



Instituto Internacional para  
la Educación Superior en  
América Latina y el Caribe

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AÑOS

Promoviendo la  
educación superior  
para todas las personas

# Second regular meeting of the Regional Convention for the Recognition (2019) La Habana, Cuba

February 9, 2024



## Background

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A common objective of the first UNESCO Regional Recognition Conventions adopted in the 1970s and 1980s has been to harmonize and ensure fair, timely, and non-discriminatory recognition procedures among States Parties to facilitate greater academic mobility across regions. The revision process that led to the second generation of these conventions emphasized the need to include provisions to improve reliability and quality, such as regional qualifications frameworks, accreditation, and quality assurance mechanisms. They also assume the need for greater transparency of national education systems through provisions for the exchange of information and the implementation of networks, while maintaining the prerogative of national authorities for recognition decisions.

To date, four (4) New Regional Conventions have been adopted: [Europe](#) (Lisbon Convention, 1997), [Asia and the Pacific](#) (Tokyo Convention, 2011), [Africa](#) (Addis Convention, 2014) and [Latin American and the Caribbean](#) (2019). UNESCO is also leading the preparation of the [Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualification](#), an instrument that entered into force on **March 5, 2023**.

As for the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region, on October 8 and 9, 2015, during the "High-Level Regional Ministerial Meeting on the Recognition of Studies, Degrees, and Diplomas in Latin America and the Caribbean" held in Brasilia, the Member States of the region agreed to develop a new Regional Convention taking into account the current challenges in higher education, especially in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the need for schemes to strengthen regional education systems to ensure quality. During this meeting, the representatives agreed to "facilitate and support the revision process of the 1974 Convention, as well as the creation of new special mechanisms for its implementation".

As part of this revision process, the member states requested the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC) to create a Working Group to revise the [1974 Convention](#) and propose a new text to the member states in 2018. The first meeting of the Working Group was organized in Havana, Cuba, in February 2016; the second was organized in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in August of the same year; the third was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in June 2017; and the fourth and last meeting was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in April 2018.

The text resulting from this effort was adopted by twenty-three (23) Member States on **July 13, 2019** (see [authentic document](#)) within the framework of an international conference of States approved by the UNESCO Executive Board at its 205th session (see [Document 205 EX/27](#), Part II, Decision 27.II).

Thus, the New Regional Convention (Buenos Aires, 2019, hereinafter referred to as the "Regional Convention") entered into force on October 23, 2022, with the ratifications of this pact of wills by [Cuba](#), [Granada](#), [Peru](#), [Uruguay](#), the [Holy See](#), and Ecuador. With these ratifications, the Regional Convention becomes a legally binding instrument for the Parties. IESALC serves as the Secretariat of the Regional Convention, with technical support from UNESCO Headquarters.

Following the First Regular Meeting of the Committee held in Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay on April 13 and 14, 2023, the **Second Regular Meeting of the Regional Convention Committee** will be held on **February 9, 2024**, in Havana, Cuba.

## Justification

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Internationalization is considered one of the most important dynamics in the work of higher education institutions in times of globalization. Its most visible aspect is undoubtedly academic mobility and, within it, student mobility, most notably. Approximately 9 million students pursued higher education studies outside their country of origin, that is, 2.6% (2019) out of an enrollment of approximately 238 million students worldwide. However, Latin American and Caribbean student mobility is barely 0.8% (IESALC 2022), being the geographical bloc with the highest rate of student mobility.

Likewise, statistics show that skilled migration has increased rapidly in recent decades, and everything indicates that it will accelerate in the future due to causes already recognized in the past, to which are now added the climatic ones.

Given the benefits that mobility brings to nations, both in the academic and labor fields, it is essential to have an instrument that harmonizes the processes of recognition of academic degrees that carry part of human mobility, to take advantage of their talent in the scientific and technological leverage of the receiving countries, contributing to the insertion that allows the deployment of human talent in circulation.

Under the efforts made by the Regional Convention Committee, a second meeting of the Committee will make it possible to follow up on the 2023-2024 Work Plan approved during the first meeting, as well as to follow up on the ratification process carried out by the rest of the Member States that have adopted the instrument in question.

## Objectives

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To analyze and follow up on the Work Plan 2023-2024 for the implementation of the Regional Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as to monitor the status of ratification of this instrument by the adopting States.

### Specific objectives:

- Review and monitor the progress of the Work Plan 2023-2024.
- Formalize the creation of the Network of National Information Centers on recognition, to make them the operational arm that contributes to the implementation of the Regional Convention (Buenos Aires, 2019).
- Agree on activities from the Committee to contribute to the ratification of the Regional Convention by the rest of the signatory States.
- Monitor the status of ratification of the Regional Convention in the signatory countries.
- To report on the developments of the Global Convention.
- Proceed with the renewal of the Regional Convention Committee positions.

## Participants

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- The 6 ratifying States of the Regional Convention
- The remaining 18 signatory States of the Regional Convention
- Non-signatory Member States of the Regional Convention of Latin America and the Caribbean
- UNESCO - Headquarters
- Secretariat of the Convention (UNESCO-IESALC)
- UNESCO Havana
- Observers:
  - Member States of UNESCO as set out in "[The Definition of the Regions with a view to the execution of the regional activities of the Organization](#)" The Definition of the Regions with a view to the execution of the regional activities of the Organization" following the resolutions adopted by the General Conference at various sessions (last ratification of this definition in 39/C53).
  - International, regional, and subregional organizations for regional integration, including the Andrés Bello Convention, MERCOSUR, OEI, and others.
  - University networks and formalized regional spaces for dialogue and coordination in the field of higher education: ENLACES, UDUAL, and others.

Friday, February 9, 2024

Convention Center - Room 10

08:30 – 09:00	Accreditation of participants & observers
09:00 – 09:15	<b>Beginning of the Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intervention of the Minister of Higher Education of Cuba, Dr. Walter Baluja García</li><li>• Intervention of the President of the Regional Convention Committee, MSc. Gonzalo Baroni</li><li>• Intervention of the Director of UNESCO Havana, Dra. Anne Lemaistre (TBC)</li><li>• Intervention of the Director of the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, Dr. Francesc Pedró</li></ul>
09:15 – 09:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adoption of the Agenda</li></ul> <p>In charge: MSc. Gonzalo Baroni, Chair of the Regional Convention Committee</p>
09:30 – 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation of the findings of the study "Feasibility for the implementation of the Diploma Supplement (TSS) in Latin America and the Caribbean"</li></ul> <p>In charge: MSc. José Antonio Quinteiro y Flavia Colus, junior analyst at UNESCO-IESALC</p>
10:00 – 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Central American Degree Complement (CAT): proposal for a pilot implementation.</li></ul> <p>In charge: Dr. Félix García Lausín, Secretary General of the Ibero-American University Council (CUIB)</p>
10:30 - 10:45	Break (coffee or tea)
10:45 – 11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SAT and the Argentine experience since its implementation in 2017.</li></ul> <p>In charge: Dr. Carlos Greco, president of the National Interuniversity Council of Argentina</p>
11:15 – 11:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The SAT and the Chilean experience of academic credit exchange.</li></ul> <p>In charge: Dr. Victor Orellana, Undersecretary of Higher Education of Chile</p>
11:45 – 12:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital management model for the European Diploma Supplement developed in Spain.</li></ul> <p>In charge CRUE Representative</p>
12:15 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 13:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A SAT proposal from the Higher Education Area of the Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC) of Uruguay.</li></ul> <p>In charge: Dr. Carlos Romero, Head of Higher Education Area of MEC Uruguay</p>

<p><b>13:15 – 13:30</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Proposed reference SAT model for Latin America and the Caribbean</b></li> </ul> <p><b>In charge: José Antonio Quinteiro</b>, Regional Convention Secretariat</p>
<p><b>13:30 – 13:45</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Debate - Reaching a consensus on a TSS model for Latin America and the Caribbean within the framework of the Regional Convention I</b></li> </ul> <p><b>In charge: MSc. Gonzalo Baroni</b>, chairman of the Regional Convention Committee</p>
<p><b>13:45 – 14:15</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education: new developments.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>In charge: Paz Portales</b>, Programme Specialist, Section for Higher Education. UNESCO</p>
<p><b>14:15 – 14:45</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Regional Network of National Recognition Structures, as an operational arm in the implementation of the Regional Convention: constitution and objectives</b></li> </ul> <p><b>In charge: Dr. Francisco Contreras</b>, specialist of the Swedish Ministry of Education and collaborator of UNESCO-IESALC</p>
<p><b>14:45 – 15:15</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation of the Working Document "General guidelines for the recognition of Venezuelan academic degrees".</b></li> </ul> <p><b>In charge: José Antonio Quinteiro</b>, Regional Convention Secretariat</p>
<p><b>15:15 – 15:30</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Election of new Committee authorities</b></li> </ul> <p><b>In charge: MSc. Gonzalo Baroni</b>, chairman of the New Regional Convention Committee</p>
<p><b>15:30 – 16:00</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Chairman of the Committee</li> <li>• Director of UNESCO-IESALC, Dr. Francesc Pedró</li> <li>• Government of Cuba – Dra. Miriam Alpizar, Head of the Office of the Cabinet of the Minister of Higher Education of Cuba</li> </ul>