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**SIXTH SESSION OF THE  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL BIOETHICS COMMITTEE (IGBC)  
Paris, 9 – 10 July 2009**

(UNESCO Headquarters, Room IV - Fontenoy Building)

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**Conclusions of the Sixth Session of IGBC**

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

1. *Considers* that a more in-depth reflection on the procedures for the election of the Bureau of IGBC is necessary and *requests* that the revision of Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee be included as an agenda item for discussion and decision by IGBC as soon as possible, preferably at an extraordinary session in 2010 in conjunction with a joint session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and IGBC if it is convened by the Director-General.
2. *Invites* the Director-General to explore the possibility of providing financial support to facilitate the participation of IGBC Members from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in IGBC sessions.
3. *Expresses* appreciation for IBC's commitment to the dissemination and promotion of the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (2005) (hereafter "the Declaration").
4. *Congratulates* IBC for its efforts to elaborate the principles of the Declaration and *encourages* it to continue its work in this area, as a means of contributing to the reinforcement of the capacity of Member States in the field of bioethics.
5. *Recalls* that Member States have the prerogative to take appropriate measures, whether of a legislative, administrative or other character, to give effect to the principles of the Declaration, and that documents produced by IBC, while constituting an essential contribution to the promotion of the Declaration, are not of a prescriptive character.

6. *Suggests* that, when finalizing its work programme for 2010-2011, IBC focuses its work primarily on developments in life sciences and associated technologies and bioethics, and considers the possibility of elaborating other principles of the Declaration in cooperation with IGBC, for example those set forth in Articles 16 and 21, as well as the issue of traditional medicine and its ethical implications.
7. *Congratulates* the Secretariat for the coherent work carried out in the field of bioethics, especially in the promotion of the Declaration and capacity building actions through the Ethics Education Programme, the Assisting Bioethics Committees Project and the Global Ethics Observatory.
8. *Emphasizes* the importance of bioethics teaching and *encourages* the Secretariat to continue its efforts to support capacity building and harmonizing of practices in Member States with respect to the teaching of bioethics, the training of ethics teachers and the collection of data in this area.
9. *Encourages* Member States of UNESCO to establish and/or strengthen cooperation with the Secretariat in the implementation of the bioethics programme at regional and national levels.

In relation to the **Report of IBC on Human Cloning and International Governance** (Ref. SHS/EST/CIB-16/09/CONF.503/2 Rev. of 9 June 2009),

10. *Acknowledges* and *values* the work carried out by IBC on human cloning and international governance, *congratulates* IBC for an inclusive and balanced report on the topic and *invites* the Secretariat to continue updating the annex to this document.
11. *Concurs* with IBC that an international dialogue on the international governance of human cloning is needed and should be pursued, and that the dissemination, discussion and debate on cloning issues at the international level remain essential to foster public sensitivity and awareness-raising, with a special attention to developing countries.
12. *Supports* the assessment of IBC that an in-depth analysis aiming at reviewing the terminology for human cloning according to the new developments in biomedical research would be highly beneficial.
13. *Suggests* that in pursuing its reflections on human cloning, IBC considers reviewing the terminology for human cloning as well as a wide range of related issues such as other possible options for its regulation and the vulnerability of women.

In relation to the **Draft report on Social Responsibility and Health** (Ref. SHS/EST/CIB-15/08/CONF.502/3 REV of 29 March 2009),

14. *Recognizes* the improvements made to the draft report on social responsibility and health by IBC and *appreciates* the efforts made by IBC to take the comments made by IGBC into account.
15. *Considers* that IBC should take care that the proposed actions in the draft report be framed in a way that avoids any specific normative interpretations.
16. *Invites* Members of IGBC to submit their comments on the draft report in writing to the Secretariat for transmission to IBC and *suggests* that in the revision of the draft report IBC considers specific issues raised during this session of IGBC such as the review of the terminology used, particular vulnerability of women and the ethical implications of responses to pandemics.