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Session 16b

ACQF Training Programme 5-9/09/2022

WHY ADDIS CONVENTION 2014 ON RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION IS SO IMPORTANT?

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Overview of the presentation

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African population and youth

- Over 1.2 billion of people with the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCTA).
- Doubling of the population by 2050.
- Over 420 million young people aged from 15 to 35, most are unemployed or in precarious jobs according to AfDB statistics in 2017.
- The COVID-19 crisis: 1.6 billion students and pupils have been affected by school and university closures.

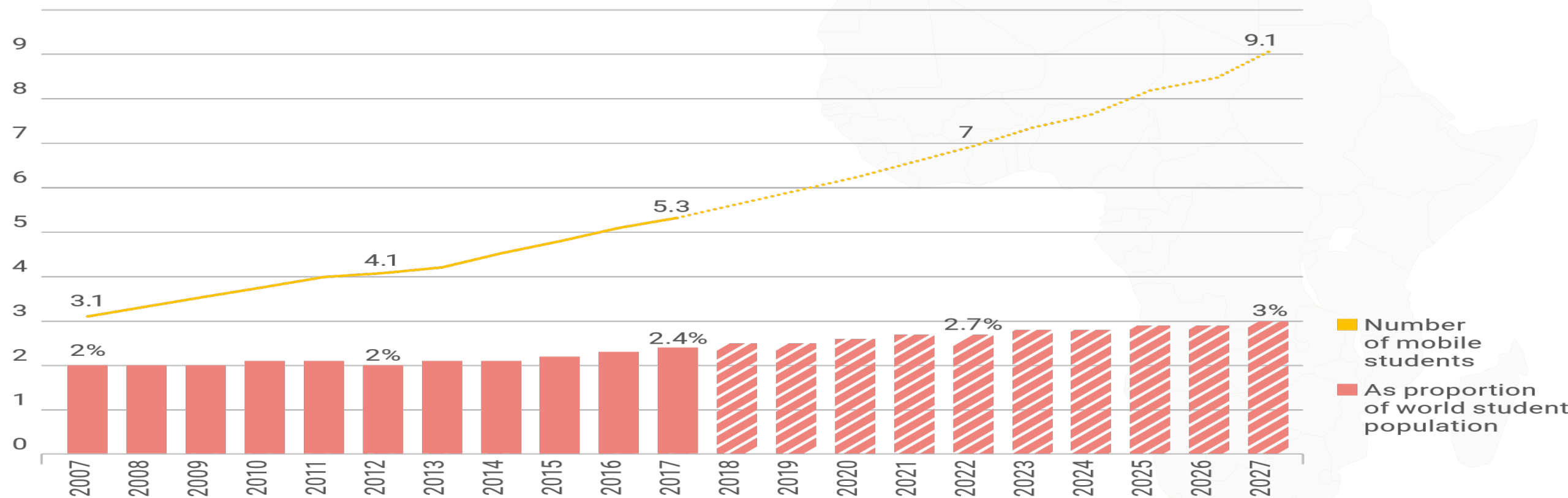
African students' increasingly academic mobility

- More than 400,000 African students crossed a border to study in 2017.
- They are the most mobile students (4.5% in mobility compared to 2% on average in the world).
- Almost 105,000 African students and staff on exchange in European universities by 2027 within the framework of ERASMUS+.
- According to the statistics when we take 5 African students in mobility one is from Nigeria.
- Over 122 million young people of study age in 2017, there will be more than 173 million by 2030.
- In 10 years, the number of the world's postsecondary students grew by 43%, rising to 222 million in 2017.
- Sub-Saharan Africa is the region that saw the fastest growth between 2007 and 2017, with its population of postsecondary students nearly doubling to 9 million.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2020

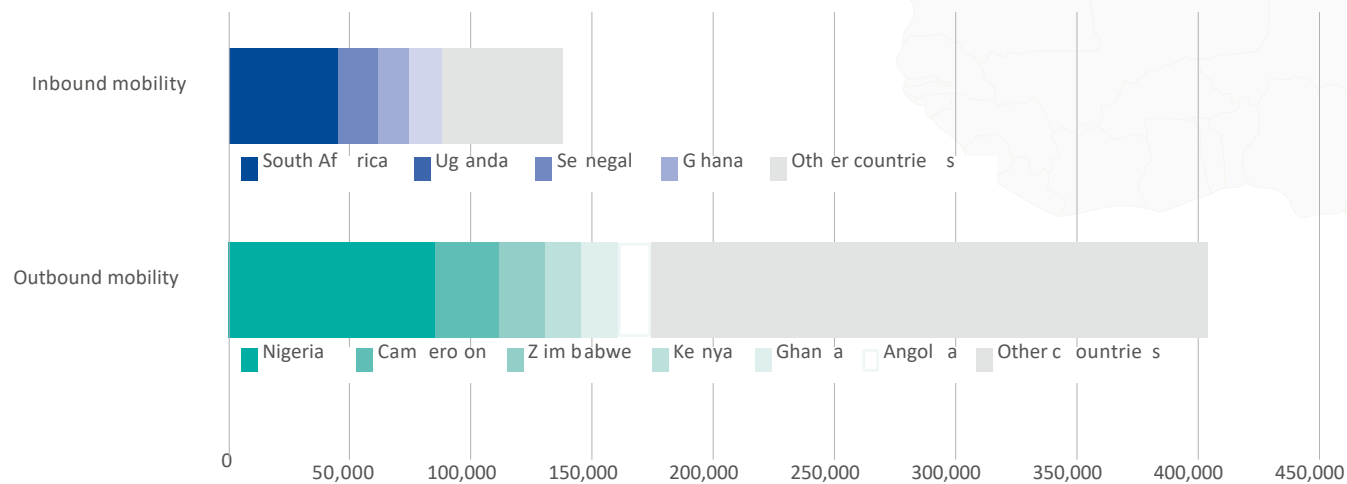
Students' mobility 2007-2027

In millions



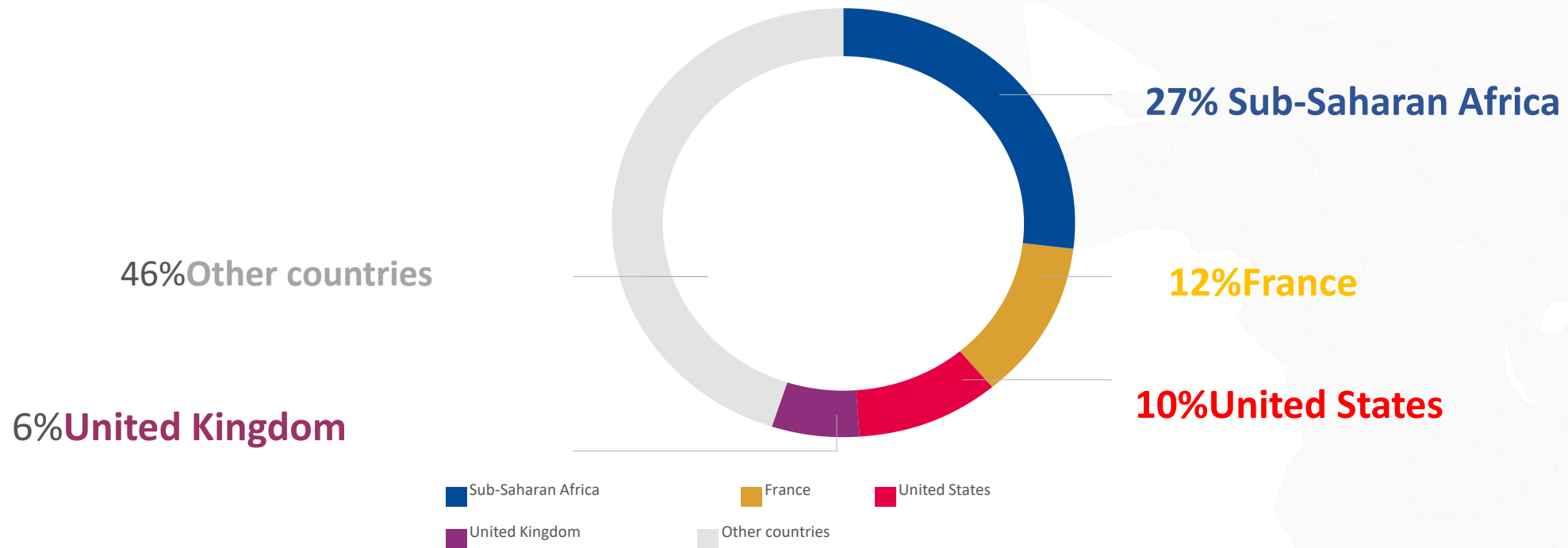
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2020

Trends of academic mobility in Africa region 2007-2027



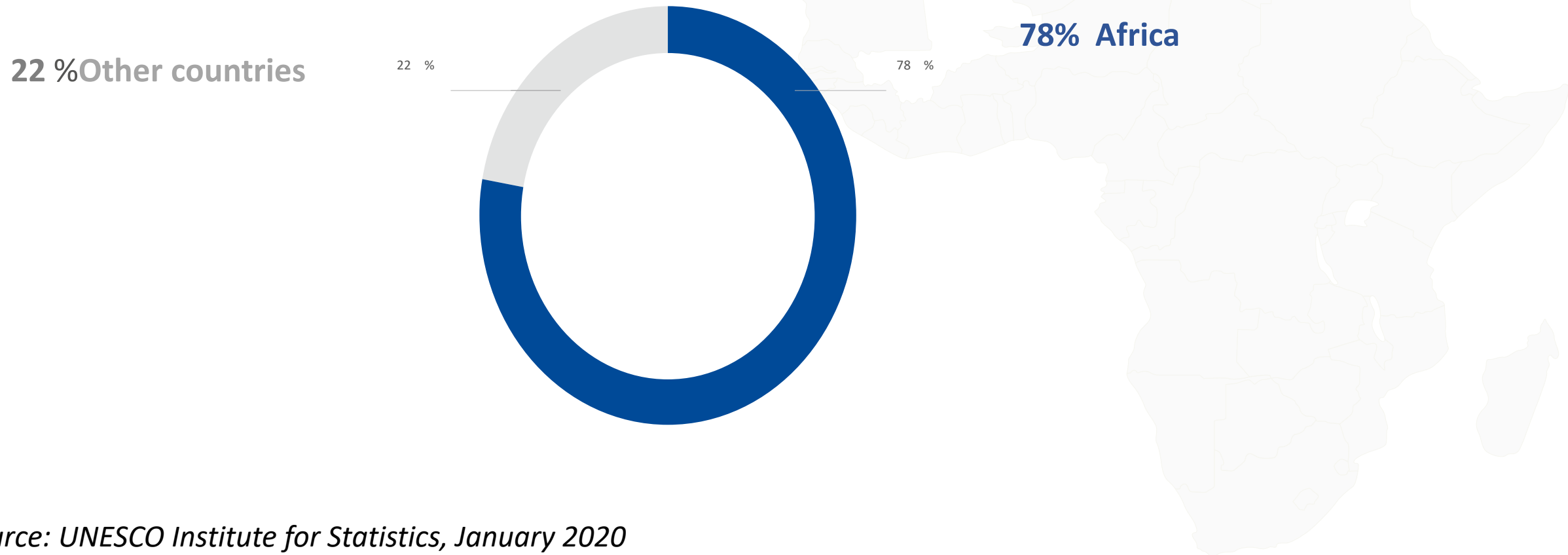
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2020

Destinations of students from Sub-Saharan Africa in 2020.



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2020

Origin of students hosted in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2020



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2020

Addis Convention: binding agreement on recognition of qualifications

- The African Regional Convention was adopted in Addis Ababa in December 12, 2014. It entered into force on December 15, 2019.
- It constitutes a binding agreement on the standards and criteria applicable to official procedures for the recognition of higher education qualifications acquired abroad and those which give access to higher education institutions in the Africa region.
- **As of today 14 States parties ratified it.**
- The States Party are: Burkina Faso, Cap Verde, Congo, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Holy See, Liberia, Mauritius, Mauritania, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Togo, and Zambia.
- The ratification confirms the commitment of national governments to put in place quality assurance mechanisms for their higher education systems with a view to build confidence in the quality and integrity of national higher education institutions.to enable the internationalization of the study program, faculty and researchers

Main objective of Addis Convention: Promotion of Quality Higher Education through Recognition and Comparability of Degrees, certificates, Diplomas in Africa.

Specific objectives: Quality of Higher Education

1

To encourage institutions and national accreditation bodies to develop internal and external quality assurance mechanisms,

2

To take advantage of ICT and advanced technologies to improve quality Higher Education,

3

To improve teaching and learning through Open and Distance Learning (ODL), Cross-Border Education, and the use of Open Educational Resources (OERs),

4

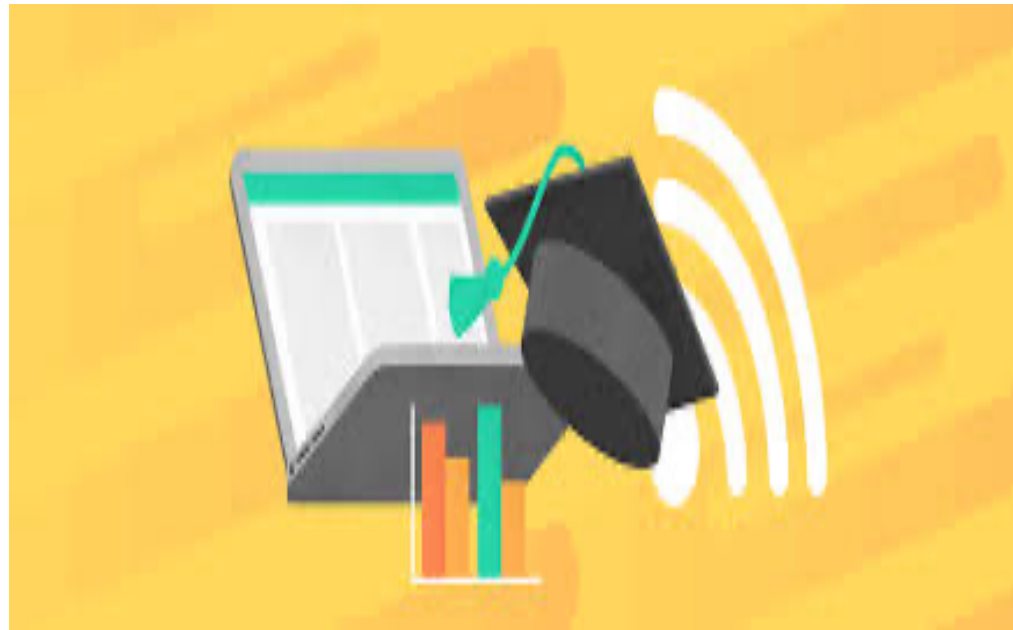
To organize and reinforce the recognition of studies, certificates, diplomas, degrees and other academic qualifications in higher education, as well as the management of quality by national, bilateral, regional and continental organizations,

Main objective of Addis Convention: Promotion of Quality Higher Education through Recognition and Comparability of Degrees, certificates, Diplomas in Africa.

Specific objectives: Quality of Higher Education

5

To promote mutual recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education by all the competent authorities and institutions constitutes an important step in the fight against qualifications issued by non-recognized providers.



Aims of Addis Convention are:

0

1

Strengthening and promoting inter-regional and international co-operation in the field of recognition of qualifications.

02

Defining and putting in place effective quality assurance and accreditation mechanisms at the national, regional and continental levels.

03

Encouraging and promoting the widest and most effective possible use of human resources available in Africa and of the diaspora.

04

Facilitating the exchange and greater mobility of students, teachers and researchers of the continent and the diaspora, by the recognition of qualifications delivered by other Parties

05

Furthering the setting up of high-level joint training and research programmes between HEIs and supporting the award of joint degrees.

Aims of Addis Convention are:

06

Improving and reinforcing the collection and exchange of information for the purpose of implementing this Convention across the Continent.

07

Contributing to the harmonization of qualifications, taking into account current global trends.



Main obligations of the parties

Obligations	Recognition
Number 1	Each Party shall recognize, for the purpose of access to each of its higher education programmes, the qualifications issued by the other Parties that meet the general requirements for access to these respective higher education programmes, unless a substantial difference can be shown between the general requirements for access in the Party in which the qualifications were obtained and those in the Party in which recognition of the qualifications is sought.
Number 2	Parties agree to take all necessary measures in order to facilitate access to the higher education institutions of their country for qualifications holders of other Parties who satisfy the requirements for admission to the appropriate higher education programme.

Main obligations of the parties

Obligations	Recognition
Number 3	Parties agree to define the criteria and procedures for the evaluation of qualifications to ensure expected learning outcomes in order to facilitate and reinforce mobility within and between the Parties.
Number 4	Parties agree to take the necessary measures to ensure that the qualifications issued by an accredited institution of higher education of a Party are recognized for the purpose of employment in conformity with labour laws in the receiving Party.
Number 5	Parties, through competent recognition authorities, agree to establish appropriate procedures to assess whether refugees and internally displaced persons respectively fulfil relevant requirements to access higher education through recognition of prior learning and qualifications for employability and integration.

Main assets of Addis Convention

Providing the framework for recognition of academic qualifications.

1

Improving the employability of graduates of Africa.

2

3

**Promoting the Internationalisation of Higher Education.
Taking into account online learning, ICT and OER.**

4

5

Building and supporting international cooperation, especially South to South.

Opening access to quality higher education to migrants, displaced persons and people with disabilities.

Means to operationalize Addis Convention are:

01

**National
Implementation
Structures.**

02

**Convention
Committee
The Bureau of the
Committee: President:
Togo, Two Vice-
presidents: Congo
Republic and Gambia,
Rapporteur:
Mauritius. The bureau
is elected for two
years..**

03

**The African Network of
National
Implementation
Structures**

04

**Bilateral and
regional bodies**

05

**National
Information Centres
on qualifications
recognition.**

Means to operationalize Addis Convention are:

06

National Higher Education Regulatory Agency.

07

National and Regional Qualification Frameworks.

08

Parliamentary approvals for ratifications.

09

The implementation of Addis Convention Committee work plan.

10

The capacity building of the Staff of the Ministries of HE, Universities on foreign Studies, QA mechanisms, Accreditation and Addis and Global Convention..

..

Links between Addis Convention and the Global Convention on recognition of qualifications



Why the recognition is so important?

Main reasons

- **Reinforce the right to education and to higher education.**

- 1- The recognition of qualifications reinforces the right of access to education and HE, in that it can give individuals the possibility of starting or continuing studies in higher education. Holders of a qualification have the right to have it assessed.
- 2- It facilitates regional and global mobility.

- **Ensure the quality of education and higher education.**

- 1- The recognition of qualifications constitutes a guarantee of quality. Having good quality assurance structures in education is essential to building trust in a qualification.
- 2- Quality assurance mechanisms provide competent authorities with a sound basis for recognizing qualifications issued by higher education institutions abroad.

Why the recognition is so important?

Main reasons

- **High commitment in SDG4**

There is a social commitment to recognition that reinforces the cultural and social significance of higher education systems, in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4. Good practice in recognition is an important factor in creating a fair and equitable system for the recognition of qualifications.

- **Promoting international understanding of education systems**

Promote international understanding of systems higher education based on quality assurance mechanisms.



Links between the Addis Convention and training provided outside university system

The ability to recognize:

- **Recognition of Prior Learning**

This method assesses and acknowledges the experience, knowledge, skills, attitudes and competencies that learners may have acquired from any part of their professional or personal life, including learning in a non-formal or informal setting, professional experience or unfinished studies that did not lead to a formal qualification.

- **Validation of Acquired Relevant Experience and Prior Learning**

Parties agree, with a view to promoting adult education and life-long learning, to adopt procedures, criteria and standards that allow the validation of acquired relevant experience and prior learning for access to higher education programmes.

Links between the Addis Convention and training provided outside university system

The ability to recognize:

▪ Informal learning	Learning which occurs outside the formal education system and which results from daily life activities related to work, family, local community, or leisure.
▪ Prior learning	The experience, knowledge, skills, attitudes and competencies which an individual has acquired as a result of formal, non-formal, or informal learning, assessed against a given set of learning outcomes, objectives, or standards.

Links between the Addis Convention and training provided outside university system

The ability to recognize:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Recognition of Partial studies | Each Party agrees to recognize the level of learning outcomes / competences, provided that it corresponds to the equivalent studies of a higher education programme whose recognition is requested |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Learning outcomes | Results of what a learner knows, understands and is able to do upon completion of a learning process. |



Some critical questions that deserve clarification for a good understanding of the Convention

Critical questions

- **What does recognition mean?**

A formal acknowledgment by a competent recognition authority of the validity and academic level of a foreign education qualification, of partial studies, or of prior learning for the purpose of providing an applicant with outcomes including, but not limited to:

- (a) the right to apply for admission to higher education;
- (b) and/or (b) the possibility to seek employment opportunities.

- **What is the meaning of Applicant ?**

(a) an individual submitting to the competent recognition authority a qualification, partial studies, or prior learning for assessment and/or recognition; or

(b) an entity acting with consent on behalf of an individual.

Some critical questions that deserve clarification for a good understanding of the Convention

Critical questions

- **What are Substantial differences?**

Substantial differences, are significant differences between the foreign qualification and the domestic qualification that would most likely prevent the applicant from succeeding in the desired activity, such as further study.

- **What is credit transfert?**

Credit transfer allows a potential student to enroll in a programme of study without having to take comparable courses twice. An academic title is often conferred based on the completion of a certain degree programme.

Some critical questions that deserve clarification for a good understanding of the Convention

Critical questions

- **What does Lifelong Learning mean?**

Education through experience and formal or informal studies covering the entire span of one's life.

- **What is credit transfer?**

Credit transfer allows a potential student to enroll in a programme of study without having to take comparable courses twice. An academic title is often conferred based on the completion of a certain degree programme.



Some critical questions that deserve clarification for a good understanding of the Convention

Critical questions

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Does the Convention require stakeholders to recognize all foreign qualifications? | <p>The Addis Ababa Convention does not oblige States parties to recognize all qualifications and does not imply automatic recognition. It commits the parties to assess all qualifications in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Do countries that have ratified the Arusha Recognition Convention (1981) have to ratify the Addis Ababa Convention? | <p>Yes, the 1981 Arusha Convention has been revised and updated to take account of current developments in African higher education.</p> |

Some critical questions that deserve clarification for a good understanding of the Convention

Critical questions

- **How can a member State ratify the Addis Ababa Convention?**

The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or any other relevant ministry of the member state formally initiates the ratification process in accordance with the framework of the national legal system. Once adopted, the instrument of ratification is duly deposited with UNESCO.

- **What is non-formal training**

Learning achieved within an education or training framework which places an emphasis on working life and which does not belong to the formal education system.

END OF THE PRESENTATION

THANK
YOU



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