

**Consultation Meeting for the Review of the Regional
Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher
Education in the Arab States (1978) and Draft a Global Convention to
Recognize Higher Education Qualifications**

Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, March 30, 2017

Preamble:

We, the participants to the consultation meeting for the review of the regional convention on the recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education in the Arab states (1978) and draft a global convention to recognize higher education qualifications taking place in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, March 30, 2017 under the auspices of his Excellency Dr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Arab Republic of Egypt, recommend the following:

- 1- The importance of reviewing the Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education the Arab States 1978, in line with the developments of higher education at the Arab and international levels, including the emergence of modern higher education patterns and the growing academic mobility phenomenon;
- 2- To entrust the preparation of the amendment of this Agreement to the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut, taking into account the following:
 - 1978 Convention;
 - The propositions submitted by the Arab States;
 - The propositions and opinions exposed during this consultation meeting;
 - The draft preparation for a global agreement to recognize higher education qualifications;

- 3- Construction of the draft amendment to the Convention to include the following themes:
 - a- The Preamble;
 - b- The definitions;
 - c- The goals;
 - d- The principles;
 - e- The commitments;
 - f- The mechanisms of implementation

- 4- Considering that the Convention is being redrafted to ensure that quality standards and academic accreditation are promoted in higher education institutions in the Arab States, encourage the development of national qualifications frameworks and establish national information centers;

- 5- Take into account the flexibility and diversity of higher education systems in Arab countries;

- 6- The draft of the project shall be presented after the amendment to a committee of experts from the Arab countries in preparation for referring the project to the competent authorities in the Arab countries.

Sharm el Sheikh, March 30, 2017