

EDUCATION COMMISSION. 39th session of the UNESCO General Conference

Discussion on the Project of a Global Recognition Convention

Statement of the Holy See.

Mr. President, distinguished colleagues,

Speaking on behalf of the Holy See, I represent the catholic Church as global player in education, with its 216.000 schools serving to more than 65.000.000 of learners worldwide as well as with our around 1500 catholic Higher Education Institutions with around 6.000.000 Students. A great part of them opening access to education especially for those otherwise excluded.

We want to congratulate UNESCO for its valuable Initiative of a Global Convention on Recognition. I want to thank Dr Quian Tang who actively promoted the project from the Asia Pacific Conference in Tokyo in 2011 and since then supported it personally, as also Countries like Norway, China and others which actively contributed to the project not least financially.

We believe that Education today faces many challenges on a global scale. And solutions for those problems and challenges can only be found globally.

Migration which seems to be one of the most serious problems today; for our understanding is rather a consequence and indication for other, more basic problems, like especially the uneven and unjust distribution of education and higher education resources. In many areas in the world where there are great numbers of young people, higher education institutions are not present - meanwhile in other parts of the world there is a lack of students because of a demographic crisis in the respective countries.

In this context the Global Convention of UNESCO in recognition can and shall be one of the most important legal instruments to contribute to a more just distribution of higher education resources. And therefore we hope that this project will receive by all member states the support that it (as well as it's goals) deserve.