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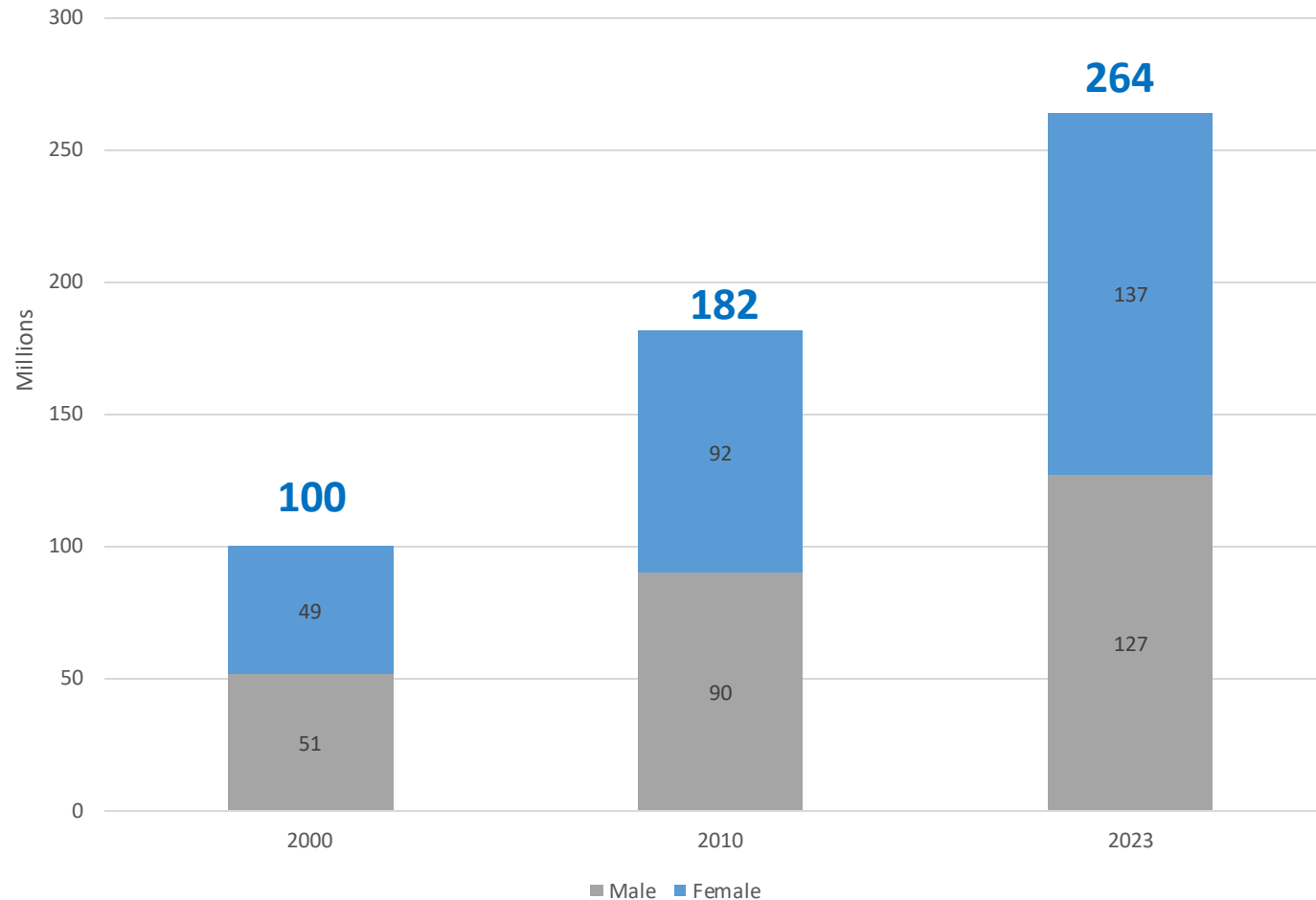


Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education

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Global demand for quality higher education continues to rise

Global higher education enrolment by gender, 2000 – 2023
(number of students - in millions)

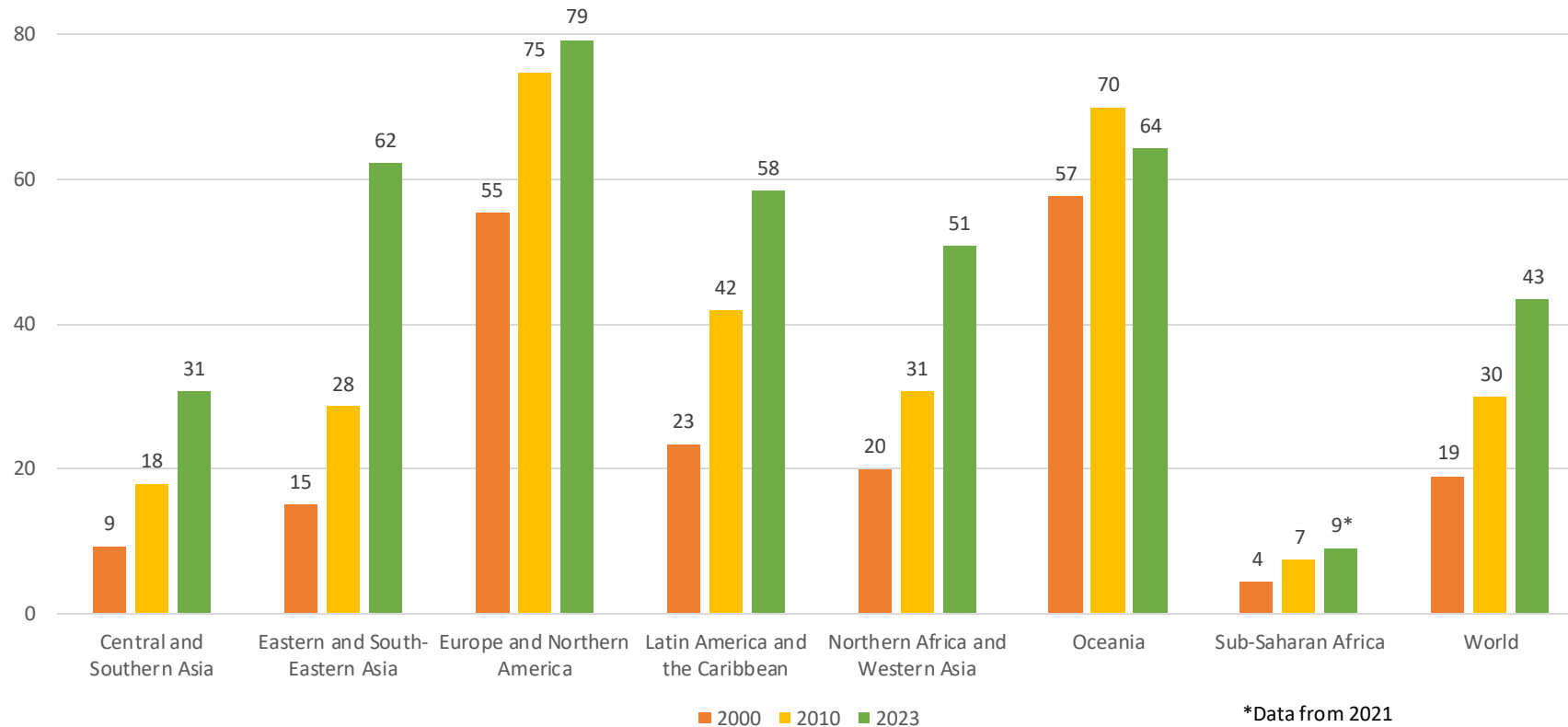


Enrolment in tertiary education, all programmes, both sexes:
Individuals officially registered in ISCED 5 - 8 programmes, or stage or module thereof, regardless of age.
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics

The number of students in higher education globally **more than doubled** over the past two decades up to **264 million**, with women now outnumbering men.

More students than ever before are enrolled in higher education

Gross enrolment ratio (%), by region, 2000 – 2023



19% to 43%

The average world's gross enrolment ratio for higher education more than doubled, increasing from 19% in 2000 to 43% in 2023.

79% vs 9%

The global enrolment average masks large disparities in access to higher education, with the highest world region at 79% and the lowest at just 9%.

Gross enrolment ratio (GER) for tertiary education, ISCED levels 5 to 8:
Total enrolment in tertiary education regardless of age expressed as a percentage of the population in the 5-year age group immediately following upper secondary education.
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics

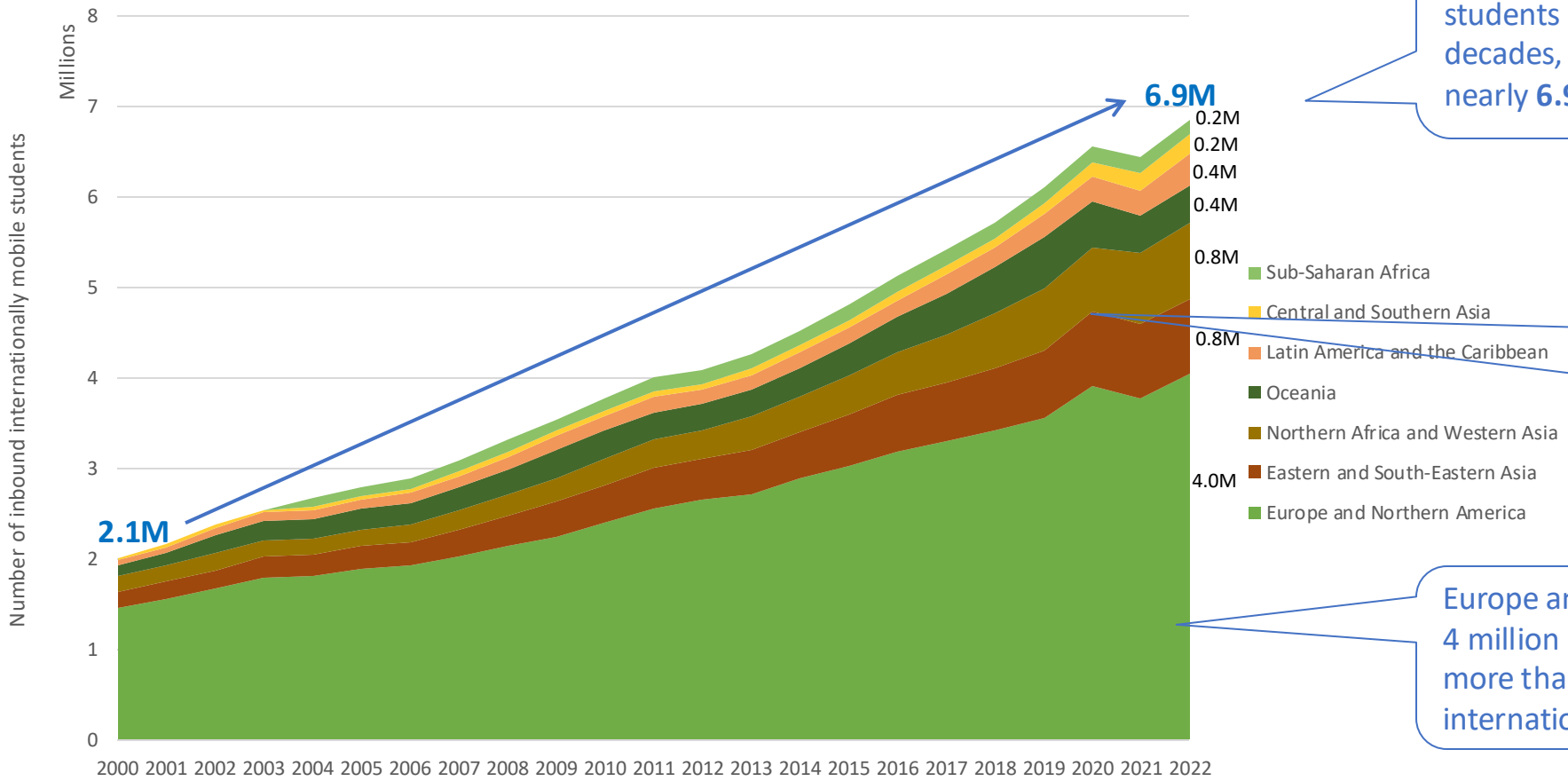


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The number of internationally mobile students continues to rise

International mobile students by host region, 2000 - 2022



The global number of internationally mobile students more than **tripled** during the last two decades, rising from **2.1 million in 2000** to nearly **6.9 million in 2022**.

The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the steady growth of international student mobility, causing a slowdown in 2020 and 2021.

Europe and North America hosted 4 million international students in 2022, more than half of the world's internationally mobile students

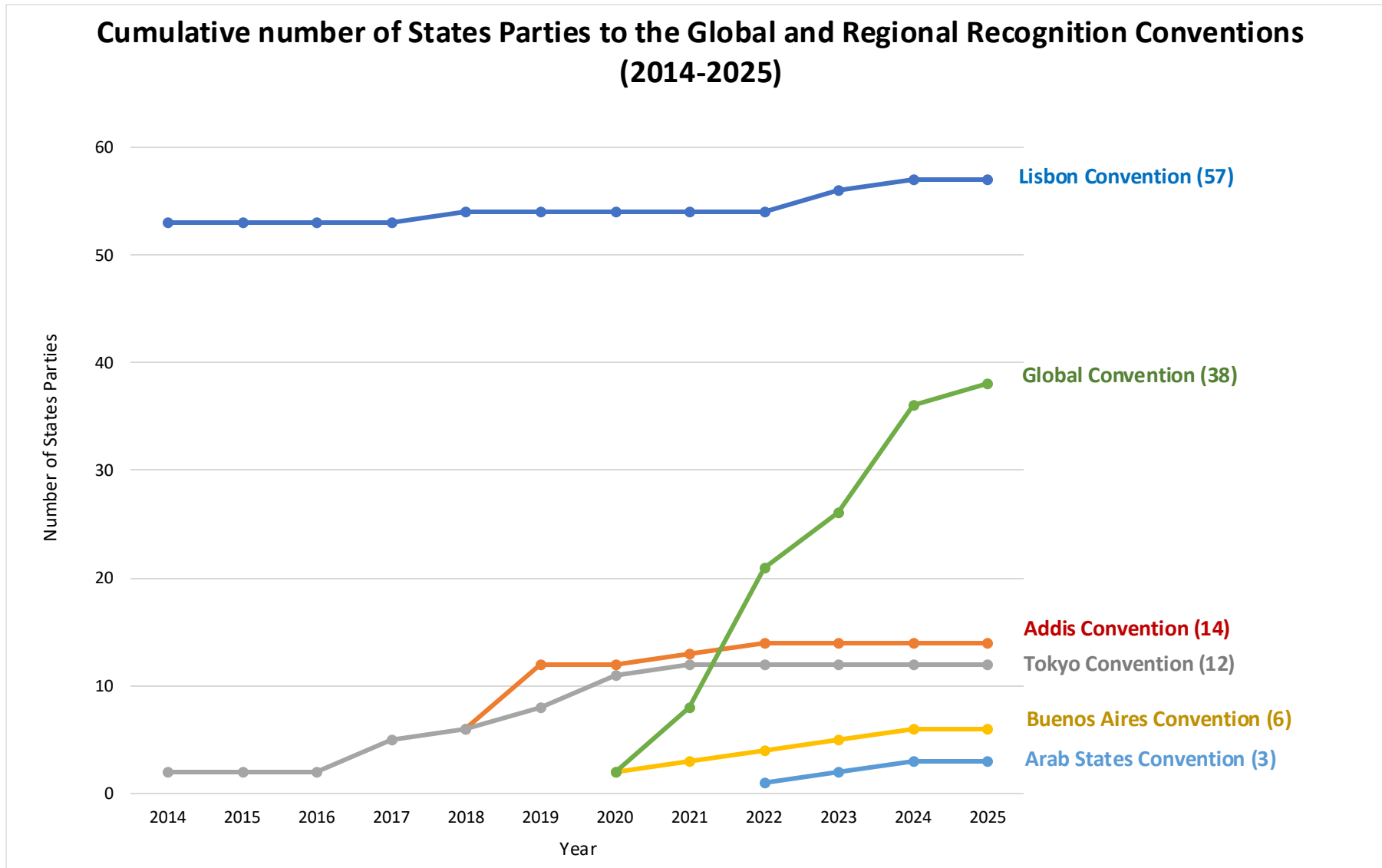
Internationally mobile students are individuals who have physically crossed an international border between two countries with the objective to participate in educational activities in the country of destination, where the country of destination of a given student is different from their country of origin. Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics

Global ecosystem of the global and regional conventions

*Nearly 100 different countries have ratified **one or more** UNESCO recognition conventions*



Number of States Parties to the Global and Regional conventions



Global Convention on Higher Education: 38 States Parties



2 million (29%)

of the world's 6.9 million mobile students are hosted by the States Parties



20+ Member States

Are reported to be well-advanced with ratification procedures, including countries in all UNESCO regions



Regional conventions

35 out of 38 countries that ratified the Global Convention are States Parties to one or more regional conventions

Africa



Cabo Verde



Côte d'Ivoire



Djibouti



Guinea



Senegal



South Africa

Asia and the Pacific



Australia



Japan



Mongolia



New Zealand



Rep. of Korea

Europe



Andorra



Armenia



Bosnia & Herzegovina



Croatia



Estonia



Holy See



Finland



France



Georgia



Hungary



Iceland



Lithuania



Luxembourg



Norway



Rep. of Moldova



Romania

Arab States



Palestine



Tunisia



Yemen

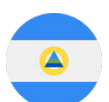
Latin America and the Caribbean



Cuba



Ecuador



Nicaragua



Uruguay



San Marino



Slovakia



Sweden



UK



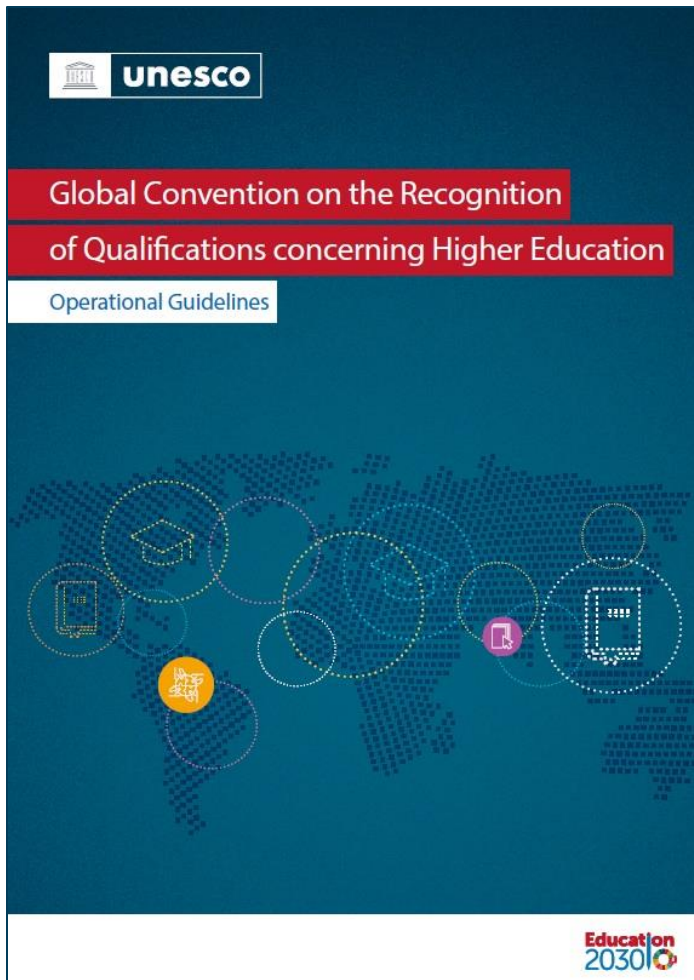
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Global Convention – What's next

Second Session of the Intergovernmental Conference of the States Parties took place on 24-25 June 2025 and adopted a new **work programme (2025-2027)**





What to expect:

- New Operational Guidelines disseminated
- Three new subsidiary texts (guidelines) being developed on:
 - the relationship between the Global Convention and regional conventions,
 - Quality assurance and transnational education,
 - Qualifications recognition for refugees and displaced persons.
- Continued capacity development including webinar series
- New research pieces on emerging issues

Clarifying and unpacking:

- Legal aspects
- Implementation aspects
- “Most favourable conditions”

Consensus driven:

Developed through a broad, consultative process with the Bureaux and all the States Parties of all the Conventions



Article V of the Global Convention establishes that all educational programmes, institutions, and curricula must undergo **quality assurance** by the relevant authorities, **regardless of where or how the learning takes place.**



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Article VII of the Global Convention requires each State Party to develop reasonable procedures for assessing **fairly and efficiently** whether **refugees and displaced persons** fulfil the relevant requirements for access to higher education, to further higher-education programmes, or to the seeking of employment opportunities



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Thank you

Learn more: <https://www.unesco.org/en/higher-education/global-convention>

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