



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



# The Ethics Programme of UNESCO

What can UNESCO do for you?

Division of Ethics of Science and  
Technology

UNESCO, Paris, France

2007

19 October 2005:

33rd Session of the General Conference of UNESCO: adoption by acclamation

## Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights

**GLOBAL BIOETHICS: the first  
document on bioethics principles  
adopted by governments**

Article 25

UNESCO shall promote and disseminate the principles set out in this Declaration.

# How can UNESCO assist?

- Public information and debate
- Education (science and health care)
- Policy-advice
  - Legislation models
  - National ethics committee
- International networking

# Public information and debate

Informing the general public about the principles of the Declaration and pointing out which universal values, rights and duties have been defined by the international community

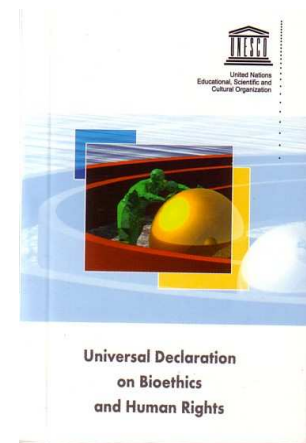
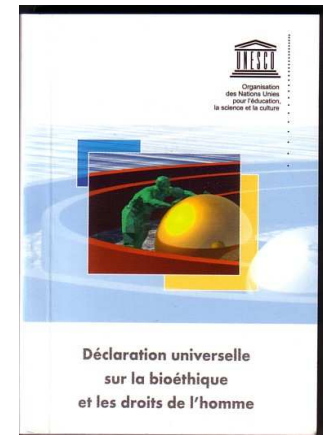
1. **Translations** (in cooperation with the National Commissions): **24 languages + 6 official ones**

*Portuguese, Norwegian, Hebrew, Armenian, Azeri, Basque, Bulgarian, Catalan, Croatian, German, Georgian, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latvian, Macedonian, Persian, Polish, Romanian, Thai, Turkish, Vietnamese*

# Public information and debate

## 2. Publications

- Books (German, Spanish, French, Italian, English)
- Journal articles
- Legal references
  - European Court of Human Rights
  - Intergov. Negotiation on UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Mini edition + Poster



# Public information and debate

Engaging the public and creating platforms for debate among scientists, policy-makers and civil society

## **3. Rotating conferences**

- 13-14 February 2006: New Zealand
- 19-20 April 2006: Peru
- 7 November 2006: Denmark
- 15 December 2006: Slovakia
- 9-10 March 2007: Togo
- 27-29 March 2007: Dominican Republic

# Capacity building in ethics

## → *Enhancing ethics infrastructures*

- Global Ethics Observatory (GEObs)
- Ethics Education Program (EEP)
- Assisting Bioethics Committees (ABC)



## GEObs

### Global Ethics Observatory

- Database 1: experts (*Who is who in ethics?*)
- Database 2: institutions, organisations, commissions
- Database 3: ethics teaching programmes
- Database 4: legislation
- Database 5: codes of conduct

851 experts

200 institutions

162 programmes

4 countries  
58 instruments

141 codes

Freely accessible

- 6 languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

[www.unesco.org/shs/ethics/geobs](http://www.unesco.org/shs/ethics/geobs)

GEObs

# Global Ethics Observatory

- Development of Database 4: Ethics related legislation and guidelines

Review committee  
of legal experts

*Methodology and standardised approach*

Group 1: Legal experts

Australia

Brazil

Canada

Ethiopia

Hungary

Japan

Jordan

Saudi Arabia

*Descriptions based on  
(1) Declaration and  
(2) bioethical themes*

Launch  
March 2007

Group 2: Legal experts

Egypt, Finland, Germany,  
Indonesia, Israel, South  
Africa, South Pacific  
countries

# Global Ethics Observatory

- Database 4: Legislation and guidelines

July 2007

Brazil

Ethiopia

Japan

Jordan

UNDBHR

\* principle of consent

Bioethical themes

\* medical research with  
human beings

Legal categories

\* domestic laws

**relevant texts of legal  
documents**

## Database 4: Legislation and guidelines

Find a legislation or a guideline

There are currently 4 countries and 58 instruments registered in the database.

<b>Region</b>	Select a region: <input type="text"/>
<b>Country</b>	Select a country: <input type="text"/>
<b>Themes</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any <input type="checkbox"/> Medical research with human beings <input type="checkbox"/> Access to health care and essential medicines <input type="checkbox"/> Genetic counselling <input type="checkbox"/> Protection of future generations <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom of scientific research <input type="checkbox"/> Human cloning (reproductive and therapeutic cloning) <input type="checkbox"/> Organ transplantation <input type="checkbox"/> Biobanking <input type="checkbox"/> Non-discrimination in health care <input type="checkbox"/> Protection of genetic resources <input type="checkbox"/> Ethics committees
<b>Legal categories</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any <input type="checkbox"/> Treaties [List all Treaties] <input type="checkbox"/> Constitutions <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic laws <input type="checkbox"/> Authoritative case laws <input type="checkbox"/> Guidelines
	Select a declaration: <input type="text"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any <input type="checkbox"/> Treaties [List all Treaties] <input type="checkbox"/> Constitutions <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic laws <input type="checkbox"/> Authoritative case laws <input type="checkbox"/> Guidelines
	<input type="button" value="Search"/>

1

Topics from declaration

**Search results for all instruments**

[New search](#) | [Change search criteria](#)

Instrument 1 to 10 of 58 instruments found

Number of results per page

Page 1 of 6 ▶

	Country	Title	Themes	Legal Category
<a href="#">View</a>	Brazil	<b>Brazilian Ministry of Health Directive n. 1.391/05</b>	Genetic counselling	Domestic laws
<a href="#">View</a>	Brazil	<b>Brazilian Ministry of Health Directive n. 822/01</b>	Genetic counselling	Domestic laws
<a href="#">View</a>	Jordan	<b>Centers of Correction and Rehabilitation Law No. 9</b>	Access to health care and essential medicines	Domestic laws
<a href="#">View</a>	Japan	<b>Civil Law</b>	Medical research with human beings	Domestic laws
<a href="#">View</a>	Brazil	<b>Code of Dental Ethics Resolution n. 42/03 of the Federal Council of Dentistry</b>	Access to health care and essential medicines Medical research with human beings	Guidelines
<a href="#">View</a>	Brazil	<b>Code of Medical Ethics Resolution n. 1.246/88 of the Federal Council of Medicine</b>	Access to health care and essential medicines Medical research with human beings	Guidelines
			Protection of future generations	
			Freedom of scientific research	
<a href="#">View</a>	Jordan	<b>Conducting Medical Research Provisional Law and its amendments No. 67</b>	Medical research with human beings	Domestic laws



Title: **Constitution of Japan**

[\[comments\]](#)

Legal Category: Constitutions

Country: [Japan](#)

Year of adoption: 1947

Year of entering into force: 1948

Year of publication: 1947

Applicable topics from Declarations:

**Theme: Medical research with human beings**

**Declaration: Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights**

Article 03: Human dignity and human rights

Article 05: Autonomy and individual responsibility

Article 10: Equality, justice and equity

Article 14: Social responsibility and health

**Theme: Access to health care and essential medicines**

**Declaration: Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights**

Article 10: Equality, justice and equity

Article 14: Social responsibility and health

**Theme: Freedom of scientific research**

**Declaration: Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights**

Article 14: Social responsibility and health

Short description:

**Theme: Medical research with human beings**

**Declaration: Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights**

Declaration Art. 03, Declaration Art. 05 [\[comments\]](#)

Art. 13:

"All of the people shall be respected as individuals. Their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness shall, to the extent that it does not interfere with the public welfare, be the supreme consideration in legislation and in other governmental affairs."

**Declaration Art. 10**

Art. 14:

"All of the people shall be respected as individuals. Their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness shall, to the extent that it does not interfere with the public welfare, be the supreme consideration in

1

2

3

4

5

EEP

# Ethics Education Programme

## Activities undertaken

1. mapping of experts in ethics
2. sampling of teaching programs

### **Regional expert meetings on ethics teaching**

2004: Budapest

2005: Moscow

2005: Split

2006: Tehran, I.R. of Iran

2006: Muscat, Oman

2007: Istanbul, Turkey

August 2007:  
162 programs

# Database 3: Ethics Teaching Programmes

## Global Ethics Observatory (GEO)

[Home](#) | [GEO1](#) | [GEO2](#)

### Database 3: Ethics Teaching Programmes

Find a teaching program related to ethics

There are currently 50 teaching programmes registered in the database.

<b>Country</b>	Select a country: <input type="text"/>
<b>Region</b>	Select a region: <input type="text"/>
<b>Name of Teacher</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Faculty/Department/School</b>	Select a faculty: <input type="text"/>
<b>Entry Requirements for Students/Academic Background of Students</b>	Select a requirement: <input type="text"/>
<b>Level of University Teaching</b>	Select a level: <input type="text"/>
<b>Course Language</b>	Select a language: <input type="text"/>
<b>Number of Students Enrolled</b>	Select a number range: <input type="text"/>
<b>Total Number of Teaching Hours</b>	Select a number range: <input type="text"/>
<b>Total Number of Student Working Hours</b>	Select a number range: <input type="text"/>
<b>Status of the Program</b>	Select a status: <input type="text"/>
<b>Objectives of the Program</b>	Select an objective: <input type="text"/>
<b>Mandatory Study Materials</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Any <input type="radio"/> Yes



## Ethics teaching programmes (162)

### UNESCO documents used in programs

- *Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights* 70
- *International Declaration on Human Genetic Data* 35
- *Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights* 28

EEP

# Ethics Education Programme

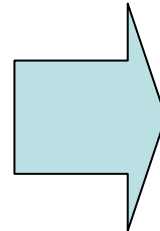
## 3. Proposal for core course in bioethics

Ad hoc Advisory Committee  
for the Teaching of Ethics

IBC: Evans, Guessous, de  
Castro  
COMEST: Gracia,  
Apressyan  
UNESCO Chairs: Carmi  
WMA: Williams  
TWAS: Balasubramanian

### Meetings:

July 2005  
March 2006  
June 2006  
August 2006



Draft proposal for core  
course in bioethics based  
on the principles of the  
Universal Declaration



5-6 July 2007: Consultation  
meeting with ethics teaching  
experts (cooperation with  
TWAS)

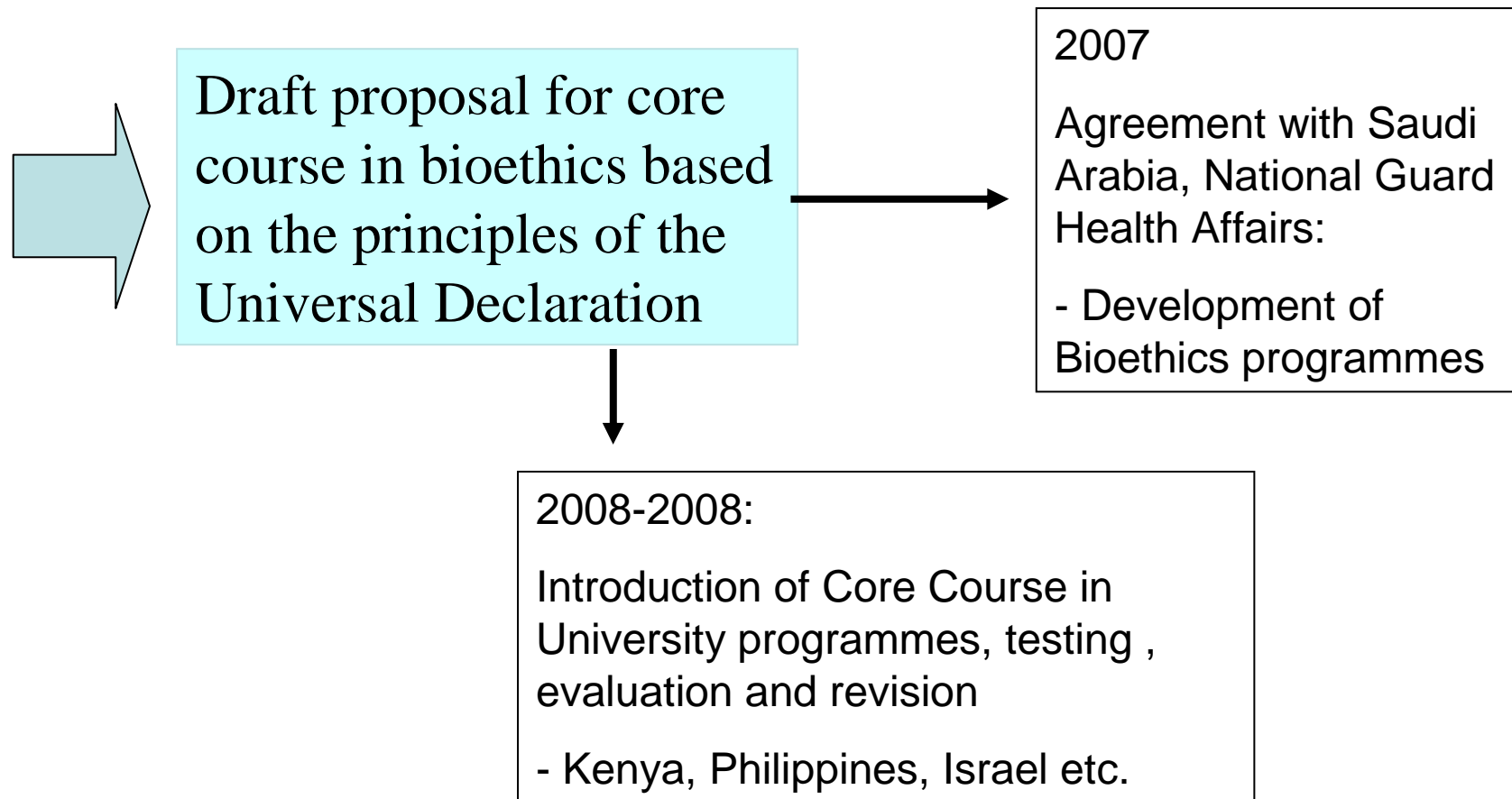


Finalisation and  
development of supporting  
multimedia resources

EEP

# Ethics Education Programme

## 3. Proposal for core course in bioethics



EEP

# Ethics Education Programme

## 4. Ethics teacher training course

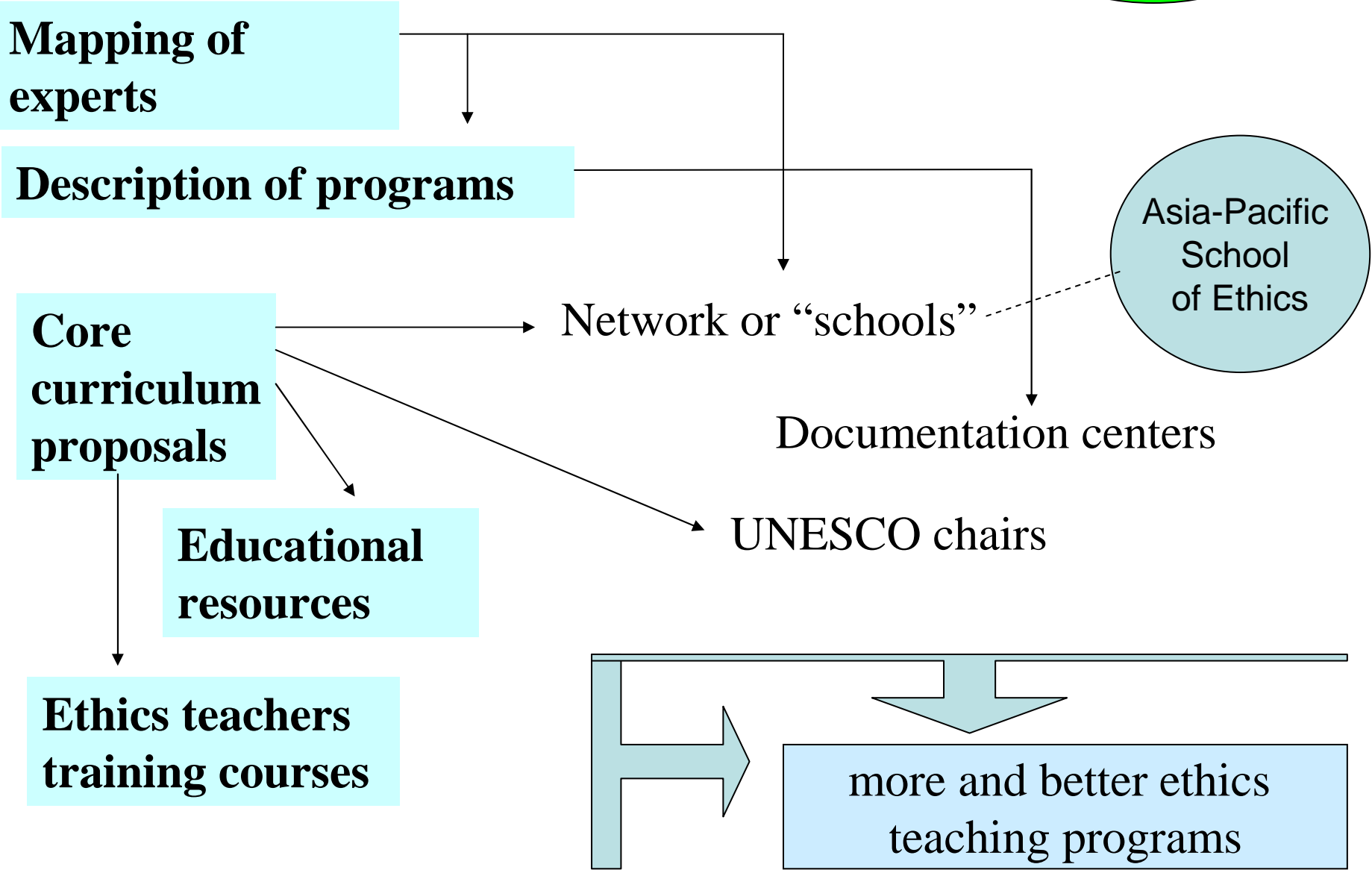
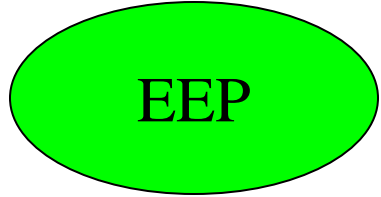
### **Objectives:**

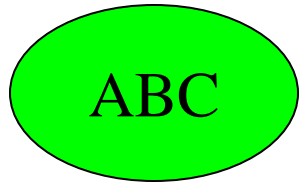
- a. Learning how to teach ethics
- b. Empowering a new generations of ethics teachers

### **Courses**

- *30 October – 4 November 2006*: Bucharest, Romania
- *9-13 July 2007*: Egerton University, Kenya
- *10-14 September 2007*: Bratislava, Slovak Republic
- *3-7 November 2007*: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

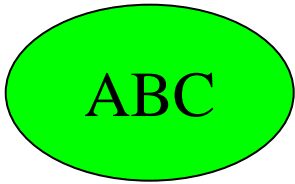
# Ethics Education Programme





## **Assisting Bioethics Committees**

1. identification and data collection about existing committees
2. provision of practical information
3. technical support



# Assisting Bioethics Committees

## 1. identification and data collection about existing committees



- GEObs Database 2
  - centers, departments, unit of ethics
  - commissions, committees, council of ethics at different levels
  - societies, associations
- questionnaire for obtaining standardised data

**5-7 May 2007: Cairo** (UNESCO Office + WHO-EMRO (Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office))

### **First Regional Meeting of National Bioethics Committees:**

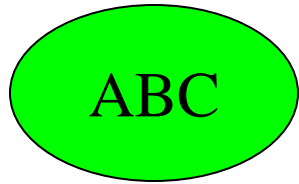
experts from 15 countries in the region plus ALECSO, GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council), IOMS (Islamic Organisation for Medical Sciences)

# UNESCO Arab States Region

## Data in Global Ethics Observatory, May 2007

	1. Experts	2. Institutions	3. Teaching programs	4. Legislation	5. Codes of Conduct	TOTAL
Algeria						
Bahrain	1					1
Djibouti						
Egypt	7	2			1	10
Iraq						
Jordan	4	1		14		19
Kuwait					2	2
Lebanon	1					1
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya						
Malta	1					1
Mauritania						
Morocco	4					4
Oman		1				1
Qatar	1					1
Saudi Arabia	1	2	1		1	5
Somalia						
Sudan						
Syrian Arab Republic	1	1				2
Tunisia	6	1			1	8
United Arab Emirates	1					1
Yemen						





# Assisting Bioethics Committees

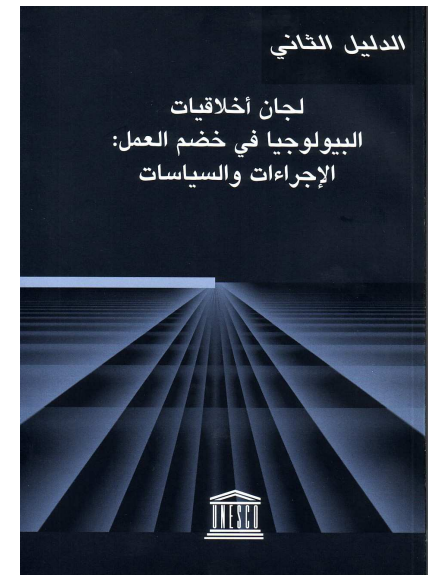
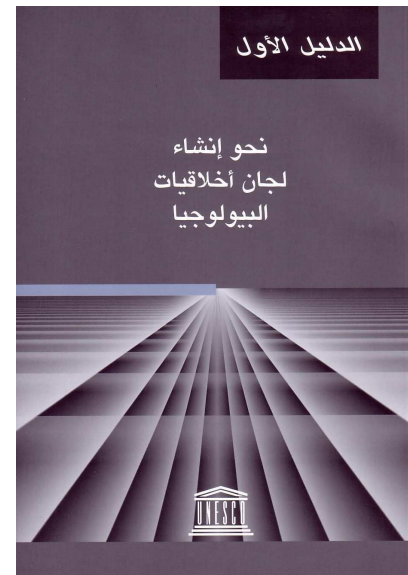
## 2. provision of practical information

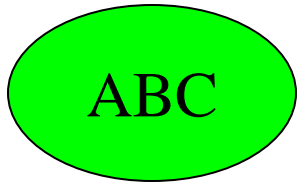
- Different models and approaches
- Examples and experiences
- Practical data

### Series of Guidebooks

1. *Establishing Bioethics Committees*
2. *Bioethics Committees at work*
3. *Educating Bioethics Committees*

- *PMA: Policy-Making and/or Advisory Bioethics Committees*
- *HPA: Health-Professional Associations Bioethics Committees*
- *HEC: Health care/Hospital Ethics Committees*
- *REC: Research Ethics Committees*





# Assisting Bioethics Committees

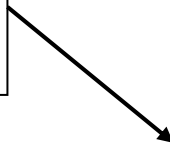
## 3. technical support

Two teams of experts

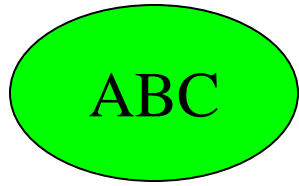
- D.R. Congo
- France
- India
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- Saudi Arabia
- United Kingdom



Preparatory meetings in Paris:  
24 November & 14 December 2006



methodology and plan of  
action



# Assisting Bioethics Committees

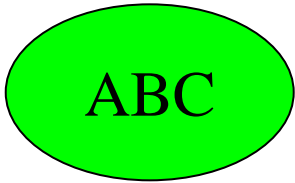
## 3. technical support

preparatory technical visits with teams

Extrabudgetary funding  
from UK Delegation



9-10 March 2007: Togo  
21-23 March 2007: Ghana  
6-7 June 2007: Jamaica  
18-19 June 2007: Malawi  
21-22 June 2007: Madagascar  
6-10 August 2007: Mauritius  
Autumn 2007: Gabon



# Assisting Bioethics Committees

## 3. technical support

**Togo:** 29 March 2007

inauguration Comité Consultatif National de Bioéthique

**Madagascar:** 12 February 2007

Comite Malgache d' Ethique pour les Sciences et  
les Technologies

Memorandum  
of  
Understanding

### 3 years project of assistance

- Year 1: - training working methods  
- documentation  
- training secretariat
- Year 2: - training ethics  
- partnerships  
- public event
- Year 3: - training ethics  
- networking

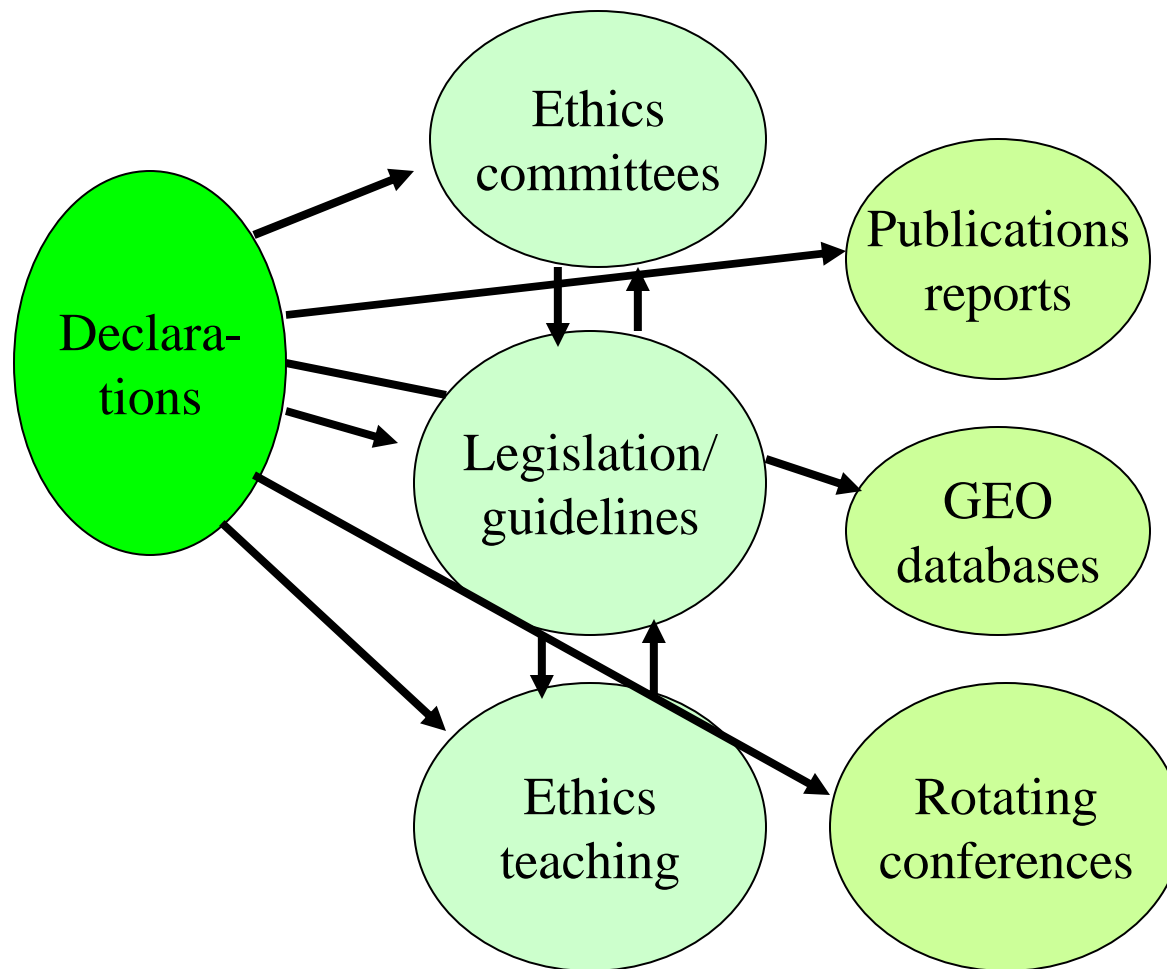
*A summary view of ethics activities in a coherent framework*

Standards

Capacity

Awareness

***OUTCOMES***



- platforms for ethical action
- intensive public debate
- informed public opinion
- (inter)national normative frameworks
- morally sensitized professionals and scientists
- assisted policy-making

# Possibilities in your country

- Rotating conference in 2008-2009
- Ethics teaching
  - Introduction of bioethics core course
  - Ethics Teacher Training Course
  - Produce educational materials
  - UNESCO Chair in bioethics
- Policy-advice
  - Workshop for policy-makers
  - Setting up of National bioethics committee
- Regional networking

Thank you