The Abidjan Principles on the human rights obligations of States to ensure quality public education and to regulate private involvement in education (Abidjan Principles) were adopted by Abidjan at a landmark conference on the global education crisis in 2019. They were developed as a response to the pressing need to ensure the right to education in the face of rising privatisation in education services – applied to the contemporary context, and in particular the growth of privatisation in education.

Over the last two years, the Abidjan Principles have quickly gained recognition and are emerging as a game-changing tool for States striving to comply with their human rights obligations and for those who wish to hold States accountable. The Abidjan Principles have been recognised in the form in regional human rights systems as well as global and national institutions and have set a standard for States regarding the regulation of private involvement in education services. The Abidjan Principles are acknowledged as a concrete tool to analyse and reflect on education policies.

From rhetoric to practice: Worldwide recognition and use of the Abidjan Principles on the right to education

Overview

The Abidjan Principles on the human rights obligations of States to ensure quality public education and to regulate private involvement in education (Abidjan Principles) were adopted by Abidjan at a landmark conference on the global education crisis in 2019. They were developed as a response to the pressing need to ensure the right to education in the face of rising privatisation in education services – applied to the contemporary context, and in particular the growth of privatisation in education.

Recognition

The Abidjan Principles were selected as one of the key ten ‘most promising governance projects’ of the United Nations Development, Research and Education Fund’s ‘From rhetoric to practice: worldwide recognition and use of the Abidjan Principles on the right to education’. The Abidjan Principles were selected as one of the top ten ‘most promising governance projects’ of the United Nations Development, Research and Education Fund’s ‘From rhetoric to practice: worldwide recognition and use of the Abidjan Principles on the right to education’.

Recognition by human rights bodies and legal institutions

The Abidjan Principles were used in the arguments as part of a lawsuit in Argentina on inclusion in private schools for persons with disabilities. The Abidjan Principles were used in the arguments as part of a lawsuit in Argentina on inclusion in private schools for persons with disabilities.

Use in court, policy, and academic research

The Abidjan Principles have been referred to in court decisions, policy documents, and academic research as a concrete tool to analyse and reflect on education policies.