



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

SHS/EST/ABC/REP/10

UNESCO ASSISTING BIOETHICS COMMITTEES (ABC) PROJECT  
2008

**Meeting to discuss the establishment of the  
National Bioethics Committee  
N'Djamena, Chad,  
29 July – 2 August 2008**

## **I. Purpose**

The mission had two main objectives:

- Assist the Republic of Chad in implementing the UNESCO Declarations on Bioethics;
- Help Chad to best benefit from the ABC project (“Assisting Bioethics Committees”) by creating its own National Bioethics Committee and signing a Memorandum of understanding with UNESCO.

## **II. Participant**

The mission was undertaken, in cooperation with the Division of Ethics of Science and Technology in headquarter, by Mr Christophe Dikenou, Consultant (and acting as Regional Advisor for the ethics programme), UNESCO Office Dakar.

### III. Activities

#### Wednesday 30th July, 2008

**9 – 11.30 am:** Work session at the National Commission for UNESCO of Chad (CNTU) with the Director of Scientific and Technical Research, Mr. Dehaïnsala Waleyam and the Secretary General of CNTU, Mr. Bahar Abdelkérîm Adoum. This work session was devoted to adopting the mission agenda, identifying additional participants to the working group, and preparing and distributing invitations.

**12am:** Courtesy visit to Mr. Koko Abderamane, Minister of National Education and President of the National Commission for UNESCO of Chad, in presence of Mrs. Alboukhari Hapsita Souleymane, State Secretary of National Education for Basic Education. Information has been exchanged about the project of implementing a National Bioethics Committee and on the UNESCO ABC project. The Minister expressed his strong interest in the assistance that UNESCO can bring to Chad in promoting the principles of the bioethics Declarations of the Organization, and he conveyed his gratitude to the Director General of UNESCO in that regard.

The education system in Chad is evolving favorably, the Ministry said, and he encouraged UNESCO in its mission, assuring that he and his colleagues will fully support the future National Bioethics Committee.

**12.45am – 2pm:** First meeting with the Working Group composed of scholars, lawyers and representatives of the ministries involved in Bioethics. The objectives of the mission and of the ABC project have been presented. Group members were:

- DEHAÏNSALA Waleyam, Director of Science and Technical Research at the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Vocational Training;
- MAHAMAT Madani Fadoul, Secretary General of Roi Fayçal University;
- SAÏDOU Ngatama, Assistant and Attorney, University of N'Djamena;
- DJADA Djibrine Atim, Dean of the Faculty of Health Science, Ministry of Public Health;
- HAMADENE Abdou Hamit, Chief of the Science Division of the National Commission for UNESCO of Chad;
- BAHAR Abdelkérîm Adoum, Secretary General of the National Commission for UNESCO of Chad.

All participants demonstrated high interest for the ABC project, because it matches exactly the will of researchers and politicians in this country to protect the population against detrimental experiments and to preserve the environment and natural resources.

According to them, Chad has not initiated the implementation of UNESCO's three Declarations on Bioethics yet, but ethical reflections on biomedical research are ongoing within the Ministry of Health. These reflections will have to include research going on in other ministerial departments such as the Department for Agriculture of the Chadian Institute of Agriculture Research and Development (ITRAD), the Ministry for Farming, the Laboratory of Scientific and Zoo-technical Research and the Office of Environmental Assessment and the Fight against Pollution of the Ministry of the Environment.

After a very fruitful exchange of views about the functioning, the composition and the oversight of the Committee, all participants rejoiced at the technical assistance, which Chad will receive to implement the three Declarations and the ABC project.

Unanimously, participants wished that the National Bioethics Committee (“CNB-Tchad”), although multidisciplinary and pluralistic, be placed under the authority of the Ministry for Higher Education, Scientific Research and Vocational Training. It was also agreed that the National Commission for UNESCO should be part of the Committee in order to facilitate cooperation with UNESCO.

On the basis of the legal instruments of the Republic of Chad and the texts of UNESCO, an outline for the organization of work was offered for consideration to the lawyers and researchers in the room; all participants were also asked to provide any information or documentation available to help the team to draft the required texts.

**2pm:** Courtesy visit to Mr. Oumar Idriss Al Faroukh, Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Vocational Training. Views on the establishment of the National Bioethics Committee and the ABC project of UNESCO were exchanged.

The Minister, who was assisted by the Secretary General of the Ministry, Mr. Ivoulsou Douphang Phang, encouraged UNESCO in the accomplishment of its mission. Excellent cooperation between UNESCO and his country exists.

As far as the project of establishing a National Bioethics Committee is concerned, the Minister, for whom the development of scientific and technical research in Chad is one of the major priorities, expressed his satisfaction with the support that UNESCO proposes to provide to Chad in the area of bioethics. For him, the implementation of the UNESCO Declarations on bioethics is timely and welcome to help Chad, on the one hand, to protect itself against some dangerous applications of science and technology, and on the other hand, to re-energize scientific and technological research, which is of strategic importance for the social, economic and cultural development of the country.

Finally, he assured UNESCO of the unconditional support of his Department and the Government to the National Bioethics Committee.

#### **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2008**

**9am – 2pm:** Second meeting with the Working Group. Following members were present:

- DEHAÏNSALA Waleyam, Director of Science and Technical Research at the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Vocational Training;
- HAGAM Salé, Coordinator for the Chad branch of the UNESCO Chair on Education Sciences for Central Africa;
- TELLRO WAÏ Nadji, Deputy Director of Environmental Assessment and the Fight against Pollution at the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Halieutic Resources;
- MAHAMAT Ahmat Charfadine, Dean of the Faculty of Natural and Applied Science of the University of N’Djamena;

- SAÏDOU Ngatama, Assistant at the Faculty of Law, University of N'Djamena
- DJADA Djibrine Atim, Dean of the Faculty of Health Science, Ministry of Public Health;
- HAMADENE Abdou Hamit, Chief of the Science Division of the National Commission for UNESCO of Chad;
- BAHAR Abdelkérîm Adoum, Secretary General of the National Commission for UNESCO of Chad.

On the basis of administrative, legal and scientific texts that exist in Chad, and on the basis of the texts proposed by UNESCO, the team started drafting the three following fundamental texts:

- The Decree creating the National Bioethics Committee and specifying its membership and mission;
- The Statutes of the Committee;
- The Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the Committee;
- The action plan.

### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008**

**9am – 2pm:** Third meeting of the working group. Following members were present :

- DEHAÏNSALA Waleyam, Director of Science and Technical Research at the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Vocational Training;
- HAGAM Salé, Coordinator for the Chad branch of the UNESCO Chair on Education Sciences for Central Africa;
- MAHAMAT Ahmat Charfadine, Dean of the Faculty of Natural and Applied Science of the University of N'Djamena;
- SAÏDOU Ngatama, Assistant at the Faculty of Law, University of N'Djamena and Attorney
- DJADA Djibrine Atim, Dean of the Faculty of Health Science, Ministry of Public Health;
- WAI Adoum Gaba, CREFELD coordinator
- HAMADENE Abdou Hamit, Chief of the Science Division of the National Commission for UNESCO of Chad;
- BAHAR Abdelkérîm Adoum, Secretary General of the National Commission for UNESCO of Chad.

The participants reviewed and adopted the four texts drafted the day before and focused on the composition of the Committee.

### **Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2008**

**11.30am** Reporting on the mission to the Ministry of National Education, President of the National Commission for UNESCO of Chad.

**3pm** Reporting on the mission to the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Vocational Education, in presence of the Adviser for National Education to the Prime Minister, Mr. Ali Pamdegue.

## **IV. Results**

The mission objectives have been met.

Fundamental texts of the Committee have been reviewed and adopted, namely the Decree creating the National Bioethics Committee, the Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the Committee; the three-year Action Plan and the Statutes of the Committee. The Decree was promised to be signed by late August 2008.