



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa
President of the General
Conference

5 January 2017

SHS/YES/BIO/17/001

Dear Mr Simataa,

In response to your letter dated 6 April 2016 (Ref. GBS/SCG/16/031), the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) convened an extraordinary session on 14 September 2016 to discuss the follow-up to the External Auditor's recommendations on the governance of UNESCO. In this regard, the IGBC focused its attention on recommendations 3, 8 and 10(iv) as the ones most relevant to the function and mandate of the Committee.

I'm attaching the draft final report of the extraordinary session in English for your information. This document contains the details of our discussion on the above-mentioned recommendations.

In addition, I would like to highlight the following key observations from our meeting:

- It should be noted that the measures that have been taken by the IGBC since 2014, in collaboration with the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), have resulted in an overall reduction of staff and interpretation costs for the Secretariat (as also highlighted in the External Auditor's report).
- Consistent with recommendation 3, these measures have resulted in the shortening of sessions by grouping meetings together when feasible, and by reducing redundancies in discussion of common agenda items. Furthermore, the ordinary sessions of the IGBC have already been streamlined to take place over 1.5 to 2 days. These shortened sessions mean that only essential agenda items for the work of the IGBC are discussed during such meetings. However, it should be pointed out that several delegates emphasized the necessity to ensure sufficient time for more in-depth exchanges on the IBC's reports, and suggested that the reduction in the length of meetings already in place is not ideal for this purpose, and further reduction would not be desirable.
- The IGBC was not in favour of making annual meetings biennial as it was argued that this would adversely impact the pace of work of both the IGBC and the IBC, and would not be practical in terms of producing timely policy advice on emerging and rapidly developing bioethical risks. The IGBC also concluded that teleconferences would not be a practical or desirable modality for the conduct of its work, in light of the requirement to provide interpretation into the 6 official languages of UNESCO, and the challenge of ensuring the participation of delegates across different time zones and regions of the world. Furthermore, it was

emphasized that the purpose of the meetings is to allow the IGBC and the IBC to engage in fluid and active dialogue, which is the essence of bioethical reflection, and teleconferences were deemed to be insufficient in this regard.

- Referring to recommendation 8(i) concerning a screening system for individual candidates for the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair, several delegates stressed that since the IGBC is an intergovernmental body, the choice of representatives is part of the Member States' prerogative and should be respected. This same concern was echoed in the IGBC's discussion on recommendation 8(iii). In both cases, it was emphasized that it would not be desirable to limit the choice of representatives to experts in bioethics since bioethical reflection should be conducted in a democratic manner that includes both experts and non-experts. However, there was also understanding that there is a need to ensure that Member States appoint representatives with the experience and knowledge to comprehend the topics covered by the Committee. In this regard, it was agreed that the Bureau, in consultation with the Secretariat, would draft a guideline of preferred experience of representatives for the Committee and the Bureau to be presented and discussed by the IGBC during its next session in 2017. It was emphasized that this guideline should be designed to encourage and guide Member States in their own self-screening processes, while they remain entirely free to appoint who they wish.
- Regarding recommendation 8(iv), the IGBC was not opposed to the introduction of training for the offices of chair and vice-chair, but did not give any indication of the type of training that would be necessary. As such, this point will be further discussed between the Bureau and the Secretariat.
- With regard to recommendation 10(iv) concerning a public declaration of interest, most delegates questioned the relevance and need for such an arrangement for representatives of Member States on the Committee. It was argued that since representatives of the IGBC are participating as representatives, they are expected to represent the political and local interests of their respective Member States, and a public declaration of interest should not apply to them. It was therefore concluded that there was no consensus on this recommendation.

I hope that these observations are useful for the Working Group, and I remain at your disposal for any questions you might have.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Eugenijus Gefenas
Chairperson

Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee

Enc. 1

cc. Secretariat of the General Conference

FACT SHEET

QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE SECRETARIATS OF UNESCO'S INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC)

1. Committee/Institute/Convention/Commission/Programme

a. Mandate and objectives

The mandate and objectives of the IGBC are as outlined in Article 11(2) of the Statutes of the IBC:

2. The Intergovernmental Committee shall examine the advice and recommendations of the IBC, including those concerned with the follow-up of the Universal Declaration. The Intergovernmental Committee shall inform the IBC of its opinions. It shall submit its opinions to the Director-General for transmission, together with the advice and recommendations of the IBC, to the Member States, the Executive Board and the General Conference. It may transmit any proposals for the follow-up of the advice and recommendations of the IBC.

b. Do you have specific goals for the work foreseen in the current biennium?

Yes.

c. Number of members and length of mandate periods for members

As per Article 11(3) of the Statutes of the IBC, the IGBC is composed of 36 Member States elected by the General Conference. As per Article 11(4) of the Statutes of the IBC, the term of office for IGBC Member States is four years.

d. Are the members organized by electoral groups?

Yes.

e. Intergovernmental or personal capacity/expert capacity of members

Intergovernmental.

f. Have chairperson or/and Members States received introduction to the work and working methods?

A briefing on the work is usually covered by the progress report of the programme prepared by the Secretariat presented during IBC-IGBC joint sessions and IGBC ordinary sessions. Based on the discussion of the IGBC on the recommendations of the External Auditor in September 2016, the Bureau will be discussing with the Secretariat on the type and modality of training to be introduced for Bureau members, which could be extended to all IGBC members.

g. Are Observers authorized to participate and/or take the floor?

As per Article 11(5) of the Statutes of the IBC, observers are authorized to participate in the sessions of the IGBC, and will be given the floor by the Chairperson if time allows.

h. Meeting frequency and length

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The IGBC meets once every two years in ordinary sessions (1 to 1.5 days).

The IBC and the IGBC meet in joint sessions once every two years during the years when no IGBC ordinary sessions are convened (1-1.5 days, held in conjunction with the IBC ordinary session).

The IGBC holds a session to elect its Bureau every two years during the General Conference (0.5 days), in line with Rule 3.2 of its Rules of Procedure.

- i. How many languages are interpreted during the meetings?

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish (Note: According to Rule 12 of its Rules of Procedure, interpretation in Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish will be provided during meetings of the IGBC, depending on its composition.)

- j. Where do the meetings take place?

All sessions take place in Paris.

- k. Overall budget, including corresponding funding sources broken down as follows:

	RP 2016-2017	Other sources 2016-2017
Organizing meetings	US\$43,000	
Operational activities	US\$2,000	
UNESCO staff (approximate budget in lump sum)	US\$284,000 (cost shared by IBC (40%), IGBC (20%) and COMEST (40%) under a consolidated Secretariat)	

2. Bureau (if any)

- a. Number of members, mandate period, number of times for possible reelection

As per Rule 3 of its Rules of Procedure, the Bureau is composed of 1 Chairperson, 4 Vice-Chairpersons and 1 Rapporteur, and the Secretary-General of the IBC. The Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur serve for a mandate of 2 years, and shall be eligible for election for a second consecutive term.

- b. Intergovernmental or personal capacity/expert capacity?

Intergovernmental.

- c. Meetings frequency and length

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Bureau meetings are held during the ordinary sessions to prepare the draft conclusions of the sessions to be adopted by the Committee. During this time, the Bureau will usually meet for around 2-3 hours in total. In addition, the Bureau would also hold email consultation on any urgent issues that might arise between sessions.

d. Are observers allowed to participate and/or speak?

No.

e. Interpretation during the meetings?

Yes. However, in past sessions, the Bureau sometimes waive the need for interpretation if there is a working language that all members could agree on (decision taken due to financial constraints).

f. How many languages interpreted during the meetings?

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish (Note: According to Rule 12 of its Rules of Procedure, interpretation in Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish will be provided during meetings of the IGBC, depending on its composition.)

g. Where do the meetings take place?

In Paris. The Bureau also holds email consultation on urgent issues.

h. Are minutes of the meetings of the Bureau prepared? Are the minutes distributed and to whom?

The draft conclusions prepared by the Bureau are distributed to the entire Committee for adoption during its ordinary sessions.

3. Rules of procedure

a. Who adopts the rules of procedure?

The IGBC adopts its own Rules of Procedure.

b. Preparation of meeting

i. Who decides agenda?

The agenda for IGBC sessions decided by the Chairperson and the Bureau, in consultation with the Director-General.

The agenda for IBC-IGBC joint sessions are prepared by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairperson of IBC and the Chairperson of IGBC.

ii. When are documents sent out?

The provisional agenda for ordinary sessions are usually sent out at least 60 days in advance. All other working documents are usually sent out 3 to 4 weeks in advance.

iii. Are they sent out in paper form?

No. All working documents are sent out in electronic format by email.

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QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE SECRETARIATS OF UNESCO'S INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

- iv. Can you opt out of receiving printed documents?
All working documents are sent out in electronic format by email.
- v. Who decides the timetable?
The Chairperson and the Bureau, in consultation with the Director-General.
- vi. Who convenes the meeting?
The Director-General.
- vii. Do you open up for video meetings?
Video meetings for a plenary meeting are not practical due to the number of participants, and the different time zones of representatives across the world.
- viii. Can there be extraordinary sessions?
Yes.
 - i. If yes: how? At the request of the Director-General, the Chairperson and the Bureau, or the majority of IGBC Member States.
- ix. Do you appoint sub groups or sub committees?
No.
 - i. If so for what duration and for which tasks? N/A
- c. Decision-making
 - i. Who prepare draft decisions?
The draft conclusions of IGBC sessions are prepared by the Bureau, in consultation with the IGBC Secretariat.
 - ii. Until when can member states suggest new draft decision or amendments?
Before the close of the sessions.
 - iii. Are observers allowed to participate and/or speak?
As per Article 11(5) of the Statutes of the IBC, observers are authorized to participate in the sessions of the IGBC, and will be given the floor by the Chairperson if time allows.
 - iv. How are decisions adopted?
Conclusions of IGBC sessions and decisions are usually adopted by consensus. However, the IGBC Rules of Procedure also allows for decisions to be taken by vote.

4. Relation to General Conference and Executive Board and to other intergovernmental organs

FACT SHEET

QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE SECRETARIATS OF UNESCO'S INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

- a. Do you formally submit proposals for the program and budget of UNESCO (C/5)?
No.
 - a. If yes, how? N/A
- b. How do you follow-up the General Conference's resolutions?
If there is a resolution of concern to the IGBC, the IGBC Secretariat will bring it to the attention of the Chairperson for follow-up as appropriate, either through discussion in the Bureau or in plenary meetings of the Committee.
- c. Do you give input to the Executive Board in your field of competence?
As requested or as deemed necessary.
- d. Do you report on your activities to the General Conference and/or to the Executive Board more than once during each four year programme period?
Yes, twice every four years in a REP document to the General Conference.
- e. How do you follow-up the Executive Board decisions?
If there is a decision of concern to the IGBC, the IGBC Secretariat will bring it to the attention of the Chairperson for follow-up as appropriate, either through discussion in the Bureau or in plenary meetings of the Committee.
- f. Does a specific framework exist to collaborate with other international and intergovernmental bodies?
The Chairperson of the IGBC is an ex-officio member of COMEST. All other cooperation is on an ad-hoc basis.

5. Any others comments regarding the governance of international and intergovernmental bodies

The follow-up to 38 C/Resolution 101 was discussed in an extraordinary session held in September 2016. The conclusions of our discussion will be transmitted to your office as soon as possible (consultation with IGBC Bureau Members are underway).

6. Please provide the reference and if possible hyperlink to the relevant statutory documents, including General Conference Resolutions establishing the bodies and relevant Executive Board decisions

Executive Board Decision: 154 EX/Decision 8.4

(http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0011/001120/112019e.pdf#xml=http://www.unesco.org/ulis/cgi-bin/ulis.pl?database=extd&set=0058558DB0_3_348&hits_rec=186&hits_lng=eng)

FACT SHEET

QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE SECRETARIATS OF UNESCO'S INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

Statutes of the IBC: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001382/138292e.pdf>

Rules of Procedure of the IGBC: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0016/001631/163159e.pdf>



Distribution: limited

SHS/YES/IGBC-Ext/16/2
Paris, 27 September 2016
Original: English

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE IGBC
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 14 September 2016

FINAL REPORT

Rapporteur
Mr Charles Aeng Cheng Lim (Singapore)

Division of Ethics, Youth and Sport
Social and Human Sciences Sector

I. INTRODUCTION AND OPENING OF THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

1. An extraordinary session of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) was convened at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 14 September 2016. This session was organized specifically to discuss the Committee's follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor's "Report on the governance of UNESCO and dependant funds, programmes and entities" (Document 38 C/23), as requested by the President of the General Conference in his letter dated 6 April 2016 to the Chairs of all UNESCO's international and intergovernmental bodies.

2. The following 28 Member States of the IGBC were represented during this extraordinary session: Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, France, Finland, Germany, India, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Libya, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Oman, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, and Turkey.

3. The session was presided over by Mr Eugenijus Gefenas, Chairperson of the IGBC. The provisional agenda (see Annex 1) was adopted by the Committee during the opening of the extraordinary session without amendments.

II. FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR "REPORT ON THE GOVERNANCE OF UNESCO AND DEPENDANT FUNDS, PROGRAMMES AND ENTITIES" (DOCUMENT 38 C/23)

4. Mr Gefenas introduced this item by recalling the mandate of the IGBC, which is elaborated in Article 11 of the Statutes of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC). Specifically, he highlighted Article 11(2) which states:

The Intergovernmental Committee shall examine the advice and recommendations of the IBC, including those concerned with the follow-up of the Universal Declaration. The Intergovernmental Committee shall inform the IBC of its opinions. It shall submit its opinions to the Director-General for transmission, together with the advice and recommendations of the IBC, to the Member States, the Executive Board and the General Conference. It may transmit any proposals for the follow-up of the advice and recommendations of the IBC.

He also highlighted Article 11(7) which states:

Where the Intergovernmental Committee or the Director-General so decides, a Joint Session of the IBC and the Intergovernmental Committee, hereafter referred to as 'the Joint Session', shall be convened. The Joint Session shall foster dialogue between the IBC and the Intergovernmental Committee on matters of mutual concern. Without limiting the generality of such matters, they may include consideration of any proposals to:

- (a) amend the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights; or
- (b) adopt any further declaration or any other international instrument within the field of competence of the IBC.

5. Mr Gefenas then made a brief presentation of the recommendations contained in the External Auditor's report, pointing out that most of the recommendations, except for recommendations 3, 8 and 10 (iv), are addressed directly to UNESCO's General Conference, Executive Board, or Secretariat, and is not directly relevant to the function and work of the IGBC as outlined in its mandate.

Discussion on Recommendation 3

6. The Chairperson then turned to recommendation 3 which suggested, *inter alia*, that the General Conference ensure the adoption of a guide to best practices to accelerate the shortening

of sessions; group meetings together; make biennial meetings quadrennial; make more use of teleconferences; convene essential meetings only and finance them through the regular budget; reduce the number of meeting participants; shorten agendas by prioritizing and delegating minor decisions; increase the delegation authority to the bureau; and simplify and improve the dissemination of results.

7. Mr Gefenas underlined that several measures along these lines have already been taken by the IBC, the IGBC and the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) over the past few years, and which were highlighted in the External Auditor's report as encouraging efforts. In particular, steps were taken to consolidate the Secretariat of the IBC, the IGBC and COMEST since 2014, which have resulted in a 28% reduction of staff cost. Furthermore, the working methods of the three bodies have also been restructured to achieve better synergy, and to enable sessions to be combined whenever feasible; this has resulted in a 26% reduction of interpretation cost. During the discussion on this recommendation, several Member States took the floor to acknowledge the Secretariat's proactive work in this regard, and urged the Secretariat to continue to improve the efficiency and collaboration among the three bodies.

8. In terms of accelerating the shortening of sessions, it was pointed out that the first ordinary session of the IGBC in 1999 took place over 5 days, and this has been reduced to around 2 days since its third ordinary session, to about 1.5 days in recent years. Furthermore, the joint sessions of the IBC and the IGBC were previously held back-to-back with the public sessions of the IBC, and would usually be held over 3 to 3.5 days. Since 2014, the joint sessions of the IBC and the IGBC have now been combined with the public sessions of the IBC, with an overall reduction to around 1.5 to 2 days of meetings. During the discussion on this recommendation, a number of speakers emphasized the necessity to ensure sufficient time for more in-depth exchanges on the IBC's reports. It was suggested that the reduction in the length of meetings already in place is not ideal for this purpose, and further reduction would not be desirable.

9. With regards to making annual meetings biennial, it was pointed out that this would significantly and adversely impact the pace of work of both the IGBC and the IBC, and would not be practicable in terms of producing timely policy advice for emerging and rapidly developing bioethical risks, especially considering that the time spent in meetings is already minimal. Concerning the use of teleconferences in the work of the IGBC (in both ordinary sessions and joint sessions with the IBC), it was indicated that this would be a technically complicated and possibly impracticable option considering the number of participants (36 representatives) across different time zones, the need to ensure interpretation into the 6 official languages of UNESCO, and the fact that topics discussed by the IGBC can lead to animated debates. It was also asserted that since the purpose of these meetings is to allow the IGBC and the IBC to engage in a fluid and active dialogue, which is the essence of bioethical reflection, this option could also hamper the work of both Committees. In terms of reducing the number of participants in IGBC meetings, it was emphasized that the number of participants is already based on the 36 Member States represented on the Committee. It was further underlined that only essential meetings funded through the regular budget are convened.

10. In terms of shortening agendas by prioritizing and delegating minor decisions, it was pointed out that since its second ordinary session, the number of agenda items for IGBC's ordinary sessions has been gradually reduced from 13 items to around 8 or 9 items. As for the number of agenda items for the joint sessions of the IBC and the IGBC, this has already been kept to a minimum of around 6 or 7 items. Furthermore, under the new working methods implemented since 2014, agenda items common to both the joint sessions of the IBC and the IGBC and the ordinary sessions of the IBC are now discussed at the same time, thus removing redundancies in discussion on these items. It was also pointed out that under Rule 4.2 of the

IGBC's Rules of Procedure, minor decisions such as setting the date, time and agenda of meetings, and other related decisions for the smooth functioning of the Committee, have already been delegated to the Chairperson and the Bureau. In addition, the Bureau, assisted by the Secretariat, is also responsible for preparing the draft conclusions of each ordinary session, which are then presented to the entire Committee at the end of each session for adoption.

11. With regards to the simplification and improvement of the dissemination of results, it was highlighted that the conclusions of the ordinary sessions are made available online immediately after each session, and are transmitted to the General Conference through a REP document.

Discussion on Recommendation 8

12. The Committee then examined recommendation 8 which has four parts. Regarding recommendation 8(i) on the introduction of a screening system for individual candidates for the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair of governing bodies, based on robust and transparent criteria of competence, the Chairperson suggested that if the IGBC so desires, the Bureau could be tasked with preparing a guideline of required or desired expertise for future Bureau candidates as a reference for IGBC Member States. However, it was pointed out that implementing a screening system for candidates would raise an important question on whether this would be desirable, and who would be authorized to conduct the screening. Furthermore, it was noted that such a system might mean that Bureau elections can no longer take place within the framework of the General Conference, immediately after the election of new Member States to the IGBC. In such a case, in order to meet Rule 3.2 of its Rules of Procedure, Bureau elections will have to be held after the General Conference once the screening of candidates has been completed. The implementation of a screening system would also probably incur additional cost.

13. Concerning recommendation 8(ii), which proposed the adoption of a resolution to limit the total length of consecutive terms of office (e.g. four years) for the same delegate in a governing body in order for the delegates to gain sufficient experience, while the bodies can at the same time be periodically renewed, Mr Gefenas pointed out that Rule 3.4 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure already establishes a term limit of two consecutive terms (4 years in total) for Bureau members. With regards to establishing a term limit for members of the Committee, it was pointed out that this currently does not exist, and would fall under the authority of the General Conference.

14. Regarding recommendation 8(iii), which suggested that Member States candidates for a seat on a governing body undertake to nominate a full member or alternate with sufficient experience in that body's field, the Chairperson pointed out that this should be a decision taken by each Member State respectively, and that the guideline that is proposed for recommendation 8(i) could be used for a reference in this case as well.

15. On the proposed response to recommendations 8(i) and 8(iii), several representatives took the floor to express their concern over an expertise requirement, and stressed that the choice of representatives is part of the Member States' prerogative. Since candidates for the Bureau and the Committee are Member States, the right and decision of Member States to name their representatives as they see fit should be respected. Furthermore, it was asserted that Member States should be trusted to make their own decisions when electing the Bureau. With regards to the expertise of representatives on the Committee, several speakers stressed that it would be counterproductive to ask Member States to limit their choice of representatives to experts in bioethics, stressing that the IGBC is an intergovernmental body and not an expert body. According to some Member States, the decision-making process regarding bioethics should not be restricted to experts in order to protect the democratic nature of the Committee. It was pointed out that in a democracy, decision making needs to be informed by experts and expert committees, but decisions are not necessarily taken by them. Furthermore, several participants stated that it would be complicated to define in practice what kind of expertise is required and to find the right

candidates for the Committee. Some representatives expressed concern that, considering the variety of topics covered by the Committee, this would force them to change representatives too often, depending on their expertise.

16. However, some representatives also indicated their understanding for a need to ensure that Member States appoint individuals with the experience and knowledge to comprehend the topics covered by the Committee. It was pointed out that the Committee should not shy away from asking Member States to choose representatives who are able to participate actively and thoughtfully in bioethical debates. Several speakers also highlighted that since the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights in 2005, Member States have usually chosen representatives with profiles matching the areas covered by the Declaration, which has positively influenced the substance and seriousness of the Committee's work. That being said, several speakers indicated that any proposal to define the criteria for "expertise" for the Bureau or for the Committee should instead be replaced with defining the criteria for "experience", and that these criteria should not be considered as "required" but rather "preferred".

17. The Chairperson and the Secretariat clarified that any proposal to draft a set of preferred experience would of course need to ensure and respect the sovereignty and prerogative of Member States to select their own representatives. It was emphasized that any such proposal should not result in imposing a particular profile for Member States' representatives, but should rather, establish a self-screening guideline that could be used by Member States when nominating candidates for the Committee or the Bureau. This guideline would also describe the work of the Committee, including its tasks and likely topics, in order to assist Member States with appointing suitable representatives on the IGBC. Therefore, the guideline should be designed to encourage and guide Member States in their own self-screening processes, while they remain entirely free to appoint who they wish. As such, the Bureau would work on preparing such a draft guideline to be presented to and discussed by the IGBC during its next ordinary session in 2017.

18. Regarding recommendation 8(iv) on introducing mandatory training for the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair of a governing body, tailored to the experience of the new officers, the Chairperson posed the question of what type of training is needed. In addition, it was underlined that such a training could incur additional cost. Although there was no opposition expressed by speakers on this recommendation, the Committee did not discuss the exact type of training that would be necessary. Since the Bureau has been given the responsibility to reflect on and respond to the recommendations, this point will be further discussed between the Secretariat and the Bureau.

Discussion on Recommendation 10(iv)

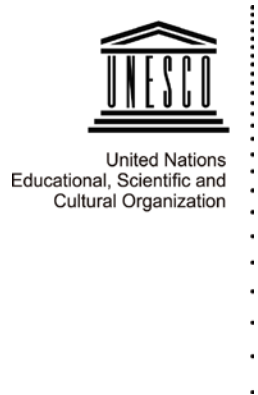
19. The Chairperson then turned to recommendation 10(iv) on putting in place a public declaration of interest arrangements for experts assisting governing bodies. Mr Gefenas raised the question of whether this would be necessary for representatives of IGBC Member States, and if so, that perhaps it would be better to follow a common arrangement to be implemented for all of UNESCO's governing bodies.

20. Most speakers who took the floor questioned the need for such an arrangement for representatives of Member States on the Committee. It was underlined that such a public declaration of interest might be applicable for experts assisting governing bodies, but since representatives on the IGBC are participating as representatives of Member States and not in their capacity as independent experts, such a declaration should not apply to them. It was asserted that representatives are expected to represent the political and local interests of their respective Member States. Therefore, it was observed that such a declaration might be more applicable for IBC members than for IGBC representatives.

21. However, a few speakers argued that there might still be situations in which IGBC representatives could have a conflict of interest, and that the Committee should refer to existing UNESCO practice in this regard. The Secretariat clarified that there is currently no Organization-wide public declaration of interest arrangement for experts or representatives in either advisory or intergovernmental bodies, which is why the external auditor has recommended that this be established. The Secretariat also informed the IGBC that the IBC and COMEST are in favour of a public declaration of interest for their respective members since they are participating in their capacity as independent experts.

22. On this recommendation, the Chairperson concluded from the discussion that there was no consensus on the necessity of a public declaration of interest arrangement for Member State representatives on the IGBC. In this regard, some speakers suggested that the transparency in the work of the Committee could be improved by providing a list of the names of IGBC delegates and their institutional affiliation. The Secretariat indicated that it could prepare such a list, but reminded participants that Member States sometimes change their representatives from one meeting to the next. The Chairperson concluded that there was consensus on establishing such a list, and that this should be made available in the future.

ANNEX 1



Distribution: limited

SHS/YES/IGBC-Ext/16/1
Paris, 13 May 2016
Original: English/French

**EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL BIOETHICS COMMITTEE (IGBC)**
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 14 September 2016

Provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the Extraordinary Session
2. Follow-up to the Recommendations of the External Auditor's "Report on the governance of UNESCO and dependant funds, programmes and entities" (Document 38 C/23)
3. Conclusions and closure of the Extraordinary Session