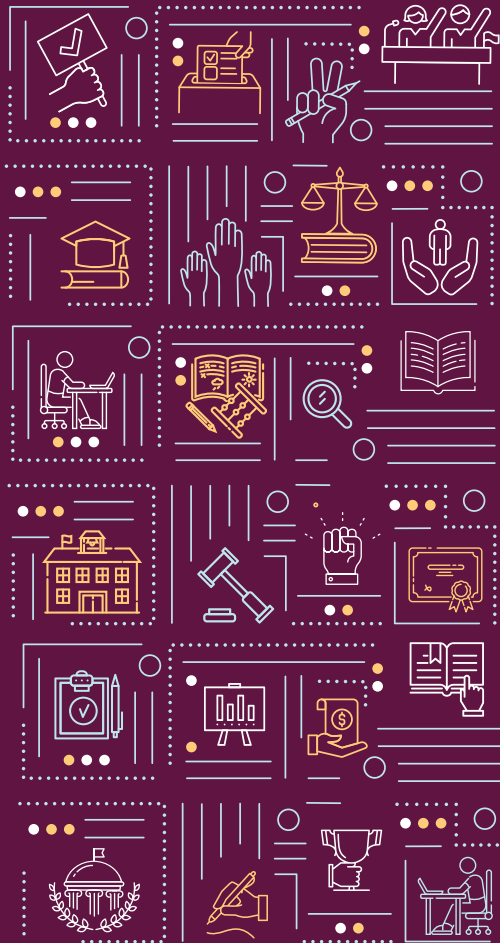


THE ABIDJAN PRINCIPLES



Providing Public Education
and Regulating Private
Involvement in Education

What are the Abidjan Principles on the right to education?

The Abidjan Principles compile and interpret existing human rights law and standards to provide guidance on how to put them into practice. They do not create new law, but compile existing standards from treaties, constitutions, and jurisprudence. They were adopted in February 2019 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in the context of the rapid expansion of private sector involvement in and the negative impact of the commercialisation on education. **They were developed and adopted by a group of 57 of some of the most qualified experts on the right to education from across the globe.**

The Abidjan Principles unpack and offer guidance on the States' obligations to:

- **Provide free, quality, inclusive public education;**
- **Effectively regulate private involvement in education; and**
- **Fund free, quality, inclusive public education systems.**



THE ABIDJAN PRINCIPLES

In an ever more complex world, the Abidjan Principles constitute the reference point that can help:

- States to develop their policies and strive to comply with their human rights obligations;
- Assist researchers and education planners in their research on education;
- Provide a benchmark for civil society groups to monitor progress in securing quality, free, inclusive public education; and
- Guide all people seeking to understand and claim their right to education.

The Principles are the go-to text for all those interested to move the right to education from rhetoric to practice. Importantly, **the Abidjan Principles have been recognised by all major regional and global human rights bodies, including the United Nations Human Rights Council**. They have also started being used in court cases, and were, for instance, used as a reference point in a judgment of a Ugandan court.

They are freely available online in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic at: <https://www.abidjanprinciples.org/en/principles/overview>.

www.abidjanprinciples.org

The following key elements are detailed in the Abidjan Principles:

1



Everyone must have access to a free, quality, inclusive public school, near to where they live.

2



States must prioritise and budget for the financing of free and quality public education, using and maximising their resources to fund quality public schools.

3



Education systems must be managed democratically and transparently and should not be commercialised or dominated by commercial actors.

4



Where private schools operate, entry requirements, fees and other aspects must be effectively regulated to ensure education does not deepen inequalities.

5



States should avoid funding private schools, apart from as temporary measures in exceptional circumstances where there is no other adequate option.

6



Everyone has the right to accessible, effective complaint mechanisms to ensure accountability for violations of the right to education.

7



States must regularly monitor both public and private schools' policies and practices to ensure they comply with human rights.
