Speech at the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Regional Capacity Building Workshop on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications in Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Du Yue, Secretary-General of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO (Beijing, 1 June 2017)

Dear Mr. Wang Libing, Chief of Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development, UNESCO Bangkok,

Dear Mr. Ren Zenglin, Deputy Director of the China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Centre

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning!

It's a great pleasure to attend the Second Regional Capacity Building Workshop on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications in Asia and the Pacific, to meet old friends and to make acquaintance with new ones. Today we are gathering here to exchange ideas, share experiences and propose valuable advice on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications in Asia and the Pacific. On behalf of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, I would like to extend my warm welcome to all the participants and my sincere gratitude to our co-host, UNESCO Bangkok Office and the China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Centre.

Nowadays, in the context of the rapid development of economic globalization, the flow of talents and resources between countries and regions is becoming increasingly frequent, and higher education is more internationalized. The internationalization of
teachers and curriculum, the cross-border educational services and the mobility of personnel has become a trend of the 21st Century. The recognition of higher education qualifications has strategic significance for promoting academic exchanges and people-to-people bonds, for eliminating technical barriers in services trade and for cultivating talent with global vision. The United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, also highlights the important role of higher education. The Education 2030 Framework for Action, adopted by UNESCO, points out that comparability, accreditation and quality assurance of academic qualifications has become a growing concern. The mobility of higher education is not only an asset but also an opportunity, we should make the most of it to foster students' ability and international competitiveness and to provide them with more access, better quality assurance and capacity development. The Asia-Pacific Region is one of the fastest growing areas in education, with the most remarkable achievements and the most dynamic exchanges in the world. The adoption of a common framework for action for the recognition of academic degrees will definitely play a positive role in promoting educational exchanges and development in the region.

China is committed to promoting the cooperation and development of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region. As early as 1983, when UNESCO adopted the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on Higher Education Qualifications, Diplomas and Degrees in Bangkok, China became one of the Contracting States. In view of new developments shaping higher education, the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention went through a revision process that led to the adoption of a new convention in 2011, and China was
among the first three countries that ratified the new Convention. Last year, the Ministry of Education of China released Educational Action Plan on the Belt and Road Initiative, proposing to actively promote the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Convention, to support UNESCO to establish a worldwide recognition mechanism and to achieve multilateral and bilateral academic qualifications recognition in the region.

As a signatory to the new Asia-Pacific Convention, China will continue to promote educational reform and openness, to improve the quality of higher education, and to enhance international exchanges and cooperation. We are willing to work closely with UNESCO and other member states in the region, to promote the implementation of the new Convention, and make our contribution to the establishment of the mechanism for the recognition of higher education qualifications in Asia and the Pacific.

To conclude, I wish a great success to the Workshop. Thank you!