

## MEMORANDUM

### of the Eurasian University Ranking Conference

(Moscow, 19 – 20 November 2009)

Noting the important contribution of university ranking pioneers into initiating the process of higher education institutions ratings;

stating the public significance of rankings and their influence on education development;

understanding the responsibility of ranking authors for the results of their work;

aware of the fact that designing and publishing rankings is not a private business of ranking authors (a publishing house, a university, an agency, etc.);

recognizing that rankings concern general public, higher education institutions, employers, governmental and non-governmental organizations and society as a whole;

emphasizing the need to create rankings corresponding to the real state of affairs;

embracing the Berlin Principles of Ranking of Higher Education Institutions (Berlin, 20 May 2006) –

**the conference participants have agreed that for ranking successful development it is necessary to devise a Convention on Rankings with basic principles of ranking elaboration. Ranking agencies, non-governmental and governmental organizations, employers and their unions, universities, governments and international organizations, etc. can become parties to the Convention on a voluntary basis. Signatories to the Convention share the principles of ranking elaboration and accept the results of rankings created in the framework of the Convention.**

## **Convention on Rankings: Main Principles**

1. Each ranking may have its own focus and peculiarities. However, all rankings shall be developed pursuant to the established common rules.
2. The ranking indicators:
  - shall be significant for all concerned parties and for the development of education in general;
  - shall be objective (that is based on reliable, recognized and statistically relevant data);
  - may be object to verification (independent check-up);
  - shall be object to public discussion.
3. The procedure of measuring the indicators shall:
  - be transparent and open;
  - take place with the consent of the university to be ranked and with its active involvement into the process;
  - imply the element of competitiveness when measuring the indicators.
4. The important element of the ranking procedure shall be the procedure of filing and considering appeals against the results of the ranking.
5. The collective body of the Convention shall sum up the results of the ranking in a concluding statement.
6. The following shall not be allowed:
  - favoritism or protectionism;
  - division of spheres of influence;
  - collusion of the parties.
7. The following procedures shall be established:
  - the procedure of revision of the results of the ranking;
  - the procedure of disqualification, if necessary, of a party to the Convention.

**Convinced that the development of the Convention requires continued support, the conference participants have agreed to call upon all organizations concerned to take part in the development of the Convention and to hold a meeting in 2010 in order to assess the progress achieved and put forward appropriate improvements.**

Moscow, 19 November 2009