Symposium

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of UNESCO Bioethics Programme

6 September 2013 / 3 pm - 5.30 pm
UNESCO House
7, Place de Fontenoy 75007, Paris, France
Room XI

A roundtable, open to the public, which will include simultaneous translation into five working languages of UNESCO, and will be webcast live.

20 Years of UNESCO’s commitment for Bioethics: What role for the next 20 years?
Journalists wishing to cover the event require accreditation.

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20 Years of UNESCO’s commitment for Bioethics: What role for the next 20 years?

A roundtable organized at UNESCO Headquarters, in Paris, on 6 September 2013, will bring together internationally renowned bioethics specialists to discuss, in public, UNESCO’s achievements in the realm of Bioethics over the last twenty years, and the role that the Organization should play in this field within the framework of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Commemorating the 20th anniversary of UNESCO’s bioethics programme and the creation of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), this event, which will be opened by the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Social and Human Sciences, Ms Pilar ALVAREZ-LASO, will be held immediately after the closing of the 8th session of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC).

This roundtable will allow participants to discuss the successes of UNESCO’s activities in the field of bioethics. It aims to bring into focus the most important challenges in bioethics – both those arising from the spectacular progress of science and those more persistent challenges relating to respecting individual rights (rights to information, privacy, bodily integrity, equitable access to health care), within a framework of solidarity.

The discussion, which will last a little more than two hours, should suggest ways to help ensure that UNESCO Bioethics activities are both relevant and lead to lasting impact for the benefit of people in the coming years.

In addition to the current Chairpersons of the IBC and IGBC (Professors Stefano SEMPLICI and Yongyuth YUTHAVONG), and those in charge of the UNESCO’s Programme for Bioethics, numerous renowned specialists will be at UNESCO on this occasion to share their experiences and perspectives. Among them are: Prof. Nouzha GUESSOUS; Prof. John HARRIS; Prof. Georges KUTUKDJIAN; Sir Michael G. MARMOT; Ms Michèle STANTON-JEAN; Prof. Henk TEN HAVE; Dr Aissatou TOURÉ.

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To access the Webcast:
- FLOOR – mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room_11_floor.wmv
- English – mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room_11_en.wmv
- French – mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room_11_fr.wmv
- Spanish – mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room_11_es.wmv
- Arabic – mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room_11_ar.wmv
- Russian – mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room_11_ru.wmv
Ms ÁLVAREZ-LASO, Pilar (UNESCO)

UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences since July 2010, Ms Pilar Álvarez-Laso’s career includes both social sciences and media responsibilities, notably in journalism (print media, television and radio), a senior civil servant, as well as research and teaching activities. She obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in Communications from the Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico), a Master of Arts Degree (Hons.) in Foreign Affairs from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma (Mexico) and has PhD work in Contemporary International Migration (Madrid). In 1985, she started her career as a journalist, and worked to be Editorial Coordinator, Anchor and Reporter at the Instituto Mexicano de Televisión. In this capacity, she reported on national and international political, electoral and peace-making processes, as well as on human rights and scientific issues. In 1994, Ms Álvarez-Laso joined the Instituto Latinoamericano de la Comunicación Educativa (ILCE), an international organization contributing to education enhancement through the use of new technologies. In senior executive positions, she was Director of Programming, Communication and Informatics. Her last position was that of Coordinator for Radio and Television broadcasting for the Mexican Ministry of Education. She has also acted as Director of Information for the Electoral Federal Institute (IFE) in the first independent citizen-organized elections in Mexico. She was the International Spokesperson for the Promotion of the Absentee Vote in the first electoral campaign where emigrant Mexicans could vote. Over the course of her career, Ms. Álvarez-Laso launched the first educational television satellite channel in Mexico, promoted initiatives for people with special needs and immigrants, and developed educational programmes on democratic principles and values. She has acted as Honorary Senior Adviser for the Science Consulting Council at the Presidency of the Republic of Mexico.

Prof. (Ms) GUESSOUS, Nouzha (Marocco)

Professor of Hassan II University of Casablanca (Morocco)
Researcher and Consultant in Bioethics and Human Rights
Former Chair of UNESCO IBC (2005-2007)
Member of ALECSO Science and Technology Ethics Committee.
Researcher in Women’s Human Rights
**Prof (Mr) HARRIS, John (United-Kingdom)**

John Harris is the Director of The Institute for Science, Ethics and Innovation and of the Wellcome Strategic Programme in The Human Body, its Scope Limits and Future, University of Manchester, where he is Lord Alliance Professor of Bioethics.


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**KEYEUX, Genoveva (Colombia)**

She is a biologist, with a Master’s and PhD degree in Molecular Biology from the University of Louvain and Montpellier, respectively. She worked for over 30 years as Professor and Researcher in human molecular genetics at the Javeriana and the National Universities in Bogotá.

As member of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) of UNESCO from 1993-1997, she participated actively in the elaboration of the UDHG&HR, and in the consultations of the other two UNESCO Declarations. Member of the Bioethics Committee of the IUBS (International Union of Biological Sciences) and of HUGO (Human Genome Organization). Founding member and Vice-President (2010-2013) of the Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Bioética Redbioética from UNESCO.

Her research subjects and publications in numerous book chapters and in international journals have dealt with human genetic diseases, anthropological genetics and bioethics.
Mr KUTUKDJIAN, Georges (France)
Philosopher and social anthropologist by training; at UNESCO his responsibilities included education and research on human rights and peace. Appointed Director of the Division of Human Sciences, Philosophy and Ethics of Science and Technology. At its inception in 1991, member of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) of UNESCO (IBC) and its Secretary-General for ten years. Executive Secretary of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology of UNESCO (COMEST) for six years. Rapporteur of the IBC for the drafting of the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data (2003). Since 1993, he has taught bioethics and ethics of biotechnologies at graduate level successively at the University of Paris-South, at the University of Versailles and now at the University of Paris-8. Since 2012, he is a member of the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights of the French Republic (CNCDH). Georges Kutukdjian is the author of articles, essays and books on social anthropology, human rights, bioethics and ethics of science and technology.

Prof. Sir MARMOT, Michael G. (United Kingdom)
Sir Michael Marmot has led research groups on health inequalities for over 35 years. He was Chair of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH), which was set up by the World Health Organization in 2005, and produced the report entitled: 'Closing the Gap in a Generation' in August 2008. At the request of the British Government, he conducted a Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post 2010, which published its report 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives' in February 2010. This was followed by the European Review of Social Determinants of Health and the Health Divide, for WHO Euro. He chaired the Breast Screening Review for the NHS National Cancer Action Team and is a member of The Lancet-University of Oslo Commission on Global Governance for Health. He is a Principal Investigator of the Whitehall II Studies of British Civil Servants, investigating explanations for the striking inverse social gradient in morbidity and mortality. He leads the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) and is engaged in several international research efforts on the social determinants of health. He served as President of the British Medical Association (BMA) in 2010-2011, and is the new President of the British Lung Foundation. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, an Honorary Fellow of the British Academy, and an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians. He was a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution for six years and in 2000 he was knighted by Her Majesty The Queen, for services to epidemiology and the understanding of health inequalities. Internationally acclaimed, Professor Marmot is a Foreign Associate Member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM), and a former Vice President of the Academia Europaea. He won the Balzan Prize for Epidemiology in 2004, gave the Harveian Oration in 2006, and won the William B. Graham Prize for Health Services Research in 2008. http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/
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Prof. (Mr) SEMPLICI, Stefano (Italy)

Professor of Social Ethics, Department of Business, Government, Philosophy Studies, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”
Editor of the international journal Archives of Philosophy
Scientific Director, Lamaro Pozzani College, Rome Member of the Scientific Board, Centre for General and Applied Ethics, Borromeo College, Pavia

Ms STANTON-JEAN, Michèle (Québec, Canada)

Michèle Stanton-Jean is currently the representative of the Government of Quebec at the Permanent Delegation of Canada at UNESCO. She is a former chair of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (2006-2010), and a former Deputy Minister of Health of Canada (1993-1998). She has been a member of Commission de l’Éthique de la science et de la technologie du Québec (Ethics Commission for Science and Technology of Quebec) between 2001 and 2007. Michèle Stanton-Jean was a member of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee (IBC) since 1998, and served as its Chairperson from 2002 to 2005. During her tenure as the Chairperson of IBC, the Committee prepared the draft of the Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights (UDBHR), which was adopted by the General Conference in 2005. Ms Stanton-Jean has a Master's Degree in History and a PhD in Applied Human Sciences (Bioethics). She is the author of numerous books and publications. Her research interests are about the application of the concept of “common good”, the participation of civil society in the elaboration of public policies and the guidelines for health policies. Madame Stanton-Jean is also a guest researcher at the Centre de recherche en droit public (The Research Center on Public Law), at the Faculty of Law at the University of Montreal.
Prof (Mr) TEN HAVE, Henk (The Netherlands)

Henk ten Have studied medicine and philosophy at Leiden University, The Netherlands. He received his medical degree in 1976 from Leiden University and his philosophy degree in 1983. He worked as a researcher in the Pathology Laboratory, University of Leiden (1976-1977), as a practising physician in the Municipal Health Services, City of Rotterdam (1978-1979), and as a Professor of Philosophy in the Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Limburg, Maastricht (1982-1991). From 1991 he was a Professor of Medical Ethics and the Director of the Department of Ethics, Philosophy and History of Medicine in the University Medical Centre Nijmegen, The Netherlands. In September 2003 he joined UNESCO as Director of the Division of Ethics of Science and Technology. Since July 2010 he is Director of the Center for Healthcare Ethics at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, USA.

Dr (Ms) TOURÉ, Aissatou (Senegal)

Dr Aissatou Touré is a pharmacist biologist specialised in Immunology and a researcher at the Pasteur Institute in Dakar where she heads the Unit of Immunology and conducts research in the area of immunology of malaria. She is member of the scientific advisory group of the European Vaccine Initiative (EVI) and of the expert group of WHO on malaria vaccines (MALVAC) In parallel to her scientific activities as researcher in malaria, Dr Touré has different activities in the field of ethics which represents for her a major area of interest.

Dr Touré is member of the Senegalese National Ethic Committee for Health Research since 2003, tasked with evaluating scientific and ethical aspects of projects in health research, advising health authorities in the area of ethics, training health research in ethics.

Since 2012 Dr Touré is member of the Working Group WG on the Revision of CIOMS 2002 International Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects. From 2006 to 2013 Dr Touré was a member of the UNESCO International Committee on Bioethics and as such participated to reports on various bioethic topics. From 2003 to 2007, she has been a member of the African Committee (Developing Countries Coordinating Committee or DCCC) of the European program EDCTP (European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership) serving as focal point for the activities in the field of ethics that included building capacity, strengthening of national ethics committees, etc. She has been also a member of the Project Advisory Group (since 2004) that advises WHO on the Meningitis Vaccine Project (MVP) on different aspects of the projects including ethical aspects.

Dr Aissatou Touré has also participated to different activities of capacity building in ethics at the national level as well at the international level: participation to the writing of WHO manual on basic concepts for capacity building of health research committee, facilitators in training workshops, organization of international conferences (Bioethics Days for Central and West Africa)
Prof. Yongyuth Yuthavong is Senior Research Fellow at the National Biotechnology Centre (BIOTEC) of the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) of Thailand. He received a first-class honours bachelor degree in chemistry from London University (1966), and a doctoral degree in organic chemistry from Oxford University (1969). He started work at Mahidol University, and was given the “Outstanding Scientist of Thailand” Award (1984) for his research on malaria biochemistry. Subsequently he was appointed the first President of NSTDA (1992-8). In 2004, he received the Nikkei Asia Prize for Science, Technology and Innovation from the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Japan, for his work on antimalarial drug targets. He is former Thai Minister of Science and Technology (2006-8). He is now involved in development of drugs against malaria as well as policy issues for science and technology, health and education in general.