

17-18 December 2025



Date and time: 17-18 December 2025

Room: Marrakech, Morocco

Languages: English, French

Background

The Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies and Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States (Addis Convention), was adopted on 12 December 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and entered into force on 15 December 2019. Ratified by 14 States Parties, it establishes a legal framework for the fair and transparent assessment of higher education qualifications in the African region, in order to facilitate inter-university cooperation and exchange through the mobility of students, researchers, and professors.

The development of academic mobility and scientific cooperation among African States not only strengthens confidence and the capacity to improve the quality of institutions and systems, but also creates a vital network for advancing the targets of SDG 4. This Convention also aims to increase academic cooperation and exchange within the African higher education space and supports the regional integration of academic mobility. To facilitate the implementation of the Convention, Togo hosted the first statutory meeting of the Addis Convention Committee from December 9 to 10, 2021. The meeting examined how higher education institutions should implement the Addis Convention, even in times of crisis, with a focus on regional cooperation, quality assurance, and academic mobility to enhance the circulation of knowledge and skills.

Furthermore, the States Parties to the Convention adopted a roadmap addressing, among other things, quality assurance, refugee recognition, an implementation guide, and the establishment of an African network of national structures. They also elected the committee's officers, including Togo (Chair), Congo and The Gambia (Vice-Chairs), and Mauritius (Rapporteur). The second ordinary session took place in Senegal from 4 to 5 October 2023. A bureau composed of Senegal (Chair), Mauritius and Mauritania (Vice-Chairs), and South Africa (Rapporteur) was elected. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Article IV.9 of the Convention, the Addis Convention Committee meets every two years to define the program for the regional convention. It is in this context that its third ordinary session is scheduled for 17-18 December 2025, bringing together the 14 States Parties and other key stakeholders to lay the groundwork for the African Network of National Implementing Structures and to identify priority actions for 2026-2027.

Objectives

Strengthen regional cooperation, quality assurance and academic mobility in Africa through the implementation of the Addis Convention on qualifications recognition.

Specific objectives:

- Developing a work plan for the implementation of the Convention.
- Sharing best practices between States Parties to the Convention.
- Initiating the establishment of a network of national information centres in order to facilitate the implementation of the Addis Convention.
- Raising awareness on the Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education and how it complements the Addis Convention.
- Electing the Bureau of the Addis Convention Committee.

Participants

- The 14 States Parties to the Addis Convention
- UNESCO Secretariat to the Addis Convention, UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Dakar
- Observers (tbc):

- Member States of UNESCO belonging to the Africa region as defined in the “[*Definition of regions with a view to the execution by the organization of regional activities*](#)” adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO
- International organizations, regional and sub-regional organizations, including the African Union, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC), African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES), Association of African Universities (AAU), etc.

Wednesday, 17 December

Draft Agenda	
14:00 – 14:30	Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks: Host country & UNESCO Chair: President of the Addis Convention
14:30 – 14:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 1 - Adoption of the Agenda Chair: President of the Addis Convention
14:45 – 15:30	Setting the scene <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 2 - Progress on the Global Convention on Higher Education (UNESCO) • Item 3 - Report on the implementation of the work plan 2024-2025 (Bureau of the Convention with the Addis Secretariat) Chair: President of the Addis Convention
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee / health break
16:00 – 17:30	Taking stock - National perspectives from the States Parties <i>(States Parties 5-minute presentations)</i> Chair: President of the Addis Convention Discussion: States Parties and Observers
18:00	Reception

Thursday, 18 December

09:00 – 09:10	Welcome and objectives
09:00 – 10:45	Implementing the African network of national implementation structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 4 - Adoption of the Charter of the African network of national implementation structures • Item 5 - Adoption of the Guidelines for the National Implementation Structures • Item 6 – Examination of the Report on Quality Assurance in the States Parties - Prospects Chair: President of the Addis Convention Discussion: States Parties and Observers
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee / health break

11:15 – 11:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 7 - Election of the Bureau <p>Chair: UNESCO Secretariat</p> <p>Speakers from: States Parties and Observers</p>
11:45– 12:30	<p>Looking ahead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 8 - Adoption of the 2026-2027 Work Programme for the Addis Convention (Secretariat of the Addis Convention) • Item 9 - Date and Place of the Next Ordinary Session <p>Chair: Incoming President of the Addis Convention</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Speakers from: States Parties and Observers</p>
12:30 – 12:45	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Incoming President of the Addis Convention Committee</p> <p>UNESCO</p> <p>Host Country</p>
12.45	<p>Lunch</p>