



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture
Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura

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Paris, 4 May 2005

Dear colleagues,

On the occasion of the first intergovernmental meeting of experts aimed at finalizing a draft declaration on universal norms on bioethics held in Paris from 4 to 6 April 2005, I had the honour to be elected Chairperson of the meeting.

This first meeting clearly showed the complexity of the subject dealt with as well as the necessity for further discussions to be held among Member States. As Chairperson, I was invited by participants to encourage and to lead open-ended inter-sessional consultations between States on diverging views in order to prepare and facilitate the work of the second intergovernmental meeting of experts in June 2005.

As part of this process, I am organizing an **informal meeting on 17 May 2005**, which will be the occasion to pursue the discussion already undertaken during the first meeting on fundamental issues such as the scope of the future declaration, to whom it is addressed, the definition of bioethics and transversal questions (e.g. human beings/human persons, the formulation "any decision or practice").

This informal meeting, which I hope you will be able to attend, will be held at UNESCO Headquarters, in Room XI (Fontenoy Building, entrance: 7 place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

I am confident that the willingness expressed by States to engage in a constructive process of negotiation will allow us to succeed in the task entrusted to us by the Executive Board and the General Conference.

Pablo Sader
Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Meeting

To Permanent Delegations of UNESCO