

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST MEETING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL
EXPERTS AIMED AT FINALIZING A DRAFT DECLARATION
ON UNIVERSAL NORMS ON BIOETHICS**

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris 4 – 6 April 2005

The States represented at the first intergovernmental meeting of experts aimed at finalizing a draft declaration on universal norms on bioethics on the basis of the Preliminary Draft of the International Bioethics Committee:

1. *Recognize* the complexity of the subject dealt with and the value of the exchanges held during this first meeting and *note* that it is necessary for further discussions to be held among Member States on fundamental issues such as the scope of the future declaration, its recipients and the definition of bioethics;
2. *Aware* of the crucial role that the government experts play in the process of elaborating the declaration, *confirm* their willingness to engage in a constructive process of negotiation on the different positions expressed;
3. *Invite* the Chairperson of the meeting to encourage and to lead open-ended intersessional consultations between States on diverging views in order to prepare and facilitate the work of the second intergovernmental meeting of experts in June 2005 and, on these occasions, to play the role of facilitator between the different parties;
4. *Consider* it essential to have additional time at the June 2005 meeting, with the availability of documents and interpretation in all official languages of the Organization, to be able to attempt to finalize a draft declaration for the 33rd session of the General Conference in October 2005 and *express* their concern as to the availability of all material resources necessary for the conduct of their work under the best possible conditions.
5. *Thank* the Government of Italy for its generous financial offer with regard to the funding of the interpretation of the remaining official languages.
6. *Request* the Chairperson of the meeting to bring the above to the attention of the Director-General and of the Chair of the Executive Board.