

## INTRODUCTION

*to the third edition*

The first collected edition of the Recommendations of the International Conferences on Public Education, meeting in Geneva each year from 1934 until the beginning of the second world war in 1939, was published by the International Bureau of Education in 1944.

The work of the International Bureau of Education continued during the war years, but it was not possible to call another International Conference on Public Education until March, 1946. From 1947 onwards, these conferences have been convened jointly by the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization and the International Bureau of Education, in accordance with the terms of the agreement between the two organizations.

The recommendations which follow comprise in all more than one thousand clauses, and thus constitute a kind of international charter or code of public education, a body of educational doctrine of very wide scope and importance. They are not to be regarded as conventions, nor yet simply as wishes expressed by private congresses. They were passed by the duly authorized delegates of governments.

They were passed, moreover, after careful preliminary inquiry and the presentation of detailed reports on the part of the Ministries of Education, and thus embody not merely ideal but also well-founded and practicable suggestions for educational advance.

We therefore venture to draw the attention of the responsible authorities and individuals to these fifty-one recommendations. They will prove, we believe, in conjunction with the inquiries on which they are based, a valuable source of inspiration and guidance.

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(1929-1967)