



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

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Timetable for the Elaboration of a Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics

(As approved by the Executive Board at its 169th Session, on 28 April 2004)

27-30 APRIL 2004

Extraordinary session of IBC on “Towards a declaration on universal norms on bioethics”: the extraordinary session of IBC will be devoted entirely to broad consultations and hearings on the scope and structure of the future declaration, with:

- representatives of intergovernmental organizations concerned (in particular those members of the UN Inter-agency Committee on Bioethics);
- representatives of NGOs;
- representatives of national bioethics committees;

1st Meeting of the IBC drafting group (established in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of IBC): taking into account the discussions during the IBC extraordinary session and the results of the written consultation, the group will begin the drafting of the outline of the declaration.

JUNE 2004

2nd Meeting of the IBC drafting group: the Group will continue the elaboration of the outline of the declaration.

24-25 JUNE 2004

3rd Meeting of the UN Interagency Committee on Bioethics: the third meeting, hosted by UNESCO in Paris, will discuss *inter alia* the draft outline of the declaration.

JUNE –JULY 2004

Informal consultations at regional and national level: within the framework of the “Ethics around the world” project (see document 169 EX/4 in this regard) meetings organized at national and regional level in cooperation with Member States will be the occasion to start consultations at local level with the relevant bodies and specialists on the scope, structure and draft outline of the declaration.

JULY 2004

Meeting of IGBC and the IBC drafting group: the meeting will allow the IBC drafting group to gather preliminary comments and reactions to the draft outline.

3rd Meeting of the IBC drafting group: the Group will finalize an outline of the declaration, taking into account the results of the meeting with IGBC. At this stage, the outline will be sent to Member States for information and made available on Internet with a view to discussion at the eleventh session of IBC. (An informal consultation could also be launched on Internet.)

Provisional dates: 8-9 July

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2004

Eleventh Session of IBC: this ordinary session of IBC will focus mainly on the declaration with private and public discussions.

4th Meeting of the IBC drafting group: the group will take into account comments made during the eleventh session of IBC as well as those made on Internet and will revise the outline of the declaration.

Provisional dates: 23-26 August

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2004

170th session of the Executive Board: the Director-General will present a report on the progress on the drawing up of the declaration on universal norms on bioethics. The Executive Board will also approve the invitations to the government expert meetings (Cat. II).

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2004

Consultations on the outline of the declaration

- An official written consultation addressed to Member States, IGOs, NGOs, national bioethics committees, academies of science, etc. will be carried out on the outline of the declaration (between October and December 2004).
- The fourth meeting of the UN Interagency Committee on Bioethics could discuss again the outline of the future declaration.
- Meetings organized at national and regional level will be the occasion to continue consultations at these levels.

DECEMBER 2004

5th Meeting of the IBC drafting group: the group will take into account the results of the written consultation on the outline of the declaration and draw up a preliminary draft of the declaration.

JANUARY 2005

Fourth Session of IGBC and Joint Session of IBC and IGBC: the joint session will allow IBC to finalize the preliminary draft, after consultation with IGBC.

Extraordinary Session of IBC: this one-day extraordinary session will allow IBC to formally adopt the preliminary draft.

FEBRUARY 2005

Official communication of the preliminary draft: the preliminary draft will be translated into the six working languages and sent to Member States, IGOs, NGOs, etc., in order to facilitate deliberations in the government expert meetings.

MARCH 2005

First meeting of a committee of government experts (Cat. II): the two intergovernmental meetings (March and June) will aim at finalizing a draft declaration. They should be considered as a continuum, the second one allowing government experts to return after having carried out appropriate consultations in their own country.

APRIL 2005

171st session of the Executive Board: the Director-General will present a progress report on the drawing up of a declaration on universal norms on bioethics together with the draft declaration.

JUNE 2005

Second meeting of a committee of government experts (Cat. II): the Committee finalizes the draft declaration.

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2005

172nd session of the Executive Board: the Executive Board will examine the draft declaration and decide whether to recommend to the 33rd session of the General Conference the adoption of the draft declaration.

33rd Session of the General Conference.