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Key standard-setting instruments

Standard-setting instruments on or affecting education can be divided into two categories: the conventions and agreements which require ratification by Member States and are contained in the United Nations treaty series, and recommendations and declarations adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO. Like the other organizations of the United Nations System, UNESCO and its Member States are bound by the conventions and agreements adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

Furthermore, United Nations summits and the intergovernmental conferences and world congresses organized by UNESCO or under its auspices have adopted declarations and frameworks for action which often concern education, or are of relevance to it. Although they do not have the same normative status, they nevertheless provide policy guidelines in their own field. Once they have been embodied in resolutions adopted by the General Conference they serve as references for action by UNESCO and its Member States. In this last category we list below only texts which have a significant impact on education and are universal in scope. The full text of the standard-setting instruments mentioned below are included under the corresponding heading in Volume I of the CD-ROMs which accompany this brochure. Also appearing under the same heading are the full texts of the recommendations, declarations and resolutions of regional conferences of Ministers of education organized by UNESCO, as well as those of the IBE Conferences held since 1934.

UNITED NATIONS STANDARD-SETTING INSTRUMENTS

- GENERAL INSTRUMENTS
 - Charter of the United Nations. (1945).
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (1948).
- CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS;
NUMBER OF RATIFICATIONS AS OF 1.1.1996
 - International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1966); 146 ratifications.
 - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966); 133 ratifications.
 - International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979); 151 ratifications.
 - Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989); 185 ratifications.

UNESCO STANDARD-SETTING INSTRUMENTS

- CONSTITUTION
 - Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (London, 1945); 186 Member States as at 30 June 1997.
- CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS;
NUMBER OF RATIFICATIONS AS OF 1.1.1996
 - Agreement for Facilitating the International Circulation of Visual and Auditory Materials of an Educational, Scientific and Cultural Character (Beirut, 1948); 31 ratifications.
 - Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials (Florence, 1950); 85 ratifications.
 - Protocol to the Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials (Nairobi, 1976); 28 ratifications.
 - Convention against Discrimination in Education (Paris, 1960); 85 ratifications.

- Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico, 1974); 16 ratifications.
 - International Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in the Arab and European States bordering on the Mediterranean (Nice, 1976); 10 ratifications.
 - Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in the Arab States (Paris, 1978); 14 ratifications.
 - Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region (Paris, 1979); 41 ratifications.
 - Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in the African States (Arusha, 1981); 15 ratifications.
 - Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, 1983); 15 ratifications.
 - Convention on Technical and Vocational Education (Paris, 1989); 11 ratifications.
- **RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO**
 - Recommendation against Discrimination in Education (1960).
 - Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers (1966).
 - Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1974, updated 1995).
 - Revised Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education (1974).
 - Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education (1976).
 - Revised Recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Educational Statistics (1978).
 - Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education (1993).
 - **DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO**
 - Declaration of Guiding Principles on the Use of Satellite Broadcasting for the Free Flow of Information, the Spread of Education and Greater Cultural Exchange (1972).
 - International Charter of Physical Education and Sport (1978).
 - Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice (1978).

POLICY DOCUMENTS AND FRAMEWORKS FOR ACTION SERVING AS A REFERENCE FOR UNESCO'S ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

- **TEXTS ADOPTED DURING WORLD SUMMITS ORGANIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS**
 - Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 (Rio de Janeiro, 1992).
 - Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights (1993).
 - Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994).
 - Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1994).
 - Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (1995).
- **TEXTS ADOPTED DURING INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCES AND WORLD CONGRESSES ORGANIZED BY UNESCO OR UNDER ITS AUSPICES**
 - International Standard Classification of Education (Geneva, 1975), (under revision).
 - Declaration of the Tbilisi Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education (1977).
 - World Declaration on Education for All (Jomtien, 1990).
 - Declaration on Population Education and Development and Action Framework for Population Education on the Eve of the Twenty-First Century (Istanbul, 1993).
 - World Plan of Action on Education for Human Rights and Democracy (Montreal, 1993).
 - Integrated Framework of Action on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy (ICE, Geneva, 1994).
 - Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education (1994).