



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

H.E. Mrs Zohour Alaoui
President of the General
Conference of UNESCO

2 September 2019

Ref.: SHS/BIO/2019/046

Your Excellency,

Referring to your letter (ref. GBS/SCG/18/045-C) of 22 November 2018, I'm pleased to report that efforts have been made by the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC), with the support of the Secretariat, to ensure effective follow-up to the recommendations of the open-ended Working Group on governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO, as relevant to the mandate, function and context of the IGBC.

In this regard, a detailed analysis of the implementation status of the recommendations was prepared by the Secretariat and transmitted to IGBC Member States for further written feedback and suggestions in January 2019. The results of this written consultation provided a basis for further discussion during the 11th (Ordinary) Session of the IGBC in June 2019.

From that discussion, recommendations 56, 58, 60 to 64, 66 to 68, 70, 72, 73, 75, 78 to 81, and 86(a) were deemed to have been implemented. For these recommendations, the Secretariat have also taken note of additional suggestions provided and will explore their feasibility for further action.

Recommendations 69, 74 and 76 were deemed as ongoing and are expected to be implemented by the end of 2020.

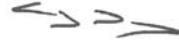
Recommendations 65 and 77 were also considered non applicable in the context of the IGBC.

Furthermore, it was noted that not all IGBC Member States were ready to decide on a number of recommendations, specifically 57, 59, 71 and 86(b), as well as the proposal for recommendation 58 concerning a possible exception for the term limit of the Chairperson. As such, IGBC Member States have requested for more time to discuss these remaining recommendations. The Committee also requested the Bureau and the Secretariat to facilitate informal consultations and discussions among IGBC Member States for possible decision at the next session of the IGBC.

I'm attaching in Annex 1 the detailed analysis of the implementation status of each recommendations for the IGBC, together with responses from the written consultation, as well as the outcome of the 11th (Ordinary) Session of the IGBC whenever appropriate. I'm also attaching in Annex 2 the text from the conclusions of the Committee's 11th (Ordinary) Session relevant to the governance recommendations.

I look forward to presenting the status of the IGBC's implementation of the governance recommendations during the meeting on 30 September 2019.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Christian Byk
Chairperson of the IGBC

Encl. 2

ANNEX 1: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON GOVERNANCE, PROCEDURES AND WORKING METHODS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF UNESCO

PART 2. STRUCTURE, COMPOSITION AND METHODS OF WORK OF UNESCO’S INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES (IIBS)

ANALYSIS OF IMPLEMENTATION STATUS FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL BIOETHICS COMMITTEE (IGBC)

General Recommendations for all International and Intergovernmental Bodies	Implementation Status	Responses from written consultation of IGBC Member States
Efficiency (mandate, composition, structure, rules of procedure, methods of work)		
<p>56. IIBs are invited to update their mandates, as appropriate, including their objectives and programs to be more coherent with approved C/5 priorities and responsive to current global developments, such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENTED</p> <p>The mandate of the IGBC as outlined in Article 11.2 of the Statutes of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) states that:</p> <p>Article 11 – Intergovernmental Committee 11.2 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.</p> <p>Since the mandate of the IGBC is linked to the work of the IBC, it is therefore important to take note of the mandate of the IBC as outlined in Article 2 of the Statutes of the IBC:</p> <p>Article 2 – Functions 1. The Committee shall have the following functions: (a) it shall promote reflection on the ethical and legal issues raised by research in the life sciences and their</p>	<p>Algeria: It might be interesting to strengthen the composition of IGBC members with resources and people who can interact with the various functions of the IBC, as well as contribute to targeted awareness-raising actions for the promotion of culture and norms in bioethics and the ethics of science and technology. Similarly, this strengthening can help better communicate ideas and debates on ethical issues related to various international programmes, e.g. climate change, emanating from the national bodies concerned working in the field of bioethics, if they exist, and if necessary contribute to its implementation.</p> <p>Colombia: Taking into account the extent of the scientific disciplines whose research has implications for life, and their conditions, it would be desirable to include ethical research considerations for all scientific disciplines. The idea being that there is no research or discipline that does not have an impact on life. In Colombia, we are consulting researchers from all disciplines in an effort to identify conflicts and ethical</p>

	<p>applications, as well as encourage the exchange of ideas and information, particularly through education;</p> <p>(b) it shall encourage action to heighten awareness among the general public, specialized groups and public and private decision-makers involved in bioethics;</p> <p>(c) it shall co-operate with the international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned by the issues raised in the field of bioethics as well as with the national and regional bioethics committees and similar bodies;</p> <p>(d) in accordance with Article 24 of the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights, hereafter referred to as 'the Declaration':</p> <p>(i) it shall contribute to the dissemination of the principles set out in the Declaration and to the further examination of issues raised by their applications and by the evolution of the technologies in question;</p> <p>(ii) it shall organize appropriate consultations with parties concerned, such as vulnerable groups;</p> <p>(iii) it shall make recommendations, in accordance with UNESCO's statutory procedures, addressed to the General Conference and give advice concerning the follow-up of the Declaration, and it shall identify practices that could be contrary to human dignity.</p> <p>2. The IBC shall determine its programme of work which shall be made public. The IBC shall include in that programme any item so requested by the Director-General or the Executive Board. It shall take into account the views of the Intergovernmental Committee, hereafter provided under Article 11, concerning its programme.</p> <p>Note: In summary, the IGBC and the IBC pursue the following objectives in their respective functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to keep abreast of progress in genetics, whilst at the same time taking care to ensure respect for the values of human dignity and freedom in view of the potential risks of irresponsible attitudes in biomedical research; • to promote reflection on the ethical and legal issues raised by research in the life sciences and their 	<p>dilemmas not yet addressed by the life sciences and bioethics. This could be a function of COMEST.</p> <p>France: IBC and COMEST should take the dimension of sustainable development and climate change into account in their reports and advice. In addition, it would be appropriate for the two committees to develop complementary work on topics such as health, food technologies and sustainable development or the prevention of technological and health disasters related to climate change. If necessary, these two committees should share their analyses with other internal UNESCO committees.</p>
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applications;

- to encourage action to heighten awareness among the general public, specialized groups and public and private decision-makers involved in bioethics.

Furthermore, in addition to its role set out in Article 11.2 of the [Statutes of the IBC](#), the IGBC can take the initiative to open a dialogue with the latter on matters of common interest, including adopting new or amending existing international instruments of UNESCO in the field of bioethics (Article 11.7). The IGBC Chair is also an ex-officio member of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST). In general, the IGBC contributes, together with the IBC and COMEST, to improving UNESCO's governance role and functioning in the field of bioethics and ethics of science and technology.

The mandates of the IGBC and the IBC cover the [Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights](#) (1997), the [International Declaration on Human Genetic Data](#) (2003), and the [Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights](#) (2005) upon the adoption of the latter two Declarations (as stipulated in Article 25 of these two Declarations).

The mandates of the IGBC and the IBC are also aligned with:

- [UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy for 2014-2021](#) (37 C/4)
 - **Strategic Objective 6:** Supporting inclusive social development, fostering intercultural dialogue for the rapprochement of cultures and promoting ethical principles
- [UNESCO's Programme and Budget for 2018-2019](#) (39 C/5)
 - **Major Programme III, MLA 1:** Mobilizing knowledge and embedding rights and ethics to foster and achieve social inclusion and equitable societies

France: COMEST and the IBC should be invited to propose such provisions in their reports and opinions. In particular, they should promote analyses focusing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ER 1: Public policy-making in Member States strengthened, based on scientific evidence, humanities-based knowledge, ethics and human rights frameworks • ER 2: National institutional and human capacities strengthened at all levels to generate, manage and apply knowledge for inclusive, equitable development that is based on ethical values and human rights • Major Programme III, MLA 2: Fostering intercultural dialogue and engaging young women and men for peaceful and participatory societies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ER 4: Member States' commitments to the global agendas in favour of inclusive, sustainable and peaceful societies demonstrated through targeted advocacy campaigns and awareness-raising initiatives <p>Furthermore, as indicated in the 39 C/5, the work related to promoting ethical norms and standards has also been linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically SDGs 3, 5, 13, 16 and 17.</p> <p>Observation: The mandates of the IBC and the IGBC provide the necessary flexibility for the two bodies to examine and address emerging issues related to bioethics, taking into consideration developing situations and priorities at the international level.</p>	<p>on the cultural and social dimension of health and scientific and technological development by identifying ethical principles for intercultural dialogue on the challenges in bioethics and ethics of science.</p>
<p>57. To promote diversity and inclusivity, voluntary term-limits of two consecutive mandates are recommended for IIBs which currently do not have term limitations for membership.</p>	<p>UNDER CONSIDERATION</p> <p>Article 11.3 of the Statutes of the IBC states that:</p> <p>Article 11 – Intergovernmental Committee</p> <p>11.3 (...) When electing the members of the Intergovernmental Committee, the General Conference shall take into account cultural diversity, balanced geographical representation and <u>the need to ensure appropriate</u></p>	<p>Algeria: It would be preferable for IGBC members to be elected for 2 consecutive terms and on a voluntary basis. Of course, the limitation of the number of mandates to two on a voluntary basis should not be restricted in order to respect cultural diversity and equitable geographic distribution.</p>

rotation. (emphasis added)

Observation: The phrase “the need to ensure appropriate rotation” in Article 11.3 above seems to imply that Member States should observe some form of voluntary term-limit, but this is not explicitly stated.

Outcome of the 11th Session of the IGBC:

- Not all IGBC Member States are ready to take a decision. More time is requested by IGBC Member States for consideration.
- The Bureau and the Secretariat will facilitate informal consultations and discussions among IGBC Member States for possible decision at the next session of the IGBC.

Colombia:

- We are in favour of limiting it to two consecutive terms.
- Also to ensure that the decision is adopted for all IGBCs.
- And, on the basis of the members of IGBC.

Finland: In favour of limiting membership to two consecutive terms. In favour of adopting term limits to all intergovernmental committees. Term limits should be implemented on a voluntary basis.

France: Periodic informational meetings could be organized by the Secretariat and/or members of the IGBC on specific topics concerning the progress of UNESCO’s work. The IGBC could also hear experts from Member States in order to allow an exchange between them and the representatives of the States within the Permanent Delegations. It seems appropriate to promote a rotation of States in all intergovernmental committees, but in proposing candidates, each regional group should be aware that this participation requires a real commitment from the State. Therefore, it seems preferable not to impose a time limited.

Hungary: Yes, limiting the membership of a State on the IGBC to two consecutive terms is preferable, and this rule should be adopted for all intergovernmental committees. This term limit should be implemented on a mandatory basis.

		<p>Kenya:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We agree with the recommendation that there should be limits.• The limits should apply across the board to all IIBs.• The limits should be mandatory to keep them uniform. However, where there is genuinely no other ready state to take up membership at the time of the mandatory change, the Committee can make an appropriate decision. This should not override responsibility of the Secretariat to ensure even distribution of members across the world and inclusion of all in UNESCO activities. <p>Oman:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are in favor of limiting the members of a state on IGBC for two consecutive terms.• Yes, we think that this limit must necessarily be adopted for all intergovernmental committees.• This limit should be implemented on a voluntary basis. <p>Republic of Korea: Agree with the proposal. However, the current phrase “the need to ensure appropriate rotation” is enough. It is necessary to consider the specificity of the committee, and expertise and continuity are also important principles.</p> <p>Russian Federation: The membership of a State should not be limited to two consecutive terms.</p> <p>Uruguay: Uruguay is in favor of limiting</p>
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		the membership of a State on the IGBC to two consecutive terms. This limit must be adopted for all intergovernmental committees and be implemented on a mandatory basis.
58. As a general rule, term-limits of two consecutive mandates for membership in all Bureaus are recommended.	<p>IMPLEMENTED</p> <p>Rule 3.4 of the Rules of Procedure of the IGBC states that:</p> <p>Rule 3 – Elections 3.4 Members of the Bureau shall be eligible for election for a second consecutive term.</p> <p>Observation: The application of Rule 3.4 limits the term of office for Bureau members to two consecutive terms, regardless of the position being occupied.</p> <p>Outcome of the 11th Session of the IGBC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all IGBC Member States are ready to take a decision on the proposal by France. More time is requested by IGBC Member States for consideration. • The Bureau and the Secretariat will facilitate informal consultations and discussions among IGBC Member States for possible decision at the next session of the IGBC. 	<p>France: It might be appropriate to make an exception (for one additional mandate) for the renewal of a Chairperson who would have taken up this position only once during his/her four years on the Bureau. Experience shows that the chairpersons of the committees play an important role in UNESCO's work.</p> <p>Kenya: This is fine but may be as we recommend in 57 above where appropriate decisions can be made.</p>
59. For cost-saving, coherence and harmonization, it is recommended that IIBs and the General Conference consider "right-sizing" the composition of the IIBs.	<p>UNDER CONSIDERATION</p> <p>Article 11.3 of the Statutes of the IBC states that:</p> <p>Article 11 – Intergovernmental Committee 11.3 The Intergovernmental Committee shall be composed of 36 representatives of the Member States elected by the General Conference. (...)</p> <p>Outcome of the 11th Session of the IGBC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all IGBC Member States are ready to take a decision. More time is requested by IGBC Member 	<p>Algeria: The readjustment of the composition of IIBs should not be at the expense of the principle of respect for cultural diversity and equitable geographic distribution.</p> <p>Colombia: The number of IGBC seats should be decided according to the themes and priorities defined within UNESCO for each period.</p> <p>Finland: The number of seats should be seen in relation to the nature of committees and their workload. IGBC</p>

	<p>States for consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Bureau and the Secretariat will facilitate informal consultations and discussions among IGBC Member States for possible decision at the next session of the IGBC.	<p>and IBC have both 36 members and COMEST 18. However, the character of IBC and COMEST are very much alike as they are experts committees and they have rather heavy workload discussing on topical new issues and preparing documents. IGBC is a governmental committee and it mainly comments and takes decision on documents prepared already by expert committees. Therefore, its workload is lighter, or at least it is different. It would be reasonable to think that IBC and COMEST could have the same number of members. Taking into account the recommendation number 59 by the Working Group on the Governance, procedures, and working methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO in 2017 says "For cost saving, coherence and harmonization, it is recommended that IIBs and the General Conference consider "right-sizing" the composition of the IIBs" it could be wise to harmonize the number closer to number 18 than 36. Furthermore, compared to other intergovernmental committees that are based on UNESCO conventions (like World Heritage Convention with a committee of 21 Member States and 1954 Convention with a committee of 12 Member States) the IGBC is remarkably large at the moment with 36 seats. On the other hand, there is no Convention behind the IGBC to encourage all Member States, including those outside the IGBC, to work on questions related to bioethics. The ample number of Member States in the committee guarantees therefore a better participation in the discussions and</p>
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		<p>dissemination of information on topical themes in bioethics. Despite of this, a number of seats closer 20 than 30 could be recommendable. At the same time, it is important to underline that Member States participate in the meetings always with relevant expertise. In general, the main tendency should be to harmonize the number of seats of all UNESCO committees in certain groups according to their nature (expert committee or governmental, based on Convention or not).</p> <p>France: 6 regions and 6 members per region, this seems balanced.</p> <p>Kenya: We do not find it necessary to change the number at the moment. We agree with the recommendation as it is.</p> <p>Oman: We feel that there is no need to adjust the number of IGBC seats. 36 is the appropriate number.</p> <p>Republic of Korea: Agree to adjust the number of seats and suggest that the appropriate number be determined by further discussion.</p> <p>Russian Federation: 36 representatives.</p> <p>Uruguay: Uruguay is in favor maintaining the actual number of seats on the IGBC: 36 members.</p>
<p>60. There is a need to reduce and manage politicization of nominations and decisions.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENTED</p> <p>As indicated in Article 11.2 of the Statutes of the IBC:</p> <p>Article 11 – Intergovernmental Committee</p>	<p>Algeria: Consensus decisions that are least politicized are most appropriate for IIBs. However, for certain IIBs, e.g. the IGBC, and countries where religion is constitutionalized, decisions may be</p>

	<p>11.2 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.</p> <p>Observation: Within this context, the IGBC has always functioned based on consensus, incorporating the various perspectives of IGBC Member States and of observers at IGBC ordinary sessions into the Committee's opinions and proposals, as contained in a conclusions document after each of its ordinary session (e.g. conclusions of the 9th IGBC Session and conclusions of the 10th IGBC Session).</p>	<p>difficult to reach by consensus.</p> <p>France: It is important that the broadest points of view be reported during the work of the IGBC. This is essential to ensure the political achievement of the work in progress, and to ensure that everyone can have full knowledge of the arguments and proposals made.</p> <p>Kenya: This is fine.</p>
<p>61. To enhance visibility and the effectiveness of the work of the IIBs, more effective information-dissemination is recommended through updating and enhancement of websites and outreach to all involved actors, including Member States and their National Commissions.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the IGBC, Member States, Associate Members, non-Member States with a permanent observer mission, the United Nations, other organizations of the UN system, international governmental and non-governmental organizations are invited to attend IGBC sessions. • Furthermore, in accordance to Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the IGBC, the ordinary sessions of the IGBC are open to the public. • Information regarding each IGBC session and related working documents and conclusions document are made available on the website for the session (e.g. website of the 9th IGBC Session). • From 2019, the Secretariat will be establishing the practice of transmitting the conclusions document of each IGBC session to IGBC Member States and National Commissions after the session via email. 	<p>Algeria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the dissemination of information and communication by Member States to national commissions and bodies through, for example, the designation of national focal points which would be responsible for transmitting and disseminating, <i>inter alia</i>, documents of conclusions, decisions, etc. of IIBs. • Establishment of national and/or regional forums that share the same culture and/or geographical distribution. <p>Colombia: Articulate the implementation of decisions with the work of the National Bioethics Councils/Committees of the countries that have one.</p>

- The outcomes of the work of the IBC, the IGBC and COMEST are also shared with UNESCO field offices, national and regional partners, UNESCO Chairs in Bioethics, and UN agencies and other intergovernmental organizations working in the area of bioethics and ethics of science (including but not only through the [UN Interagency Committee on Bioethics](#)).
- Press items are also prepared on the outcomes of the work of the IGBC and the IBC, as appropriate (e.g. [press item on Ebola statement](#)).
- In the recent joint public meeting of the IBC, the IGBC and COMEST in September 2018, the Chairperson of the IGBC also presented a number of [proposals to strengthen the cooperation between the three bodies](#). One of the objectives of these proposals is to promote the dissemination of the work of the three bodies.

France: This is an essential initiative for which the Secretariat should be thanked as it adds to its remit.

France: It is also very important to ensure the full dissemination of UNESCO's work and facilitate cooperation, bearing in mind, moreover, that UNESCO is responsible for the UN Interagency Committee on Bioethics.

France: France supports these proposals and hopes that they will gradually be implemented between now and the end of 2021.

Finland: The common meetings between IGBC, IBC and COMEST have been fruitful in the sense of exchanging information and enhancing visibility of the committees. The IGBC could even have an active role in disseminating information on its work. Getting Member States interested and active in disseminating information on the work and decisions of the IGBC is crucial.

Kenya: The activities are commendable and should continue. We can, funding being available, organize extra activities in the various regions where the Committees would focus on specific matters that are of major interest in the region and have discussions and media events. These should be issues related to the theme IGBC and IBC are discussing at any given time.

Republic of Korea: Request that the Secretariat send a circular letter and/or email to UNESCO permanent delegations and National Commissions

		<p>for UNESCO as soon as each report is launched. This will help Member States better understand the work of the IIBs and will encourage their participation.</p> <p>Russian Federation: To enhance the role of National bioethics committee, to publish national Journal about UNESCO bioethics activities in national language</p> <p>Uruguay: The following initiatives are recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The realization of videos about the work of the promotional IIBs that can be uploaded to the web. • A fixed space on the web to upload audiovisual resources • Use of social networks: Twitter, Facebook, etc. • Videoconferences with specialized or linked public
<p>62. Earlier preparation and dissemination of draft agendas and preliminary timetables, mainly by using the same template containing hyper-links to documents to be adopted/discussed in sessions.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current practice of the Secretariat is to transmit the provisional agenda and timetable of each IGBC session (after consultation with the IGBC Bureau) and of each IGBC-IBC joint session (after consultation with the Chairpersons of the IGBC and the IBC) approximately 60 days prior to the meeting, whenever possible. • At this stage, hyperlinks have not been included in the provisional agendas and timetables of the sessions since documentation for the meetings are usually not fragmented, and the number of items are normally very manageable. Some examples are as follow: agenda of the 10th IGBC Session; timetable of the 10th IGBC Session; agenda of the recent joint IBC-IGBC session; timetable of the recent joint IBC-IGBC-COMEST public meetings. • Documents are also made available on the sessions' website as soon as they are ready (e.g. website of the joint 	<p>Algeria: To better facilitate access and follow-up, it would be better to include hyperlinks in the provisional agendas and calendars of future sessions.</p> <p>Colombia: It is not necessary but it is desirable to reduce the use of paper and make communication more timely, for example.</p> <p>Finland: Hyperlinks are useful when used with consideration. The hyperlinks should always lead to a precise site or document directly and not to any far too general gateway or search engine. As to the pages of document center of UNESCO, they should function as smoothly as possible and documents should be accessible easily. At the moment it is not always the case.</p>

[IBC-IGBC-COMEST public meetings](#)).

- The Secretariat could also include hyperlinks in the provisional agendas and timetables for future sessions if this is preferred by IGBC Member States. It should be noted that hyperlinks would be added only when documents are ready (due to the time needed to finalize translation of documents in English and French, this is usually 30 to 45 days and not 60 days prior to the meeting when the provisional agendas and timetables are first transmitted). This means that the provisional agendas and timetables would have to be updated on the website of the meeting accordingly, requiring the Secretariat to devote some additional time for this process.

Outcome of the 11th Session of the IGBC:

- Based on the discussion at the 11th Session of the IGBC, the Secretariat will introduce hyperlinks in the draft agendas and timetables as appropriate.

France: It would be a good idea to allow States on certain key points of the committees' work to have a sort of provisional two-year timetable with, if possible, milestone dates for obtaining the opinions of Member States.

Hungary: No, hyperlinks of provisional agendas are not necessary.

Kenya: It is indeed necessary to include hyperlinks to the agenda for ease of access and better preparation for members.

France: This should be done for essential documents to prevent the text from becoming unreadable.

Oman: We do not think it is necessary to include hyperlinks in the provisional agendas and timetables of the meeting.

Republic of Korea: Agree that hyperlinks should be included in the provisional agendas and timetables of the meetings.

Russian Federation: It is reasonable to include hyperlinks in the provisional agendas and timetables of the meetings.

Uruguay: Uruguay is in favor of include hyperlinks in the provisional agendas and timetables for future session. In addition, Uruguay is in favor of a special effort about translation of documents to improve the time of the effective inclusion of the documents in the hyperlinks.

<p>63. The Secretariat is invited to promote a harmonized virtual working environment for all IIBs and to revisit UNESCO's "Strategy on Knowledge Management and Information & Communication Technology". Simple, more user-friendly documentation (i.e. less fragmented reporting and easier document tracking; annotated agenda with hyper-links to reports and draft decisions).</p>	<p>IMPLEMENTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each IGBC session and each joint IGBC-IBC-COMEST session has a dedicated website, on which documents for the respective meetings are made available (e.g. website of the joint IBC-IGBC-COMEST public meetings) 	<p>Algeria: The implementation of this recommendation, in particular the annotation of the agenda with hyperlinks, would improve access to and use of information on the websites of IIBs.</p> <p>Finland: All committee pages should be harmonized so that their layout and logic is the same with all relevant meeting documents available, and previous resolutions and other necessary links clearly put forward. Statutes and composition of the committees need also to be found easily.</p> <p>France: This is an excellent idea. Exchange of information between the members of the two committees should be enabled (e.g., a State disseminates its new law or a report corresponding to the theme of the IBC's work).</p> <p>Kenya: The website is sufficient for incoming members.</p> <p>Russian Federation: It is enough to provide program and documents for discussion on websites for future sessions.</p>
<p>64. Open-ended informal consultations on draft decisions to promote inclusive and effective decision-making.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the IGBC, Member States, Associate Members, non-Member States with a permanent observer mission, the United Nations, other organizations of the UN system, international governmental and non-governmental organizations are invited to attend IGBC sessions. • Furthermore, in accordance to Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the IGBC, the ordinary sessions of the IGBC 	<p>Kenya: This is fine.</p>

	<p>are open to the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moreover, in accordance with Article 11.2 of the Statutes of the IBC, the mandate of the IGBC is to formulate opinions and proposals on the advice and recommendations of the IBC. • These opinions and proposals are contained in a conclusions document after each of its ordinary session. A draft of the conclusions document is prepared during the session (by the Secretariat and the Bureau), incorporating the various perspectives of IGBC Member States and of observers expressed during the meeting. The draft document is then discussed by the IGBC as the last substantive item of the ordinary session, with the participation of observers, before being adopted by the Committee. 	<p>France: Essential points of orientation should be underlined so that the IBC can understand in a readable and clear manner the position of the IGBC at key moments of the IBC's work.</p>
<p>65. It is recommended that the Rules of Procedure of the IIBs be amended, when relevant, to advance the deadline for submission of candidatures to their subsidiary bodies from 48 hours to seven days before elections.</p>	<p>NON APPLICABLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IGBC does not form subsidiary bodies. 	
<p>Harmonization (role of Bureaus, transparency)</p>		
<p>66. The role, composition and procedures of Bureaus and their members should be clarified and harmonized through codification in rules of procedure/ statutes or development of general guidelines for all IIBs, in close cooperation with the Secretariat.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENTED</p> <p>Rules 4 and 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the IGBC state that:</p> <p>Rule 4 – Bureau</p> <p>4.1 The Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee shall be composed of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairpersons and the Rapporteur and of the Secretary-General of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC).</p> <p>4.2 The Bureau shall be responsible for coordinating the work of the Intergovernmental Committee, setting the date, time and agenda of meetings and in general for assisting the Chairperson in carrying out his/her duties.</p>	<p>Kenya: This is fine.</p>

	<p>Rule 5 – Duties of the Chairperson</p> <p>5.1 In addition to exercising the powers which are conferred upon him/her elsewhere by these rules, the Chairperson shall declare the opening and closure of each meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee. He/she shall direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. He/she shall rule on points of order and, subject to the present rules, shall control the proceedings and the maintenance of order. He/she shall not vote, but may designate a member of his/her delegation to vote in his/her place.</p> <p>5.2 If the Chairperson is absent during a meeting or any part thereof, he/she shall appoint one of the Vice-Chairpersons to take his/her place, who, sitting as Chairperson, shall have the same powers and responsibilities as the Chairperson.</p>	
<p>67. It is suggested that Bureaus' composition be set, as much as compatible with individual IIBs' mandates, at a maximum of six members (Chair, Rapporteur, and four Vice-Presidents from the six Electoral Groups).</p>	<p>IMPLEMENTED</p> <p>Rule 3.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the IGBC states that:</p> <p>Rule 3 – Elections</p> <p>3.1 The Intergovernmental Committee shall elect from among its members a Chairperson, four Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical representation.</p> <p>Note: There is a translation error of Article 3.1 in the French version of the Rules of Procedure of the IGBC, which should state “four Vice-Chairpersons” instead of “two Vice-Chairpersons”. The Secretariat is in the process of correcting this error accordingly.</p>	<p>Kenya: We should get the correct number of members and implement as agreed.</p>
<p>68. The intergovernmental nature of Bureaus should be reaffirmed while maintaining expert engagement. In this regard, the attached guidelines on responsibilities of Bureau members are</p>	<p>IMPLEMENTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 2 of the Recommendations is transmitted to all IGBC Member States as an Annex of this document. • Appendix 2 will also be annexed to the Briefing Note on the 	

<p>recommended for dissemination to all Governing Bodies and IIBs (appendix 2).</p>	<p>IGBC approved by the IGBC in June 2017. The updated version of the Briefing Note will be presented to the 11th Ordinary Session of the IGBC for final approval.</p>	
<p>69. Documents related to Bureau meetings should appear online before meetings take place; outcomes, including reports of Bureau meetings, should be communicated to all members, and as appropriate, all Permanent Delegations, in a timely manner.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IGBC Bureau conducts email consultations as needed, including on the provisional agenda and timetable of meetings. The outcomes of email consultations of the Bureau are shared with all IGBC Member States. • The IGBC Bureau also meets during IGBC ordinary sessions to draft the conclusions document based on the exchanges in the meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau would normally meet in the morning of the second day prior to the start of the morning plenary meeting to revise the draft conclusions document prepared by the Secretariat on the discussion of the previous day. This draft would then be distributed to IGBC Member States during the morning plenary meeting for information. • The Bureau would then meet again after lunch of the second day before the start of the afternoon plenary meeting to revise the draft conclusions document to include the discussion of the morning meeting. The plenary is then reconvened later that afternoon (to allow time for the Secretariat to prepare the text in English and French) to review, revise and approve the draft conclusions document. <p><u>Outcome of the 11th Session of the IGBC:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the feedback by Germany, the Secretariat will explore additional measures to be taken to meet this recommendation. 	<p>France: The activity of the bureau should not be seen as limited to that of its Chairperson or to the time of the sessions. Each Bureau must be given the time and resources to develop a practice of working together and circulating information both with Member States and with the Chairs of the other two committees (IBC and COMEST), as well as the Secretariat. As in other international organizations, it may be appropriate for members of the bureaus of these committees to have access to documents that are not yet public and to have an opportunity for online dialogue among themselves and with the Secretariat.</p> <p>Germany: Germany is committed to maximize the transparency of UNESCO's bioethics committees. Germany is not convinced from the statement of the Secretariat that recommendation 69 is fully implemented. The answer of the Secretariat says that the Bureau only meets in a purely functional role for optimizing the organization of the IGBC meetings and their conclusions. The answer of the Secretariat seems to imply that the Bureau never discusses any substantive issues, this is why the circulation of documents such as agenda is not needed. This highly restrictive interpretation of the responsibilities of the Bureau is not in line with Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure. We suggest to either really</p>

		<p>fully implement recommendation 69 or to limit the mandate of the Bureau in ToR Rule 4.</p> <p>Kenya: This is fine.</p>
<p>70. Elections of Bureaus should be held, as much as possible, soon after elections for seats on the IIBs conducted at the General Conference, to avoid having Bureau members from Member States, which are no longer members of the IIBs concerned.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENTED</p> <p>Rule 3.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the IGBC states that:</p> <p>Rule 3 – Elections</p> <p>3.2 The election of the Bureau will be held at a session convened as soon as possible after the election of the members of IGBC by the General Conference.</p> <p>Observation: Since 2015, the election of the IGBC Bureau was held during the General Conference of UNESCO, after the election of new members of the IGBC by the General Conference.</p>	<p>France: This is a very good measure given that the term of office is two years.</p>
<p>71. As much as feasible, Bureau meetings should be open to observers and working methods made more transparent.</p>	<p>UNDER CONSIDERATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IGBC Bureau conducts email consultations as needed, including on the provisional agenda and timetable of meetings. The outcomes of email consultations of the Bureau are shared with all IGBC Member States. • The IGBC Bureau also meets during IGBC ordinary sessions to draft the conclusions document based on the exchanges in the meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau would normally meet in the morning of the second day prior to the start of the morning plenary meeting to revise the draft conclusions document prepared by the Secretariat on the discussion of the previous day. This draft would then be distributed to IGBC Member States during the morning plenary meeting for information. • The Bureau would then meet again after lunch of the second day before the start of the afternoon plenary meeting to revise the draft conclusions document to include the discussion of the morning meeting. The 	<p>France: This is a good practice to encourage Bureau members to participate actively. It must be encouraged and facilitated.</p> <p>Colombia: The opening of regular sessions to observers makes them more transparent.</p> <p>Finland: Yes, absolutely, IGBC Bureau meetings should be open to observers from amongst Member States.</p> <p>Germany: Germany is committed to maximize the transparency of UNESCO's bioethics committees. Germany proposes to open IGBC</p>

plenary is then reconvened later that afternoon (to allow time for the Secretariat to prepare the text in English and French) to review, revise and approve the draft conclusions document.

- The IGBC Bureau meetings during the ordinary sessions are currently convened with the participation of Bureau members and the Secretariat only. This practice is to facilitate an easier drafting process of the conclusions document, taking into account that the draft document would also be reviewed and revised by the plenary before the closing of the ordinary session on the second day.
- However, nothing in the [Rules of Procedure of the IGBC](#) prevents these Bureau meetings from being open to observers from amongst IGBC Member States.

Outcome of the 11th Session of the IGBC:

- Not all IGBC Member States are ready to take a decision. More time is requested by IGBC Member States for consideration.
- The Bureau and the Secretariat will facilitate informal consultations and discussions among IGBC Member States for possible decision at the next session of the IGBC.

Bureau meetings during the ordinary sessions to observers from amongst IGBC Member States.

Hungary: I propose that the IGBC Bureau meetings during the ordinary sessions should be open to observers from amongst IGBC Member States.

Kenya: It is not necessary to have observers as the matters being discussed at such meeting will have been in the public domain for long and thus input from various stakeholders have been considered.

Republic of Korea: Agree that the IGBC Bureau meetings during the ordinary sessions be open to observers from amongst IGBC Member States.

Uruguay: As much as feasible the IGBC Bureau meeting during the ordinary sessions should be open to observers from amongst IGBC Member States.

Russian Federation: IGBC Bureau meetings during the ordinary sessions should be open to observers from amongst IGBC Member States.

France: As the Bureau is mandated by the States to carry out the tasks entrusted to it by the Rules of Procedure, opening its meetings to third parties is not appropriate and would greatly slow down the work of the Bureau. However, it is necessary for the Chairperson to report regularly on the activities of the Bureau and for the other Bureau members to be focal points for

		their regional group. In addition, consideration could be given to clarifying in the Rule of Procedure the possibility of opening a Bureau meeting to observers at the request of the Chairperson or of a third of the IGBC Member States.
72. Strengthen information-sharing, communication and collaboration between Bureaus, Intergovernmental Councils and Committees and Member States.	<p>IMPLEMENTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairpersons of the IGBC, the IBC and COMEST meet virtually at least once a year to coordinate and share information on the progress of the work of the three bodies, as well as to explore opportunities for collaboration and synergies. Joint meetings are held in accordance with the respective work calendars of the three bodies to improve synergies among them, and other meetings are now planned to avoid overlap. Since 2014, the three bodies have been served by a single consolidated Secretariat. This has also facilitated better information sharing, coordination and collaboration among the three bodies. 	<p>France: The purpose of these meetings should be to discuss all points that can lead to improvements in the work that each must do in accordance with its respective mission. They should also be a place for informal and convivial exchanges between the chairpersons and the members of the secretariat whose experience should be used to imagine the future of common activities and of UNESCO's role. Perhaps a biennial seminar in a "retreat" could facilitate this exchange.</p> <p>Kenya: This is fine.</p>
73. Gender-neutral language be adopted throughout all UNESCO documents.	<p>IMPLEMENTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat provides editorial assistance to ensure that gender-neutral language is used in all IGBC documents. 	<p>France: The Secretariat must also ensure the equal use of both working languages, including during informal meetings. <i>[Note: this comment is more relevant for recommendation 78, and has been included in the summary for that recommendation.]</i></p> <p>Kenya: This is fine.</p>
Alignment with overarching priorities of UNESCO		
74. All IIBs should have the opportunity to submit formal inputs to the mid-term strategy C/4 and the draft Programme and Budget C/5 documents of UNESCO.	<p>ONGOING</p> <p><u>Outcome of the 11th Session of the IGBC:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bureau of Strategic Planning has published "Working with UNESCO: Guidebook for Members of UNESCO's International and Intergovernmental Bodies". 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat will support the Committee to implement this recommendation based on this guidebook, as appropriate and in accordance with its mandate. 	
<p>75. A feedback mechanism can be envisaged for substantive dialogue between Member States and IIBs, beyond the limited reporting to the General Conference. This could be through information meetings or briefings. Reporting to the General Conference should be enhanced through a new more strategic and results-oriented reporting format to be followed by debate and General Conference resolutions to provide feedback to IIBs.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the IGBC, Member States, Associate Members, non-Member States with a permanent observer mission, the United Nations, other organizations of the UN system, international governmental and non-governmental organizations are invited to attend IGBC sessions. Furthermore, in accordance to Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the IGBC, the ordinary sessions of the IGBC are open to the public. The IGBC meets in a public joint meeting with the IBC and COMEST during the first year of a biennium, and in an ordinary session during the second year of a biennium. Member States that are not on the IGBC have always participated in these meetings, and have engaged in substantive dialogue with the IGBC, the IBC and COMEST during these occasions. The Secretariat will also take on board the suggestion of Member States to hold information meetings on the Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology Programme as a whole. In addition, the IGBC, with the support of the Secretariat, will publish, before the end of each biennium, an activity and foresight report to be sent to Member States and Observers. The outcomes of the work of the IBC and the IGBC are included into the results-oriented reporting of the C/5, in addition to a separate report by the Director-General to the General Conference on the work of the IBC and the IGBC (e.g. 39 C/REP/15). The manner in which such reports are to be examined by the General Conference is under the prerogative of the General Conference itself. 	<p>France: In the case when time does not allow for all to intervene in a meeting, it may be necessary to provide an opportunity to submit interventions online beforehand. An annual meeting with NGOs concerned with ethics of science could be organized.</p> <p>Kenya: This is fine.</p> <p>France: An excellent initiative.</p>
<p>76. Orientation sessions for new members of all IIBs, especially for</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>	

<p>Chairpersons and Bureau members, should be institutionalized and include introduction to the C/4 and C/5 frameworks. To that end, a short user-friendly guidebook including good practices and acronyms could be produced to familiarize members with working methods and C/4 and C/5 mechanisms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IGBC approved the Briefing Note on the IGBC in June 2017. This Briefing Note is disseminated to <u>all</u> IGBC Member States immediately after the election of new Member States to the Committee during the General Conference, starting with the 39th General Conference in 2017. • The Bureau of Strategic Planning has published “Working with UNESCO: Guidebook for Members of UNESCO’s International and Intergovernmental Bodies”. • The Secretariat has shared information with the Committee about this publication. <p><u>Outcome of the 11th Session of the IGBC:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the discussion at the 11th session of the IGBC, the Secretariat will develop additional orientation measures for the Bureau. 	<p>France: A useful initiative.</p>
<p>Coherence, coordination and synergies</p>		
<p>77. Balanced resource allocation is necessary to ensure the effectiveness of all IIBs.</p>	<p>NON APPLICABLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since resource allocation for the IGBC is decided by the General Conference through the C/5, the implementation of this recommendation lies with Member States. 	
<p>78. Use of languages for inclusivity and effectiveness remains an important objective.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENTED</p> <p>Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the IGBC states that:</p> <p>Rule 12 – Working languages</p> <p>12.1 The working languages of the Intergovernmental Committee shall be English and French. Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish will be used during meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee, depending on its composition.</p> <p>12.2 Interpretation of the statements made during meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee in one of the working languages shall be provided into the other language(s).</p> <p>12.3 The documents of the Intergovernmental Committee shall be issued in English and French.</p>	<p>France: There are often problems with the accuracy of the French version when the text is initially written in English.</p>

79. IIBs and their Secretariats are requested to enhance coordination in scheduling of meetings to avoid overlap.	IMPLEMENTED <ul style="list-style-type: none">• See recommendation 72 above.	
Best practices		
80. Best practices should be shared and replicated or, if necessary, adjusted to reflect specificities with the aim to promote governance mechanisms that facilitate strategies and action plans anchored on the C/4 and C/5. Attached, in this regard, is a non-exhaustive list of best practices identified by the Working Group (Appendix 3).	IMPLEMENTED <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Bureau of Strategic Planning has published “Working with UNESCO: Guidebook for Members of UNESCO’s International and Intergovernmental Bodies”.• The Secretariat has shared information with the Committee about this publication.	

Specific recommendations for the intergovernmental councils and committees	Implementation status	Responses from written consultation of IGBC Member States
Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC), International Bioethics Committee (IBC), World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST)		
86.a. In reviewing the three IIBs as a related cluster, IGBC, IBC and COMEST are invited to continue adjusting and/or updating their mandates, roles and working relations in a holistic manner, looking at other models of UNESCO expert bodies reporting to intergovernmental bodies.	IMPLEMENTED The mandate of the IGBC as outlined in Article 11.2 of the Statutes of the IBC states that: Article 11 – Intergovernmental Committee 11.2 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.

The mandate of the IBC as outlined in **Article 2** of the [Statutes of the IBC](#) states that:

Article 2 – Functions

1. The Committee shall have the following functions:
 - (a) it shall promote reflection on the ethical and legal issues raised by research in the life sciences and their applications, as well as encourage the exchange of ideas and information, particularly through education;
 - (b) it shall encourage action to heighten awareness among the general public, specialized groups and public and private decision-makers involved in bioethics;
 - (c) it shall co-operate with the international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned by the issues raised in the field of bioethics as well as with the national and regional bioethics committees and similar bodies;
 - (d) in accordance with Article 24 of the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights, hereafter referred to as ‘the Declaration’:
 - (i) it shall contribute to the dissemination of the principles set out in the Declaration and to the further examination of issues raised by their applications and by the evolution of the technologies in question;
 - (ii) it shall organize appropriate consultations with parties concerned, such as vulnerable groups;
 - (iii) it shall make recommendations, in accordance with UNESCO’s statutory procedures, addressed to the General Conference and give advice concerning the follow-up of the Declaration, and it shall identify practices that could be contrary to human dignity.
2. The IBC shall determine its programme of work which shall be made public. The IBC shall include in that programme any item so requested by the Director-General or the Executive Board. It shall take into account the views of the Intergovernmental Committee, hereafter provided under Article 11, concerning its programme.

Note: In summary, the IGBC and the IBC pursue the following objectives in their respective functions:

- to keep abreast of progress in genetics, whilst at the same time taking care to ensure respect for the values of human dignity and freedom in view of the potential risks of irresponsible attitudes in biomedical research;
- to promote reflection on the ethical and legal issues raised by research in the life sciences and their applications;
- to encourage action to heighten awareness among the general public, specialized groups and public and private decision-makers involved in bioethics.

Furthermore, in addition to its role set out in Article 11.2 of the [Statutes of the IBC](#), the IGBC can take the initiative to open a dialogue with the latter on matters of common interest, including adopting new or amending existing international instruments of UNESCO in the field of bioethics (Article 11.7). The IGBC Chair is also an ex-officio member of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST). In general, the IGBC contributes, together with the IBC and COMEST, to improving UNESCO's governance role and functioning in the field of bioethics and ethics of science and technology.

The mandate of COMEST as outlined in **Article 2** of the [Statutes of COMEST](#) states that:

Article 2

The Commission shall be responsible for advising the Organization on its programme concerning the ethics of scientific knowledge and technology. It shall also be mandated:

- to be an intellectual forum for the exchange of ideas and experience;
- to detect on that basis the early signs of risk situations;
- to perform the role of adviser to decision-makers in this respect; and, lastly,

France: The IGBC could also serve as a forum for Member States to exchange information on cooperation among themselves, in particular for the implementation of UNESCO's programmes of action in the field of ethics of science.

France: The IGBC's relationship with COMEST is different from that with the IBC since it gives advice on the latter's work while the IGBC Chairperson participates in an *ex officio* capacity in the work of COMEST.

However, as long as the ethics of science sector is organized this way, a pragmatic approach must be aimed at fostering flexible and regular exchanges between the three committees, while respecting their respective mandates and organization.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to promote dialogue between scientific communities, decision-makers and the public at large. <p>Observation: Based on the mandates stated above, the IBC (providing independent expert advice and recommendations) and the IGBC (providing governmental opinions on the IBC's advice and recommendations) focus their work on ethical reflection related to the life sciences (reports of the IBC), while COMEST focuses its work on ethical reflection on areas of scientific knowledge and technology outside of the life sciences (reports of COMEST). Therefore, the three bodies have distinct mandates and roles. Since 2014, measures have been implemented to improve the working methods of the three bodies that have enhanced synergy, collaboration, and substantive consultation among them, as well as the overall cost-effectiveness of their collective operation. These measures include the creation of a consolidated Secretariat for the three bodies, convening of information sharing and coordination meetings of the three Chairpersons, convening of joint meetings of the bodies whenever feasible, etc. The mandates of the IBC, the IGBC and COMEST also provide the necessary flexibility for the three bodies to examine and address emerging issues related to bioethics, taking into consideration developing situations and priorities at the international level.</p>	
<p>86.b. Consider adjusting, as appropriate, the number of members in each IIB in view of avoiding duplication of efforts and achieving cost efficiencies.</p>	<p>UNDER CONSIDERATION</p> <p>The composition of the IGBC is defined in Article 11.3 of the Statutes of the IBC which states that:</p> <p>Article 11 – Intergovernmental Committee 11.3 The Intergovernmental Committee shall be composed of 36 representatives of the Member States elected by the General Conference. (...)</p> <p>The composition of the IBC is defined in Article 3.1 of the Statutes of the IBC which states that:</p>	<p>Finland: Refer to feedback on item 59.</p> <p>Hungary: No, this adjustment of the number of members of the different committees is not necessary.</p> <p>Kenya: Implementation of recommendation 86 should continue for a while for observation as to whether positive results towards streamlining cooperation and efficiency will be realized before we can make any adjustments on membership etc.</p> <p>Republic of Korea: Agree IBC, IGBC,</p>

Article 3 – Membership

3.1 The IBC shall be composed of 36 members appointed by the Director-General. The members shall be independent and shall act in their personal capacity. (...)

The composition of COMEST is defined in **Article 3.1** of the [Statutes of COMEST](#) which states that:

Article 3

3.1 The Commission shall be composed of 18 members, appointed by the Director-General following consultation with the National Commissions and Academies of Science of the Member States, and serving in a personal capacity. It shall have an open-ended structure and may bring in specialists on specific subjects.

Furthermore **Article 3.5** of the [Statutes of COMEST](#) also states that:

Article 3

3.5 The Presidents of UNESCO's five intergovernmental scientific programmes (IOC, MAB, MOST, IGCP and IHP), of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and the Intergovernmental Committee, and those of the International Council of Philosophy and Human Sciences (ICPHS), the International Council of Social Sciences (ICSS), the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs shall be invited to participate in the work of the Commission.

Observation: As indicated in recommendation 86.a above, the three bodies have distinct mandates and roles. Measures have also been taken to improve their overall synergy, collaboration and cost effectiveness. The current compositions have also ensured multicultural and multidisciplinary representation in the work of the three bodies.

and COMEST have distinct mandates and roles and that measures have also been taken to improve their overall synergy, collaboration and cost effectiveness. In addition, due to the rapid development of ICT, such as artificial intelligence and big data, ethical issues in relation to science and technology have been increasing. Given this change, consideration could be given to increasing the number of COMEST members by reducing the number of IBC members.

Uruguay: Uruguay is in favor maintaining the actual number of members in the IGBC, the IBC, and COMEST.

Russian Federation: No there is no need to adjust the number of members in the IGBC, the IBC and COMEST vis-à-vis each other. It should preserve actual state.

France: Given the importance and disciplinary diversity of the issues entrusted to it, the question may be raised as to whether it is necessary to increase the number of COMEST members. Apart from the above remark concerning COMEST, it might be relevant for IBC and COMEST to have some members in common.

Outcome of the 11th Session of the IGBC:

- Not all IGBC Member States are ready to take a decision. More time is requested by IGBC Member States for consideration.
- The Bureau and the Secretariat will facilitate informal consultations and discussions among IGBC Member States for possible decision at the next session of the IGBC.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

ANNEX 2

Distribution: limited

SHS/BIO/IGBC-11/19/5
Paris, 7 June 2019
Original: English / French

**ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL BIOETHICS COMMITTEE (IGBC)
Paris, 6 – 7 June 2019
(UNESCO Headquarters, Room XI - Fontenoy Building)**

Conclusions of the Eleventh Session of the IGBC

At its Eleventh Session, the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC):

[...] (other parts of the conclusions not related to the governance recommendations have been omitted)

In relation to the **follow-up to the Recommendations of the open-ended working group on governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO as related to the IGBC**

26. *Takes note* of the working document SHS/BIO/IGBC-11/19/3 concerning the follow-up to the recommendations of the open-ended working group on governance as related to the IGBC;
27. *Takes note* that not all Member States of the IGBC are ready to decide on a number of the recommendations;
28. *Reminds* Member States that a number of recommendations have already been implemented within the IGBC, and the Chairperson of the IGBC will be making a report to the open-ended working group on governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO in September 2019;
29. *Invites* Member States to submit written observations to the Secretariat on recommendations 57, 58, 59, 69, 71 and 86.b; in this regard, Member States wishing to have their observations reflected in the report of the Chairperson to the open-ended

working group in September 2019 are invited to submit their written observations to the Secretariat within a reasonable timeframe in August 2019;

30. *Requests* the Secretariat to share a compilation of the written observations received with all Member States of the IGBC in due time;
31. *Decides* to continue informal consultations and discussions among the Member States of the IGBC on the recommendations for possible decision at the next session of the IGBC, and *requests* the Bureau and the Secretariat to facilitate these informal consultations.