

Hundred and sixty-sixth Session

166 EX/8
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Item 3.3.3 of the provisional agenda

**INVITATIONS TO THE MEETING OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS
RESPONSIBLE FOR FINALIZING THE INTERNATIONAL
DECLARATION ON HUMAN GENETIC DATA**

SUMMARY

Pursuant to Article 21 of the “Regulations for the general classification of the various categories of meetings convened by UNESCO”, the Director-General submits proposals to the Executive Board in respect of the decision to be taken by the Board concerning invitations to the meeting of government experts (category II) responsible for finalizing the international declaration on human genetic data.

Decision proposed: paragraph 13.

INTRODUCTION

1. 165 EX/Decision 3.4.2, adopted by the Executive Board at its 165th session, “invites the Director-General to continue the preparation of an international declaration on human genetic data [...] for submission to an intergovernmental meeting of all States with a view to its adoption by the General Conference at its 32nd session” (para. 9).
2. Pursuant to that decision, the Director-General intends to convene a meeting of government experts responsible for finalizing the international declaration on human genetic data, to take place at UNESCO Headquarters from 25 to 27 June 2003.

CATEGORY OF THE MEETING

3. Pursuant to the “Regulations for the classification of the various categories of meetings convened by UNESCO” (hereinafter referred to as “the Regulations”), this meeting comes within the category of “intergovernmental meetings other than international conferences of States” (category II), and the chief participants will accordingly represent their governments.

PARTICIPANTS

4. Under the Regulations applicable to category II meetings, it is for the Executive Board to decide on the issuing of invitations to this meeting.

(a) Member States and Associate Members

5. Under Article 21 of the Regulations, the Executive Board, on the Director-General’s proposal and subject to the applicable regulating provisions, shall decide on the Member States and Associate Members whose governments are to be invited to this category of meetings (category II).
6. Under Article 23 of the Regulations, an invitation to governments of Member States and Associate Members to participate carries with it the right to vote.

(b) Non-Member States

7. Under Article 21, paragraph 3, of the Regulations, the Executive Board may designate non-Member States to be invited to send observers to the meeting.
8. The Director-General proposes that States that are not members of UNESCO but are members of at least one organization of the United Nations system be invited to send observers to the meeting of government experts. At the time of drafting this document, the list of such States was as follows: Brunei Darussalam, Holy See, Liechtenstein, Singapore and the United States. In addition, the Director-General proposes to the Executive Board that those States which become members of any United Nations system organization before the opening of the meeting be invited to attend the meeting as observers.

Palestine

9. Under Article 7B of the Regulations, the Executive Board may invite Palestine to send observers to the meeting of government experts.

(c) International organizations

The United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has concluded agreements providing for mutual representation

10. The Director-General reminds the Board that, under Article 21, paragraph 4, of the Regulations, the organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has concluded mutual representation agreements may send representatives to the meeting of government experts. Those organizations are the following:

United Nations (UN):

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
World Food Programme (WFP)
United Nations University (UNU)
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

Specialized agencies:

International Labour Organization (ILO)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
World Health Organization (WHO)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Other international organizations

11. Pursuant to Article 21, paragraph 5, of the Regulations, the Director-General proposes that the following organizations be invited to send observers to the meeting of government experts:

(i) *Organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has not concluded an agreement providing for reciprocal representation*

World Trade Organization (WTO)

(ii) *Other intergovernmental organizations*

Agence de la francophonie (ACCT)
International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)
European Commission
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
Council of Europe

Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CSST)
 Nordic Council
 Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO)
 Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils (FASRC)
 League of Arab States
 African Intellectual Property Organization (AIPO)
 Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)
 Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
 Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)
 Organization of American States (OAS)
 Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI)
 Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)
 African Union (AU)
 Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)
 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
 Andean Parliament
 Latin American Parliament
 Commonwealth Secretariat
 Executive Secretariat of the 'Andrés Bello' Convention (SECAB)
 Latin Union

(d) International non-governmental organizations

- (i) *International non-governmental organizations maintaining formal associate relations with UNESCO*

International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (ICPHS)
 International Council for Engineering and Technology (ICET)
 International Social Science Council (ISSC)
 International Council for Science (ICSU)
 World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA)
 Education International

- (ii) *International non-governmental organizations maintaining formal consultative relations with UNESCO*

Latin American Social Sciences Council (CLACSO)
 Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS)
 International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
 World Federation of Teachers' Unions (FISE)
 Inclusion International
 Arab Lawyers' Union (ALU)

- (iii) *Networks admitted to consultative relations with UNESCO*

European Academy of Arts, Sciences and Humanities (EAASH)
 Club of Rome
 International Cell Research Organization (ICRO)

- (iv) *International non-governmental organizations and bodies maintaining operational relations with UNESCO*

Academia Europaea
International Association of Democratic Lawyers
Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA)
Latin American Association for Human Rights
World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations
International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)
World Federation of Scientific Workers (WFSW)
Disabled People's International
International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU)

- (v) *International non-governmental organizations and bodies maintaining relations with UNESCO in another framework*

Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (AIPLF)
Third World Network of Scientific Organizations

12. Finally, in view of the issues to be addressed by the future universal declaration, the Director-General takes the view that invitations could be extended to bodies which may contribute to the work of the group of government experts, such as national ethics committees and the professional groups concerned (e.g. the pharmaceutical industry, insurance companies).

13. In the light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Bearing in mind its decision to convene a meeting of government experts (category II) responsible for finalizing the international declaration on human genetic data (165 EX/Decision 3.4.2, para. 9),
2. Having examined the Director-General's proposal concerning invitations to the meeting of government experts (166 EX/8),
3. Decides:
 - (a) that invitations to participate in the meeting of government experts responsible for finalizing the international declaration on human genetic data, with the right to vote, will be sent to all Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO;
 - (b) that invitations to send observers to the meeting of government experts will be sent as indicated in paragraph 8 of document 166 EX/8;
 - (c) that an invitation to send observers to the meeting of government experts will be sent to Palestine, as indicated in paragraph 9 of document 166 EX/8;
 - (d) that invitations to send representatives to the meeting of government experts will be sent to the organizations of the United Nations system referred to in paragraph 10 of document 166 EX/8;
 - (e) that invitations to send observers to the meeting of government experts will be sent to the international governmental and non-governmental organizations listed in paragraph 11 of document 166 EX/8;

- (f) that the Director-General is authorized to issue any additional invitation that he may deem conducive to the work of the group of government experts, notifying it accordingly.

Hundred and sixty-sixth Session

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CORRIGENDUM

The item number of this document should read 3.3.2 instead of 3.3.3.