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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Working Group Meeting for the Implementation of Addis Convention

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 17 July 2015

Address by

H.E. Dr Hao Ping

President of the General Conference
Vice-Minister of Education
of the People's Republic of China

Dr Tang Qian,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to join the working group meeting today. I would like to, first of all, pay tribute to all member states working on the revision and implementation of the regional convention on recognition of higher education qualifications in Africa.

I would also like to thank Dr Tang Qian for his brilliant leadership and coordination in modernizing and updating the international framework of recognition of qualifications as an effective response to the transforming higher education in our times.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At no time in history of humankind, the welfare of nations has never been so linked with quality and outreach of higher education. It is particularly vital to support economic and social development and to foster knowledge-based societies in the African region.

As the only UN agency with a mandate in higher education, UNESCO guides and supports cross-border higher education and quality assurance, with a special focus on mobility and recognition of qualifications, to promote knowledge sharing across borders and to build international solidarity through enhanced academic cooperation.

This is why the 1981 Arusha Convention, among all the six UNESCO conventions on recognition of qualifications, has been so essential to facilitate academic and professional mobility as a means of better understanding of cultural diversity and a way of individual enrichment.

As President of General Conference of UNESCO, I'm very glad to see that, after the Lisbon Convention in 1997 and the Tokyo Convention in 2011, the Addis Convention has become the 3rd one that has been revised to respond to new development and trends in the field of higher education. It is not only important to promote intra-African collaboration in higher education and research, it also paves the way towards a better articulated, transparent and harmonized world higher education area, by putting in place an innovative global convention on mutual recognition of qualifications.

Meanwhile, as vice-minister of education of China, I would also like to seize this opportunity to express our firm commitment to support the development of quality higher education in Africa, as a potent pathway to achieve the MDG goals and to rejuvenate this charming continent.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I'm confident that the working group meeting for the implementation of Addis Convention, will establish efficient and effective mechanisms of operationalization of the convention in all dimensions and levels. I wish the meeting a great success!

Thank you!

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