

Entry into force of the organisation of educational cooperation (oec) constitutive charter: The birth of a new international organisation at the dawn of a new world

Djibouti, 18 May 2021 – A new international intergovernmental organisation has seen the light. In less than a year and four months since its adoption at the III ForumBIE 2030 in January 2020 by countries and organisations from across the Global South, the Constitutive Charter of the Organisation of Educational Cooperation (OEC) has now entered into force, following the deposit of the Republic of Zimbabwe’s Instrument of Acceptance.

This entry into force signifies the official conclusion of the Organisation’s preparatory phase and the commencement of its executive phase as an instrument of intellectual, technical and financial cooperation and solidarity between its Member States, as well as its Associate Members, to “contribute to the equitable, just, and prosperous social transformation of societies, by promoting balanced and inclusive education, in order to attain the fundamental rights to liberty, justice, dignity, sustainability, social cohesion, and material and immaterial security for the peoples of the world”.

Upon being notified of the entry into force, the OEC’s Secretary-General-elect, Sheikh Manssour Bin Mussallam, stated:

“The Organisation of Educational Cooperation was founded when the world had yet to realise the magnitude of the COVID-19 outbreak. Its mission and the principles upon which it was established, however, have never been more pertinent, nor as pressing to realise, than with the advent of this pandemic. For the multidimensional crisis that ensued has profoundly and irrevocably altered our understanding of the world and the systems which we have inherited, providing us with the opportunity, through loss and adversity, to see a new, better tomorrow emerge. The entry into force of the OEC Charter provides us, accordingly, the necessary instrument to transform this aspiration into reality.

By ensuring the Charter’s entry into force in less than a year and four months since its adoption, our Member States have collectively demonstrated their unwavering commitment to the values enunciated therein and to the principles proclaimed in the *Universal Declaration of Balanced and Inclusive Education*, at a time in which the revitalisation of multilateralism and the renewal of the spirit of true international solidarity have become all the more vital to our collective wellbeing.”

The Secretary-General-elect shall now enter in consultation with the Organisation’s Member States to convene, at the earliest, the OEC’s first General Assembly to adopt the strategic framework, the Programme and Budget as well as other proposals prepared by the OEC’s Preparatory Committee.

Background

The Organisation for Educational Cooperation (OEC) was established on 29 January 2020 by African, Asian, Latin American, Middle Eastern and Pacific Island countries, as well as civil society and academic organisations from across the Global South, at the International Summit on Balanced and Inclusive Education held in Djibouti.

As set out by its Constitutive Charter, the purpose of OEC is to “contribute to the equitable, just, and prosperous social transformation of societies by promoting balanced and inclusive education, in order to attain the fundamental rights to liberty, justice, dignity, sustainability, social cohesion, and material and immaterial security for the peoples of the world.”

The OEC acts, therefore, as an instrument of intellectual, technical and financial cooperation and solidarity between its Member States as well as its Associate Members.

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