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INVITATIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATES FOR THE REVISION OF THE 1981 REGIONAL CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION OF STUDIES, CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMAS, DEGREES AND OTHER ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE AFRICAN STATES

Summary

Pursuant to the "Regulations for the general classification of the various categories of meetings convened by UNESCO", and in accordance with 36 C/Resolution 14, the Director-General submits to the Board proposals concerning invitations to the International Conference of States to examine and adopt amendments to the 1981 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in the African States to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in spring 2014.

Any financial and administrative implications related to the present document will be covered by extrabudgetary financial contributions and programme and budget of document 37 C/5.

Action expected by the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 11.

1. In accordance with 36 C/Resolution 14, by which the General Conference requested the Director-General to convene an international conference of States (category I) with a view to examine and adopt amendments to the 1981 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in the African States, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board proposals concerning invitations to that international conference. This conference of States (category I) is to be hosted by the Government of Ethiopia and to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in spring 2014.

2. While UNESCO continued to make efforts to organize this Conference throughout the 2012-2013 biennium, due to the shortage of financial resources and uncertainty of a host State, the International Conference of States for the Africa region was not convened in 2013. The Organization received recently confirmation of the Ethiopian Government's formal acceptance to

host the Conference in Addis Ababa. UNESCO also received commitment from the Government of the People's Republic of China for a financial contribution of US \$250,000 towards the Conference. In addition, the Government of the Kingdom of Norway has given indication of their strong support, and confirmation of their financial contribution is expected shortly.

CATEGORY OF THE CONFERENCE

3. Pursuant to the regulations for the general classification of the various categories of meetings convened by UNESCO, this Conference falls within the category of "international conference of states" (category I) and the heads of delegation will therefore represent their governments.

PARTICIPANTS

4. In accordance with the Regulations as they relate to category I meetings, invitations to the Conference are decided on by the Executive Board.

Member States and Associate Members (Art. 11.1 and 11.2 of the Regulations)

5. Under Article 11, paragraph 1, the General Conference, or the Executive Board authorized by it, shall decide on the Member States and Associate Members whose governments are to be invited.

6. In accordance with the above-mentioned article, the Director-General proposes that all Member States in UNESCO's Africa region be invited to participate, with the right to vote. In addition, the Director-General proposes that the State Parties to the Convention be invited to participate, with the right to vote.

7. Under Article 11, paragraph 2, Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO not invited under paragraph 5 may send observers to the Conference.

International organizations (Arts. 11.3 and 11.4)

(a) *Organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has concluded mutual representation agreements (Art. 11.3)*

8. The Director-General reminds the Board that under Article 11, paragraph 3, the following organizations of the United Nations system, with which UNESCO has concluded mutual representation agreements, may send representatives to the Conference:

United Nations (UN):

- Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations University (UNU)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development

(b) *Other international organizations (Art. 11.4)*

9. Under Article 11, paragraph 4, the Board may decide that the following shall be invited to send observers to the meeting: (a) organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has not concluded mutual representation agreements; (b) other intergovernmental

organizations; and (c) international non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the Directives concerning UNESCO's relations with international non-governmental organizations.

10. The Director-General proposes that the Executive Board invite the following organizations, foundations and institutions to send observers to the Conference:

- (i) Organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has not concluded mutual representation agreements:
 - World Bank
- (ii) Other intergovernmental organizations:
 - African Union Commission
 - African Development Bank
 - African and Malagasy Council on Higher Education
 - Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)
 - Arab Maghreb Union
 - Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
 - Commonwealth of Learning
 - Commonwealth Secretariat
 - Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique centrale (CEMAC)
 - East Africa Community (EAC)
 - Economic Community of West African States
 - Economic Community of Central African States
 - Islamic Development Bank
 - Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
 - Intergovernmental Authority on Development
 - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
 - Organization of the Islamic Conference
 - Southern African Development Community
 - West African Economic and Monetary Union
- (iii) International non-governmental organizations with associate status with UNESCO:
 - Agency of Francophonie Universities
 - Association of African Universities
 - Association of Commonwealth Universities
 - Education International
 - Forum for African Women Educationalists
 - International Association of Universities
 - World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations
- (iv) International non-governmental organizations with consultative status with UNESCO:
 - All-Africa Students Union
 - Catholic International Education Office
 - International Association of University Presidents
 - International Baccalaureate Organization
 - International Council for Open and Distance Education
 - International Federation of University Women
 - International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education
 - World Federation of Teachers' Unions
- (v) Foundations and other similar institutions:
 - African Quality Assurance Network
 - Association for the Development of Education in Africa
 - Forum of African Parliamentarians for Education

- Conference of Rectors, Vice-Chancellors and Presidents of African Universities
- Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa
- Institut de la Francophonie pour la Gouvernance Universitaire
- Réseau pour l'excellence de l'enseignement supérieur en Afrique de l'Ouest
- Southern African Regional Universities Association

Proposed decision

11. In the light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 36 C/Resolution 14, by which the General Conference authorized the Executive Board and the Director-General to take appropriate measures for the organization of the International Conference of States to examine and adopt amendments to the 1981 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in the African States,
2. Having examined document 193 EX/8,
3. Decides:
 - (a) that invitations to participate in the International Conference of States to examine and adopt amendments to the 1981 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in the African States will be sent to all Member States in the Africa region, as well as to the States Parties to the Convention in accordance with paragraph 5 of document 193 EX/8;
 - (b) that invitations to send observers to the Conference will be sent to Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO not invited under paragraph 5 of document 193 EX/8;
 - (c) that invitations to send observers to the Conference will be sent to the organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has concluded mutual representation agreements and which are listed in paragraph 7 of document 193 EX/8;
 - (d) that invitations to send observers to the Conference will be sent to the organizations, foundations and institutions listed in paragraphs 8 and 9 of document 193 EX/8;
4. Authorizes the Director-General to send out any other invitations she may deem useful for advancing the work of the Conference, notifying the Executive Board thereof.