Summary Report

18-19 October 2018, Seoul, Republic of Korea

I. First Session of the Committee of the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (The Tokyo Convention)

1. The Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (hereafter referred to as the “Tokyo Convention”) was adopted in Tokyo on 26 November 2011 and entered into force on 1 February 2018, in accordance with its Article X.2. As of October 2018, 6 States have ratified the Convention.

2. The Tokyo Convention Committee (hereafter referred as the “Committee”) was established by virtue of Article IX.1 of the Convention. It is composed of representatives of the Parties to the Convention. States invited to the meeting of the Committee which are not Parties to the Convention may participate in the meeting as observers. Representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations active in the field of recognition of qualifications in the Asia-Pacific Region may also be invited to attend meetings of the Committee as observers (Article IX.2.2).

3. The first meeting of the Committee was attended by all of the six Parties and 22 observers.

- Parties: Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and Holy See
- Observers: Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Viet Nam

4. The Committee elected its Bureau as follows:

- President: Ms. Jeong-Ja KANG (Republic of Korea)
- First Vice President: Ms. Xiaoqing LIN (People’s Republic of China)
- Second Vice President: Ms. Jane AZURIN (Australia)
- Rapporteur: Mr. Stefan GRAND-MEYER (New Zealand)

5. The Committee constituted itself by adopting its Rules of Procedures in accordance with its Article IX.2.6, as they appear in Appendix 1.

6. The Secretariat presented the implications of transitioning from the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas, and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific (hereafter referred to as the “1983 Convention”) to the Tokyo Convention. Greater cooperation between the two Convention Committees was encouraged, such as holding the ordinary sessions of the Committee in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the 1983 Convention Committee by the decision of both Committees.
7. The Parties to the Tokyo Convention presented their national implementation plans for the Tokyo Convention. Each presentation included the following points: i) competent recognition authorities, ii) basic principles related to the assessment of qualifications, iii) the definition of the term “substantial difference”, iv) the provision of adequate information regarding the Tokyo Convention and National Information Centres (hereafter referred to as “NICs”).

8. The representative from UNESCO Headquarters presented updates on the development of the Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications (hereafter referred to as the “Global Convention”). The need for the Global Convention was first discussed in 2011. This discussion was followed by a feasibility study and the establishment of a Drafting Committee. The preliminary draft has been disseminated to all States for review and will be considered during the 1st Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts in December, 2018. The final progress report on the Global Convention is expected to be submitted to the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference in 2019 for endorsement.

9. The Committee shall maintain its links to the UNESCO Regional Committees for the application of the Tokyo Convention (Article IX.2.4). The Committee facilitated a Tokyo-Lisbon Dialogue aiming to deepen understanding of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (hereafter referred to as the “Lisbon Convention”) and the network of NICs in Europe. The session included a presentation about the Lisbon Convention and the European Network of NICs, followed by a panel discussion on how to effectively build a network of Asia-Pacific NICs.

10. The Committee collected and reviewed ideas for new initiatives and recommendations from the Parties to the Tokyo Convention concerning the ratification and implementation of the Convention by virtue of its Article IX.2.3.

- The Republic of Korea suggested the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Network of NICs in 2019 if more than four Parties have appointed their NICs by that time.
- New Zealand recommended a strategy to socialise the Tokyo Convention effectively, a capacity-building programme, an initiative focussing on combatting fraud, and a project to share current recognition practices with a view to developing best practices and building resources to support recognition practitioners.
- The Holy See supported the recommendations made by the Republic of Korea and New Zealand about the NIC network and the capacity-building programme, and suggested establishing a website that would contain standardised information for all NICs.
- China recommended that i) UNESCO play a more active role in promoting the implementation of the Tokyo Convention and that ii) all Parties share their National Reports with the other Parties to the Convention to facilitate information sharing among the Parties.
- Japan recommended that capacity-building and promotional activities be made a focus by sharing best practices and by sending advisors or experts to countries which have not yet ratified the Tokyo Convention, and that UNESCO share information and activities undertaken by other organisations in the Asia-Pacific region to avoid duplication of efforts and maximise opportunities for synergy.
- Australia proposed the following three concepts: i) a Tokyo Convention Socialisation Strategy, ii) a Tokyo Convention International Conference, and iii) the development of an online professional development module for the assessment of foreign qualifications.
Comments from observers were generally supportive of the ideas forwarded by the Parties, in particular the establishment of an NIC network, the development of consolidated online NIC resources, and capacity building efforts. Parties agreed to establish an NIC network if at least 4 parties designate their NICs by the next meeting.

11. The Secretariat of the Tokyo Convention presented a draft statement and the Convention Committee reviewed it in preparation for its finalization during the closing session. The Committee adopted the Seoul Statement as it appears in Appendix 3.

12. The Secretariat announced that the next session of the Committee would be hosted in Bangkok, Thailand.

II. Fifteenth Session of the Committee of the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, diplomas, and degrees in higher education in Asia and the Pacific

1. The Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas, and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific (hereafter referred as the “1983 Convention”) was adopted in 16 December 1983 in Bangkok and entered into force on 23 October 1985, in accordance with Article 18 of the Convention. As of October 2018, 21 Contracting States have ratified the Convention.

2. The 1983 Convention Committee (hereafter referred as the “Committee”) was established by virtue of Article 10.1 of the Convention. It is composed of representatives of the governments of Contracting States to the Convention. States invited to the meeting of the Committee which are not Contracting States to the Convention may participate in the meeting as observers.

3. The function of the Committee is to promote the application of the Convention. It receives and examines the periodic reports which the Contracting States communicate to it on the progress made and obstacles encountered by them in the application of the Convention, and also receives the studies carried out by its Secretariat on the said Convention (Article 10.2).

4. The 15th meeting of the Committee was attended by 13 of the 21 Contracting States and 15 observers.

   - Contracting States: Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan and Holy See
   - Observers: Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Iran, Japan, Kiribati, Myanmar, New Zealand, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Viet Nam

5. The Committee elected its Bureau as follows:

   - President: Ms. Jeong-Ja Kang (Republic of Korea)
   - First Vice President: Mr. P. S. M. Gunaratne (Sri Lanka)
   - Second Vice President: Ms. Jane Azurin (Australia)
   - Rapporteur: Mr. N. V. Verghese (India)
6. The Committee constituted itself by adopting the amended Rules of Procedures as they appear in Appendix 2. The amendments are as follows:

- The title “Chairman” has been changed to “President”
- Any member of the Committee or of the Committee of the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (the revised Convention) may invite the Committee to hold an ordinary or extraordinary session on its territory. (Rule 3.5)
- The term of the office of the Bureau has been revised to run from the end of one session of the Committee to the end of the subsequent session, instead of running from the beginning of the session until the beginning of the subsequent session. (Rule 5.1)
- Notwithstanding Rule 5.1, the fifteenth Bureau of the Committee shall be elected at the beginning of the fifteenth ordinary session and remain in office until the end of the next ordinary session. (Rule 5.2)
- The invitation for Inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations will be decided the bureau in consultation with Secretariat. (Rule 7.4)
- The President shall not vote, but may designate a member of his/her delegation to vote in his/her place. Where there is no delegation, he/she shall vote by secret ballot. (Rule 8.1)
- Unless otherwise decided by the Committee or by the body in question, all sessions of the Committee and of its subsidiary bodies shall be held in closed sessions. (Rule 9)

7. The Secretariat reported the activities conducted by the Secretariat since the 14th Session of the 1983 Convention Committee.

8. The Secretariat shared the consolidated country progress reports on the ratification and implementation of the 1983 Convention and the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (hereafter referred to as the “Tokyo Convention”).

9. The Committee facilitated a breakout session for all participants to identify the main barriers, action plans, and clear timelines in respect of ratification of the Tokyo Convention through the Asia-Pacific Region.

10. The Committee adopted the Seoul Statement as it appears in Appendix 3.

11. The Committee, by virtue of Rule 3 of its Rules of Procedure, decided to meet in ordinary session every two years in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the Tokyo Convention Committee.
APPENDIX 1

RULES OF PROCEDURE (the Tokyo Convention)

Rule 1 Composition

*Convention* Articles IX.1 and IX.2.1

1.1 The Committee of the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (hereafter referred to as “the Committee”) shall be composed of the representatives of the Parties to the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (hereafter referred to as “the Convention”), adopted in Tokyo on 26 November 2011.

1.2 Each Party shall, before each session of the Committee, communicate to the Secretariat of the Convention the name(s) of its representative(s) on the Committee. These shall remain in their function until the following session of the Committee unless the Party concerned designates another representative in their place, by notifying the Secretariat.

1.3 Each Party is a Member of the Committee. States having denounced the Convention shall cease to be Members of the Committee from such time as their denunciation shall become effective.

Rule 2 Terms of reference

*Convention* Articles IX.1, IX.2.3, IX.2.4 and X.7

2.1 The function of the Committee shall be to oversee, promote and facilitate the implementation of the Convention.

2.2 The Committee may adopt, by a majority of the Parties, recommendations, declarations, protocols, models of good practice or other instruments to guide the competent authorities of the Parties in the implementation of the Convention and in their consideration of applications for the recognition of qualifications concerning higher education. The Committee may also initiate the elaboration of such instruments.

2.3 By a two-thirds majority of the Parties, the Committee may adopt amendments to the Convention in accordance with the rules set out for this purpose in the Convention.

2.4 The Committee shall maintain its links to the UNESCO Regional Committees for the application of Conventions on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education adopted under the auspices of UNESCO.

Rule 3 Sessions

*Convention* Article IX.2.6

3.1 The first ordinary session of the Committee shall be held within a year of the entry into force of the Convention and annually for the first five years after that in order to manage its implementation.
3.2 The Committee shall meet in ordinary session at least once every three years after the first five years. The Committee shall decide on the periodicity of ordinary sessions within the limit.

3.3 As far as possible, ordinary sessions of the Committee shall be held in conjunction with annual meetings of the network of national information centres under Article IX.3 of the Convention.

3.4 Extraordinary sessions may be convened by the Secretariat of the Committee, according to a decision of the Bureau, through its President. The place and date of extraordinary sessions shall be fixed by the President.

3.5 Any Member of the Committee may invite the Committee to hold an ordinary or extraordinary session on its territory. The Secretariat of the Committee shall inform the members of the Bureau of any invitation of this kind. The Bureau, through its President, shall decide upon such invitations.

**Rule 4 Agenda**

4.1 The draft agenda of the first session shall be drawn up by the Secretariat of the Committee.

4.2 The draft agenda of subsequent ordinary sessions shall be drawn up by the Secretariat of the Committee after consulting the members of the Bureau.

4.3 The draft agenda of ordinary sessions shall be communicated to Members of the Committee and to the observers, at least six weeks before the opening of each session.

4.4 The provisional agenda of an extraordinary session, which shall include only those items for whose consideration the session has been convened, shall be communicated to Members of the Committee at least ten days in advance.

4.5 The Committee shall adopt its agenda at the beginning of each session.

4.6 During an ordinary session the Committee may change the order of items on the agenda and add or delete items.

**Rule 5 Bureau**

5.1 The Committee shall elect a Bureau composed of a President, a first and second Vice President and a Rapporteur. The term of office of the Bureau shall run from the end of one session of the Committee to the end of the subsequent session.

5.2 Notwithstanding Rule 5.1, the first Bureau of the Committee shall be elected at the beginning of the first ordinary session and remain in office until the end of the second ordinary session.

5.3 The Bureau shall be responsible for co-ordinating the work of the Committee and, in general, assisting the President in his/her duties. The Bureau may be entrusted by the Committee to take certain decisions on its behalf.

5.4 Members of the Bureau shall be eligible for re-election.
5.5 The Bureau may meet between sessions of the Committee by decisions of its President reached in agreement with the Secretariat.

**Rule 6 Subsidiary bodies**

6.1 The Committee shall establish any subsidiary body it may deem necessary in order to consider the items on its agenda.

6.2 These Rules of Procedure shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the subsidiary bodies, if applicable.

**Rule 7 Observers**

*Convention* Article IX.2.2

7.1 UNESCO Member States and the Holy See referred to in Article X.1 of the Convention, if they are not Parties to the Convention, as well as Associate Members of UNESCO, shall be able to participate in the meetings of the Committee as observers.

7.2 These observers shall be able to express their opinions and positions at the meetings of the Committee during the discussions of general issues, to the exclusion of items which, by their nature are to be dealt with only by the Members of the Committee. They shall also be able in these cases to put forward informal suggestions.

7.3 Representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of recognition in the Asia-Pacific Region may also be invited to attend meetings of the Committee as observers by a decision of the Bureau in consultation with Secretariat.

7.4 The United Nations and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system may send representatives to sessions of the Committee.

**Rule 8 General powers of the President**

8.1 In addition to exercising the powers which are conferred upon him/her elsewhere by these Rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each session of the Committee. He/she shall direct the discussions, ensure observance of these Rules, control the proceedings and maintain order. He/she shall not vote, but may designate a member of his/her delegation to vote in his/her place. Where there is no delegation, he/she shall vote by secret ballot.

8.2 If the President ceases to represent a Member of the Committee or is unable to perform his/her duties, the first Vice-President shall act as President for the remainder of the President’s term of office. If that Vice-President also ceases to represent a Member of the Committee or is unable to perform his/her duties, the second Vice-President shall act as President for the remainder of the President’s term of office.

8.3 If the President is absent during a session, his/her functions shall be exercised successively by the Vice-President.

**Rule 9 Publicity of proceedings**
Unless otherwise decided by the Committee or by the body in question, all sessions of the Committee and of its subsidiary bodies shall be held in closed sessions.

**Rule 10 Quorum**

*Convention* Article IX.2.5

10.1 At plenary meetings of the Committee, a majority of the Parties to the Convention who are present at the session shall constitute a quorum.

10.2 In the subsidiary bodies of the Committee, a majority of their members shall constitute a quorum.

10.3 The Committee and its subsidiary bodies may not take decisions without a quorum.

**Rule 11 Order of the speeches and time limit on speeches.**

11.1 The President of the meeting shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their wish to speak.

11.2 The observers referred to in Rule 7 may speak with the prior consent of the President.

11.3 The President of the meeting may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker when circumstances make this desirable.

**Rule 12 Points of order**

12.1 In the course of a debate, any Member of the Committee may raise a point of order, and such point of order shall be immediately decided by the President.

12.2 An appeal may be made against the ruling of the President. It shall be put to the vote immediately, and the President’s ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Members present and voting.

**Rule 13 Procedural motions**

13.1 In the course of a debate, any Member of the Committee may move the suspension or adjournment of the meeting, or the adjournment or closure of the debate.

13.2 Such motions shall be immediately put to the vote. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 1 of Rule 12, the following motions shall have precedence, in the following order, over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:

a) to suspend the meeting;

b) to adjourn the meeting;

c) to adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;

d) for the closure of the debate on the item under discussion.
Rule 14 Proposals and amendments

14.1 Proposals and amendments may be presented by the Members of the Committee and shall be transmitted in writing to the Secretariat, which shall circulate copies to all Members of the Committee.

14.2 As a general rule, no proposal and no amendment shall be examined or put to the vote unless they have been circulated sufficiently in advance to all Members in the working language of the Committee.

Rule 15 Working language

15.1 The working language of the Committee is English.

15.2 Speakers may, however, use any other language, on condition that they make their own arrangements for interpretation of their speeches into the working language, and provided that it is technically possible.

15.3 In view of the provisions of paragraph 1 above, the working documents of the Committee shall be issued in English.

Rule 16 Voting

Convention Articles IX.1 and IX.2.1

16.1 Each Member of the Committee referred to in Rule 1 shall have one vote.

16.2 Unless otherwise stipulated in the Convention or in these Rules, decisions shall be taken by a majority of Members present and voting.

16.3 For the purpose of the present Rules, the expression “Members present and voting” shall mean Members casting an affirmative or negative vote. The Members abstaining from voting shall be considered as not voting.

16.4 Voting shall normally be by show of hands, except as concerns elections, which shall normally be conducted by secret ballot if there is more than one candidate for each office.

16.5 When the result of a vote cast by a show of hands is in doubt, the President may take a second vote by roll call. A vote by roll call shall also be taken if it is requested by at least two Members of the Committee before the voting takes place.

16.6 When an amendment to a proposal is moved, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments to a proposal are moved, the Committee shall first vote on the amendment deemed by the President to be furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, and then on the amendment deemed by him/her to be next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote, as appropriate.

16.7 If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon as a whole.
16.8 A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal.

**Rule 17 Records**

17.1 At each of its sessions, the Committee shall adopt its report in a form of a list of its decisions, including the text of the conclusions and recommendations it has adopted.

17.2 After each session of the Committee, the Secretariat shall issue a final report of the meeting.

**Rule 18 Special consultations by correspondence**

Should the approval of the Committee be required for measures of exceptional urgency and importance while the Committee is not in session, the Secretariat - or the President, through the Secretariat - may consult the Members by correspondence. The proposed measures shall be adopted if it is approved by two-thirds of the Members of the Committee.

**Rule 19 Secretariat of the Committee**

*Convention* Article IX.2.7

19.1 The role of Secretariat of the Committee shall be entrusted to the Director-General of UNESCO.

19.2 The Director General of UNESCO or his/her representative shall participate, without the right to vote, in the work of the Committee, of its Bureau and of its other subsidiary bodies. The Secretariat may at any time make oral or written statements to the Committee, to the Bureau or to any subsidiary body.

19.3 The Director-General of UNESCO shall place at the disposal of the Committee a member of the Secretariat who shall act as Secretary of the Committee, together with the staff and other facilities necessary for the work of the Committee.

19.4 The Secretary of the Committee shall attend all meetings of the Committee, of the Bureau and of the subsidiary bodies.

**Rule 20 Adoption and amendment of the Rules of Procedure**

*Convention* Article IX.2.6

20.1 The Committee shall adopt its Rules of Procedure by a decision taken in the first plenary session by a simple majority of the Members present and voting.

20.2 The Committee may amend these Rules of Procedure, except those based on provisions of the Convention, by a decision in plenary meeting taken by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting.

20.3 Any of these Rules of Procedures, other than those based on provisions of the Convention, may be suspended by a decision in plenary meeting taken by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting.
APPENDIX 2

RULES OF PROCEDURE (the 1983 Convention)

*Amendment adopted in 19 October 2018, at the 15th Session of the Committee of the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific

RULE 1

Composition

1. The governments of States having deposited instruments of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession to the Regional Convention of the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific, adopted in Bangkok on 16 December 1983, shall be members of the Regional Committee under the conditions provided for in the Convention.

2. Each member of the Committee shall communicate to its Secretariat the names of the representatives it has designated for each session of the Committee.

RULE 2

Terms of Reference

1. The function of the Committee shall be to promote the application of the Convention. It shall receive and examine periodic reports from the Contracting States on progress to date and difficulties met with in applying the Convention, as well as studies on the Convention prepared by its Secretariat.

2. The Committee shall make general or specific recommendations to the Contracting States.

RULE 3

Sessions

1. The Committee shall meet at least once every two years in ordinary session.

2. The first ordinary session of the Committee shall be convened by the Director-General of UNESCO. Subsequent ordinary sessions shall be convened by the Secretariat of the Committee in accordance with the instructions of the Bureau of the Committee and with the agreement of the Director-General of UNESCO.

3. Extraordinary sessions shall be convened by decision of the Bureau, through its President. The place and date of extra-ordinary sessions shall be fixed by the President in agreement with the Director-General of UNESCO.

4. The sessions of the Committee shall normally be held at the place where the Secretariat of the Committee has its headquarters.

5. Any member of the Committee or of the Committee of the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (the revised Convention) may invite the Committee to hold an ordinary or extraordinary session on its territory. The Secretariat shall inform the members of the Bureau of any invitation of
this kind. The Bureau, through its President, shall decide upon such invitations in agreement with the Director-General of UNESCO.

RULE 4

Agenda

1. The provisional agenda of the first session of the Committee shall be drawn up by the Director-General of UNESCO.

2. The provisional agenda of subsequent ordinary sessions shall be drawn up by the Secretariat of the Committee after consulting the members of the Bureau.

3. The provisional agenda of ordinary sessions shall be communicated to members of the Committee at least two months before the opening of each session.

4. The provisional agenda of an ordinary session of the Committee shall include:
   - items whose inclusion has been ordered by the Committee;
   - items proposed by members of the Committee;
   - items proposed by the Director-General of UNESCO.

5. The provisional agenda of an extraordinary session shall include only those items for whose consideration the session has been convened by the Bureau.

6. The provisional agenda of an extraordinary session shall be communicated to members of the Committee at least ten days in advance.

7. The Committee shall adopt its agenda at the beginning of each session.

8. During an ordinary session the Committee may change the order of items on the agenda and add or delete items. For that purpose a two-thirds majority shall be necessary.

RULE 5

Bureau

1. The Committee shall elect a Bureau composed of a President, a first and second Vice President and a Rapporteur. The term of office of the Bureau shall run from the end of one session of the Committee to the end of the subsequent session.

2. Notwithstanding Rule 5.1, the fifteenth Bureau of the Committee shall be elected at the beginning of the fifteenth ordinary session and remain in office until the end of the next ordinary session.

3. The Bureau shall be responsible for co-ordinating the work of the Committee and, in general, assisting the President in his duties.

4. Members of the Bureau shall be eligible for re-election.

5. The Bureau may meet in the interval between sessions of the Committee by decision of its President reached in agreement with the Director-General of UNESCO.
RULE 6

Subsidiary Bodies

The Committee shall establish any subsidiary body it may deem necessary in order to consider the items on its agenda.

RULE 7

Representatives and Observers

1. Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO other than those referred to in Rule 1 may be represented by observers.

2. Member States which are not members of UNESCO but which are members of the United Nations, one of the United Nations Specialized Agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, or which are parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, may send observers if invited to do so by decision of the Committee.

3. The United Nations and other organizations and institutions in the United Nations system may send representatives to sessions of the Committee.

4. Inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations invited by decision of the bureau in consultation with Secretariat may also send observers to sessions of the Committee.

5. Representatives and observers may take part in the work of the Committee without the right to vote, subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 of Rule 11 and without the right to make formal proposal.

RULE 8

General Powers of the President

1. In addition to exercising the powers which are conferred upon him elsewhere by these Rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each session of the Committee. He shall direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, control the proceedings and maintain order. He/she shall not vote, but may designate a member of his/her delegation to vote in his/her place. Where there is no delegation, he/she shall vote by secret ballot.

2. If the President ceases to represent a member of the Committee or is unable to perform his duties, the First Vice-President shall act as President for the remainder of the President’s term of office. If that Vice-President also ceases to represent a member of the Committee or is unable to perform his duties, the Second Vice-President shall act as President for the remainder of the President’s term of office.

3. If the President is absent during a session, his functions shall be exercised successively by the Vice-President.

RULE 9

Publicity of Proceedings
Unless otherwise decided by the Committee or by the body in question, all sessions of the Committee and of its subsidiary bodies shall be held in closed sessions.

**RULE 10**

**Quorum**

1. At plenary meetings of the Committee, a majority of the governments referred to in Rule 1 who are present at the session will constitute a quorum.

2. In the subsidiary bodies of the Committee a majority of their members shall form a quorum.

3. If after five minutes’ adjournment, there be still no quorum as above defined, the President may request the agreement of all Member States actually present temporarily to waive the preceding paragraphs of this rule.

**RULE 11**

**Order of Speeches and Time-Limit on Speeches**

1. The President of the meeting shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their wish to speak.

2. The President of the meeting may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker when circumstances make this desirable.

3. The representatives and observers referred to in Rule 7 may speak with the prior consent of the President.

**RULE 12**

**Points of Order**

1. In the course of a debate, any member of the Committee may raise a point of order, and such point of order shall be immediately decided by the President.

2. An appeal may be made against the ruling of the President. It shall be put to the vote immediately, and the President’s ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

**RULE 13**

**Procedural Motions**

1. In the course of a debate, any member of the Committee may move the suspension or adjournment of the meeting, or the adjournment or closure of the debate.

2. Such motions shall be immediately put to the vote. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 1 of Rule 12, the following motions shall have precedence, in the following order, over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:
   
   (a) to suspend the meeting;
   
   (b) to adjourn the meeting;
(c) to adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
(d) for the closure of the debate on the item under discussion.

RULE 14

Conclusions and Recommendations; Amendments

1. Draft conclusions and recommendations and amendments to such drafts may be submitted by members of the Committee. They shall be transmitted in writing to the Secretariat of the Committee, which shall circulate copies to all members.

2. As a general rule, no draft conclusion, recommendation or amendment may be discussed or put to the vote unless copies of it have been circulated sufficiently in advance to all members, in the working languages of the Committee.

RULE 15

Working Language

1. The working language of the Committee is English.

2. Speakers may, however, use any other language, on condition that they make their own arrangements for interpretation of their speeches into the working language, and provided that it is technically possible.

3. In view of the provisions of paragraph 1 above, the working documents of the Committee shall be issued in its working language.

RULE 16

Voting

1. Each member of the Committee shall have one vote in the Committee and in each of its subsidiary bodies on which that member is represented.

2. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Convention or in these Rules, decisions shall be taken by a majority of members present and voting.

3. For the purpose of these Rules, the expression 'members present and voting' means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members abstaining from voting are considered 'non-voters'.

4. Normal voting shall be by show of hands.

5. When the result of a vote by show of hands is in doubt, the President of the meeting may take a second vote, by roll-call. A vote by roll-call shall also be taken if it is requested by not less than two members before voting takes place.

6. When an amendment to a proposal is moved, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments to a proposal are moved, the Committee shall first vote on the amendment deemed by the President to be furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment deemed by the President to be the
next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

7. If one or more amendments are adopted, the entire amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

8. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal.

RULE 17
Records
1. At each of its session, the Committee shall adopt a report on proceedings, including the text of the conclusions and recommendations it has adopted.

2. After each session of the Committee, a final report shall be issued by the Secretariat.

RULE 18
Special Consultations by Correspondence
Should the approval of the Committee be required for measures of exceptional urgency and importance while the Committee is not in session, the President may, through the Secretariat, consult the members by correspondence. The proposed measure shall be adopted if it is approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.

RULE 19
Secretariat of the Committee
1. The Director-General of UNESCO or his representative shall participate, without the right to vote, in the work of the Committee, of its Bureau and of its subsidiary bodies. They may at any time make oral or written statements to the Committee, to the Bureau or to any subsidiary body.
2. The Director-General shall place at the disposal of the Committee a member of the Secretariat of UNESCO who shall act as Secretary of the Committee, together with the staff and other facilities necessary for the work of the Committee.
3. The Secretary of the Committee shall attend all meetings of the Committee, of the Bureau and of the subsidiary bodies.

RULE 20
Adoption, Amendment and Suspension of the Rules of Procedure
1. The Committee shall adopt its Rules of Procedure in plenary meeting by a majority decision of members present and voting.
2. The Committee may amend these Rules of Procedure, except those based on provisions of the Convention, by a decision in plenary meeting taken by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.
3. Any of these Rules of Procedure, other than those based on provisions of the Convention, may be suspended by a decision taken by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.
The Tokyo Convention – A new era for mobility and internationalisation of higher education in the Asia-Pacific through qualifications recognition

Affirming the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, SDG4 to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,

Inspired by the SDG4 target 4.b that promotes a substantial expansion of scholarships available to developing countries,

Building on the progress linking qualifications recognition with quality assurance and qualifications frameworks to promote international mobility since the Sydney Statement in 2016,

Taking note of the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education, June 2017 in Shenzhen, China,

The Parties to the Tokyo Convention, the Contracting States to the 1983 Convention and observer countries agree that:

• The Tokyo Convention that commenced on 1 February 2018 provides renewed opportunities for Member States to harmonize their recognition policies and practices for greater cross-border mobility of students among countries in the region and beyond. Regional and country-specific activities should be organized to raise awareness and build capacity so that more Member States can ratify and benefit from implementation of the Tokyo Convention on recognition.

• A strong network of National Information Centres (NICs) is key to effective implementation of the Tokyo Convention as they promote mutual understanding and transparency of national education systems and qualifications, as well as best-practice principles in recognition. Ready access to authoritative information coupled with fair and transparent practices is necessary for high quality recognition decisions in the Asia-Pacific, enabling mobility.

• Recognition of qualifications is premised on trust in the foreign quality assurance system. Regional efforts and initiatives to enhance quality assurance systems in the Asia-Pacific should be prioritised to facilitate greater recognition of qualifications in the region and beyond.

• Knowledge and skills achieved should be the focus when reaching recognition decisions, which can be measured using learning outcomes. Qualifications systems that use learning outcomes, such as national qualifications frameworks, can serve as a useful tool and common language when considering substantial difference.
• **Cross-border mobility programmes** can encourage a common understanding of learning outcomes, including in specific subject or discipline areas. Regional collaboration efforts should synergize existing mobility programmes, credit recognition and transfer systems and regional qualifications frameworks so that qualifications and partial studies are better recognized and portable across borders. Going forward, cross-border mobility programmes may be strengthened and extended to promote collaboration in the whole of the Asia-Pacific.

• **Information and Communications Technology** is changing the way higher education is traditionally delivered. It is increasingly being used as an alternative vehicle for education provision, supporting access to higher education. To support fair and transparent recognition of qualifications obtained through non-traditional modes of study, initiatives related to the quality assurance of such modes of study should be explored.

• **To ensure all recognition policies and practices are based on quality assurance and learning outcomes**, policymakers and practitioners in the fields of recognition, quality assurance, qualifications frameworks (or qualifications systems) and student mobility should co-operate and collaborate to create an optimal environment and network for international mobility.

• **In light of the Education 2030 Agenda and current global trends in higher education**, the preparation of a Global Convention aims to facilitate and enhance international cooperation in higher education, and further accelerate progress towards fair and transparent recognition of qualifications for all.

UNESCO, as Secretariat of both Committees and the lead agency of the Education 2030 Agenda, will support efforts to promote greater mobility of students through quality assurance-supported and learning outcome based recognition of qualifications in Asia and the Pacific.