



***Towards
a Declaration
on Universal Norms
on Bioethics***

Progress report January 2005



The Mandate

The General Conference,

“considers that it is opportune and desirable to set universal standards in the field of bioethics with due regard for human dignity and human rights and freedoms, in the spirit of cultural pluralism inherent in bioethics;”

“invites the Director-General to continue preparatory work on a declaration on universal norms on bioethics, by holding consultations with Member States, the other international organizations concerned and relevant national bodies, and to submit a draft declaration to it at its 33rd session.”

32nd Session of the General Conference of UNESCO - 2003
32 C/Resolution 24

Procedure

Three main phases:

1. **Pre-drafting consultation on the scope and structure**

January – April 2004

2. **Drafting process**


April 2004 – January 2005

3. **Finalization**

January – September 2005

Phase 1: Pre-drafting consultation

December – April 2004: Determination of a timetable



169th session
Executive Board

January – April 2004: Broad consultations on the scope and structure of the future declaration

- 1. Written consultation with Member States*
- 2. Extraordinary Session of IBC (27-29 April 2004)*

- Focus on human beings?
- Which fundamental principles?
- Specific areas of application?

Written consultation with Member States

Procedure

- Launched on 20 January 2004 with the **190 Member States of UNESCO**
(Permanent Delegations and National Commissions)
- Simple and concise questionnaire divided in three parts:
 - aims and scope of the declaration
 - structure of the declaration
 - content of the declaration

Results

As of June 2004:

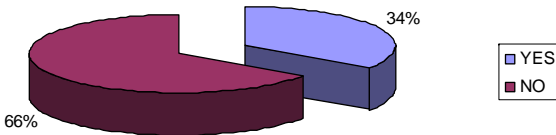
67 questionnaires returned

- Africa :	11
- Asia and Pacific:	8
- Arab States:	10
- Europe and North America:	21
- Central and Eastern Europe :	10
- Latin America and the Caribbean :	6
- Permanent Observers :	1



Aims and Scope of a Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics

Should the declaration be limited to human beings?



Extraordinary Session of IBC

(Paris, 27-29 April 2004)

Intergovernmental Organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

United Nations University (UNU)

The Arab League Educational Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Council of Europe

European Commission

Non Governmental Organizations

World Medical Association (WMA)

Human Genome Organization (HUGO)

International Council for Science (ICSU)

Disabled People's International (DPI)

International Association of Bioethics (IAB)

Around 200 participants from 70 countries

National Bioethics Committees

Japan

New Zealand

Korea

Tunisia

Egypt

France

Portugal

United States of America

United Kingdom

Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

Republic of Congo

Russian Federation

Croatia

Mexico

Dominican Republic



Phase 2: Drafting process

April 2004 – January 2005

1. 6 Meetings of Drafting Group
(members of IBC)
2. UN Inter-Agency Committee
June and December 2004
3. National and regional consultations
4. 11th Ordinary session of IBC
August 2004
5. Written consultation on the Third Outline
October – December 2005



Meetings of IBC Drafting Group

30 April 2004: First meeting Drafting Group

2-3 June 2004: Second meeting Drafting Group

1st Outline (15 June 2004) on the website

2-3 July 2004: Third meeting Drafting Group

2nd Outline (27 July 2004) on the website

25-27 August 2004: Fourth meeting Drafting Group

30 August: 3rd Outline (27 August 2004) on the website

27-28 October 2004: Fifth meeting Drafting Group

12-14 December 2004: Sixth meeting Drafting Group

21st December: 4th Outline (15 December 2004) on website

Third and Fourth Meeting of the UN Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics

Paris, 24-25 June 2004

Paris, 10 December 2004

Participants:

- ✓ **FAO, UNESCO, UNU, WHO, WIPO, ALECSO,
European Commission, Council of Europe,
OECD, WTO**

Item 6:

Elaboration of the UNESCO declaration on universal norms on bioethics: progress report and discussion on the scope and content of the draft declaration (June meeting) and the 3rd Outline (December meeting)



National and regional consultations with experts

ETHICS AROUND THE WORLD PROJECT

- ❖ The Netherlands: The Hague, 18 March 2004
- ❖ Iran (Republic Islamic of): Hamedan, 2 May 2004
- ❖ Lithuania: Vilnius, 13 September 2004
- ❖ Turkey: Ankara, 15 September 2004
- ❖ Argentina: Buenos Aires, 4-5 November 2004
- ❖ Korea: Seoul, 16 November 2004
- ❖ Mexico: Mexico City, 24 November 2004
- ❖ Indonesia: Jakarta, 2 December 2004
- ❖ Portugal: Lisbon, National consultation, 5-6 January 2005:
- ❖ Russian Federation: Moscow, Regional consultation, 21 January 2005



11th Session of IBC

23-24 August 2004: Paris, UNESCO

- **Hearing of representatives of religious and spiritual perspectives**

Confucianism

Islam

Judaism

Budhism

Hinduism

Catholicism

- **Public discussion of 2nd Outline**



Written consultation (Third Outline)

Launched on October 19, 2004

Two options:

- statement of general principles; concrete issues in other future texts
- include some concrete issues in the text (e.g. health, scientific research)

The draft declaration is the start of a process, not the end.

When consensus will emerge on specific issues, this can be formulated as principles and included in future, updated versions of the declaration.

Results

(available on the web)

As of 7 January 2005:

69 contributions received

- **Member States and Permanent Observer :** **28**
- **Intergovernmental organizations:** **4**
(+ exchange with Drafting Group on 10 December)
- **Non-governmental organizations :** **14**
- **National bioethics committees:** **13**
- **In a personal capacity :** **10**

Contributions received later:

- **Member States:** **3**
- **National bioethics committees:** **1**
- **In a personal capacity :** **2**

**Sixth meeting of IBC Drafting Group
(12-14 December 2004)**



*Preliminary results of the written consultation
on the Third Outline*



**Fourth Outline of a Text
(15 December 2004)**

Future activities

Phase 2: Drafting process

24-25 January 2005: 4th session IGBC

26-27 January 2005: Joint session IGBC + IBC

28 January 2005: Extraordinary session of IBC



***Approval of text by
IBC***

Future activities

Phase 3: Finalization

- * February 2005: Official communication of the preliminary draft**
- * 4-6 April 2005: 1th meeting of a committee of governmental experts**
- * 12-28 April: 171st session of Executive Board**
- * June 2005: 2nd meeting of a committee of governmental experts**
- * 30 August - 15 September 2005: 172nd session EB**
- * 19 September – 7 October 2005: 33rd session of General Conference**



United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

**Social and Human
Sciences**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT, THOUGHT FOR ACTION

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