



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-first session

191 EX/43

PARIS, 24 April 2013
Original: French

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 20 Implementation of standard-setting instruments

General monitoring (191 EX/20 Part I)

1. The Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) held a public work meeting on 10 April 2013 chaired by Ms Assel Utegenova, representative of Kazakhstan. The Committee met on 24 April 2013 to adopt this report.
2. As an introduction, the Legal Adviser and Director of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs, representing the Director-General, presented document 191 EX/20 Part I containing an overall report on the UNESCO conventions and recommendations that the CR Committee is required to monitor and an analysis of current trends in monitoring the implementation of each of the instruments.
3. A Committee member wished to obtain further information on the concrete measures taken by the Secretariat to increase the number of ratifications of the 1989 Convention on Technical and Vocational Education, since UNESCO Member States had underlined the importance of the instrument on several occasions during sessions of both the Executive Board and the General Conference.
4. On that point, the Director of the Division for Basic Learning and Skills Development (Education Sector) confirmed that there was indeed a considerable difference between, on the one hand, the low ratification rate for the 1989 Convention (8.72%), and on the other, the importance of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) to the Organization. In that respect, the Education Sector representative recalled that in 2011, as planned in UNESCO's Strategy for TVET (2010-2015), an independent study had been carried out on the impact of the Convention, and of the 2001 Revised Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education, which in particular was intended to determine why only 17 Member States had ratified the Convention. On examination of the results of the study by the Committee at the 187th session, it had become clear that certain Member States considered the instruments to be of continuing relevance. While the low rate of ratifications seemed at first glance to indicate a lack of recognition of the relevance of the instruments, the discussions had nonetheless left the impression that some Member States considered the Convention to be a reference text, even though they had not ratified it. The Executive Board had therefore asked the Secretariat to include in the work of the Third International Congress on TVET (Shanghai, May 2012) a discussion on the content, relevance and scope of implementation of the standard-setting instruments concerning TVET. The "Shanghai Consensus" adopted by the Congress recommended that UNESCO take into account the relevance and currency of the two instruments, with a view to the possible development of new or revised standard-setting instruments adapted to a changing world. On the basis of the conclusions of the independent study, the Shanghai Consensus and other recent developments in the field, the Committee had accepted, at its previous session, the Secretariat's suggestion of proceeding with a

further revision of the 2001 Revised Recommendation. Subsequently, the Board would decide on the desirability of a new convention. Finally, the Education Sector representative recalled that the Secretariat had submitted to the present session of the Board the preliminary study on the technical and legal aspects relating to the desirability of revising the 2001 Revised Recommendation (see document 191 EX/20 Part III).

5. Finally, two members of the Committee considered it necessary to restate the importance of the cooperation of National Commissions in the preparation by Member States of their reports on the implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments in accordance with Article VIII of the Constitution.

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

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 15 C/Resolution 12.2, 23 C/Resolution 29.1, 165 EX/Decision 6.2, 32 C/Resolution 77, 170 EX/Decision 6.2, 171 EX/Decision 27, 174 EX/Decision 21, 175 EX/Decision 28, 176 EX/Decision 33, 177 EX/Decision 35 (I and II), 34 C/Resolution 87, 180 EX/Decision 31, 181 EX/Decision 27, 182 EX/Decision 31, 184 EX/Decision 20, 185 EX/Decision 23 (I), 186 EX/Decision 19 (I), 187 EX/Decision 20 (I), 189 EX/Decision 13 (I) and 190 EX/24 (I) relating to the first aspect of the terms of reference of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR), which concerns the implementation of standard-setting instruments,
2. Having examined document 191 EX/20 Part I and the report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon (191 EX/43),
3. Urges Member States once again to fulfil, in close cooperation with National Commissions, their legal obligations under Article VIII of the Constitution of UNESCO regarding periodic reports on the action taken on conventions and recommendations;
4. Requests the Director-General to ensure the implementation of the legal framework for the enforcement of standard-setting instruments adopted at its 177th 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;
5. Decides to continue consideration of this item at its 192nd session.