appropriate procedures and tools to assess how refugees and internally displaced persons can respectively fulfill relevant requirements to access higher education and employment through recognition of prior learning and qualifications for employability and integration;
3. **Agree** on the need to set up an African network of national implementation structures (including information centres), which is key to the effective implementation of the Addis Convention and

promote sharing of information and mutual understanding and transparency between education systems. **Invite** the Bureau to lead this process, with support from the Secretariat, and vow to identify national focal points by March 2022;

4. **Further invite** the Bureau, in collaboration with committee members, to develop an implementation guide for countries to support the implementation of the Addis Convention;
5. **Also invite** the Bureau to explore the possibility of a monitoring report on the implementation of the Addis Convention at the national level in regular intervals, the strengthening of cooperation with other UNESCO regional Convention Bureaus as well as the establishment of Working Groups on quality assurance, national qualifications and mobility frameworks, and national information systems/centres;
6. **Encourage** all Member States from UNESCO's Africa Region (including through various networks within the African continent) to ratify the Addis Convention as well as the Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education.