

# Convention on Technical and Vocational Education (1989)

## Main provisions relating to right to education

### Preamble

The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, meeting at Paris from 17 October 1989 to 16 November 1989 at its twenty-fifth session,

*Recalling* that it is the Organization's constitutional duty to promote and develop education,

*Recalling also* the principles set forth in Articles 23 and 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which relate to the right to work and to education, the principles contained in the Convention against Discrimination in Education, adopted in Paris on 14 December 1960, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted in New York on 16 December 1966, as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 1979,

*Having noted* further the provisions of the Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education, adopted by the General Conference in 1976, and the Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, adopted by the Special Intergovernmental Conference in 1966,

*Considering* the need to make a special effort to promote the technical and vocational education of women and girls,

*Recognizing* that the pace of technological, social and economic development has considerably increased the need to expand and improve the technical and vocational education provided for both young people and adults,

*Convinced* of the utility of an international legal instrument to reinforce international collaboration in the development of technical and vocational education,

Adopts the present Convention this tenth day of November 1989.

### Article 1

The Contracting States agree that:

- (c) this Convention shall be applied in accordance with the constitutional provisions and legislation of each Contracting State.

### Article 2

1. The Contracting States agree to frame policies, to define strategies and to implement, in accordance with their needs and resources, programmes and curricula for technical and vocational education designed for young people and adults, within the framework of their respective education systems, in order to enable them to acquire the knowledge and know how that are essential to economic and social development as well as to the personal and cultural fulfilment of the individual in society.
2. The general framework for the development of technical and vocational education shall be determined in each Contracting State by appropriate legislation or other measures.

3. The Contracting States shall guarantee that no individual who has attained the educational level for admission into technical and vocational education shall be discriminated against on grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, political or other opinions, economic status, birth, or on any other grounds.

The Contracting States shall work towards the right to equal access to technical and vocational education and towards equality of opportunity to study throughout the educational process.

4. The Contracting States shall pay attention to the special needs of the handicapped and other disadvantaged groups and take appropriate measures to enable these groups to benefit from technical and vocational education.

### Article 3

2. Technical and vocational education should be designed to operate within a framework of open-ended and flexible structures in the context of lifelong education and provide:
  - (a) an introduction to technology and to the world of work for all young people within the context of general education;
  - (b) educational and vocational guidance and information, and aptitude counselling;
  - (c) development of an education designed for the acquisition and development of the knowledge and knowhow needed for a skilled occupation;
  - (d) a basis for education and training that may be essential for occupational mobility, improvement of professional qualifications and updating of knowledge, skills and understanding;

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