

**RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL BIOETHICS COMMITTEE (IGBC)**

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris 24 – 25 January 2005

---

At its fourth session, the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC):

In relation to **item 7 “Elaboration of a Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics: Report on the Work of IBC and discussion on the Fourth Outline of a Declaration”**,

1. *Thanks and congratulates* the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and its Drafting Group for the high quality of the work carried out in the framework of the elaboration of a declaration on universal norms on bioethics (32 C/Res. 24);
2. *Welcomes* the efforts deployed by IBC and the Secretariat to ensure the transparency of the elaboration process of the draft declaration as well as the active participation of all stakeholders concerned in the framework of all consultations carried out throughout the elaboration process, in particular States, the United Nations and the other specialized agencies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, appropriate national bodies and specialists;
3. *Also welcomes* the initiatives taken to foster dialogue between IBC and IGBC and to improve cooperation and interaction of their work;
4. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the substantial improvements that have led to the fourth outline and *appreciates* its spirit and structure.
5. *Considers nevertheless* that many crucial issues and principles need to be considered further, including but not limited to those related to autonomy, informed consent, social responsibility, risk assessment, sharing of benefits, transnational practices and ethics committees, and *invites* IBC, in the framework of the finalization of a preliminary draft declaration, to reconsider the relevant articles;
6. *Also invites* IBC to reconsider the provisions concerning the use of terms, scope, aims, implementation principles, procedures and promotion and implementation of the declaration, in order to clarify to whom various provisions apply and are addressed;
7. *Further invites* IBC inter alia:
  - (i) to reconsider the formulation of article 5 on restrictions and its location in the text,
  - (ii) to reconsider the wording of the title of article 8 as well as the formulation of article 9,
  - (iii) to make an appropriate reference to the freedom of research, and
  - (iv) where appropriate, to bring language in line with other UNESCO instruments.
8. *Recognizes* the quality of the text elaborated by IBC and, subject to modifications which could be made on the basis of the discussions of the fourth session of IGBC and

the joint session of IBC and IGBC (26-27 January 2005), *considers* that it will constitute an excellent basis for further governmental negotiations aiming at improving the draft declaration;

9. *Considers* that, at the meetings in April and June 2005, the government experts should attempt to finalize a draft that can be presented to the 33rd session of the General Conference of UNESCO in October 2005.

In relation to **item 9 “International Declaration on Human Genetic Data : Preliminary Exchange of view on a Plan of Action for its Implementation”**,

10. *Takes note* of the preliminary proposals of IBC for the implementation of the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data as basis for further reflection and *suggests* that the discussion be continued in the appropriate institutions and in Member States.