

First Draft of a Preliminary Text of a Declaration on Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change

EVALUATION AND COMMENTS Hungary

This document summarises the results of the public consultations held in Hungary in relation to the First Draft of a Preliminary Text of a Declaration on Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change (the “Declaration”). The consultations were organised jointly by the Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO and the National University of Public Service. The consultations involved a number of selected NGOs, ministries, professional bodies, renowned individual experts, churches and companies. The consultations comprised two phases, one soliciting written comments on the basis of the Hungarian translation of the Draft and, subsequently, a public hearing held on 11 January 2017.

This document is structured as follows:

- Overall evaluation;
- Detailed remarks;
- Textual amendments.

1. Overall evaluation

The initiative to adopt a declaration on the ethical considerations relating to climate change is strongly supported. The Declaration seems to be able to maintain the delicate global political balance that was achieved in the Paris Agreement. At the same time, the Declaration represents a rather low level of ambition and is formulated at a very high level of abstraction. In its present form it reflects climate change-related specificities only to a very limited extent.

Tackling climate change can only succeed, if climate action forms an integral part of a broader transformative process that results in a new development paradigm. This new development paradigm has several economic, environmental and ethical dimensions. Until recently, however, the ethical dimensions have been largely overlooked in the global policy discourse. The Declaration should therefore set new standards in ethics not only in international politics, but also provide useful moral guidance for non-state actors. As it stands today, the Declaration falls short of this objective.

Moreover, in order to make an impact, the final declaration should trigger enthusiasm and be more user-friendly. This implies, as a minimum, that text is drafted in a more inspiring and emphatic language, rather than the agreed phraseology of multilateral diplomacy used in the Declaration. This plain jargon does not reflect the gravity of the problem, the magnitude of the necessary change or the deep ethical considerations climate change gives rise to.

Finally, the text should be shortened focusing on a number of clear key messages. These messages should be formulated in such a way that can be readily integrated not only in government policies, but also in the action of other actors, such as local communities, companies, etc.

2. Detailed remarks

2.1 *The broader context: the global sustainable development agenda*

It would be very important to firmly anchor the subject matter of the Declaration – climate change – into the broader context of sustainable development. Notably, it should be underlined that climate change, as one of the most important geological-scale changes that are shaping the future of humanity, is closely linked to a range of equally powerful megatrends. These systemic linkages and interactions should be clearly underlined in the text.

In the policy context it means that climate change ethics should be unequivocally integrated into the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

2.2 *Scope of the Declaration*

While the Declaration should not encompass all possible policy areas that are linked to climate change, some important linkages should nonetheless be mentioned in the text. These should, at least, include:

- water: it is estimated that around 80% of the impacts of climate change are manifested through changes in hydrology, be it extended droughts, extreme floods, etc.;
- migration: climate change is already one of the key drivers of domestic and international migration;
- energy: the energy sector is the key driver of climate change. Given the focus of the Declaration, the ethical dimension of energy poverty should also be mentioned;
- food supply: with climate change intensifying, food supply will become more fragile in most regions of the world;
- traditional species: special attention should be paid to the preservation of the genetic stock of autochthonous animal and plant species, etc.

2.3 *Ethical principles*

As mentioned above the Declaration, as it stands today, adds very little to a number of well-established general ethical considerations and represents a rather low level of ambition.

Also, given the rather abstract and general language of the Declaration the precise content of some of the core ethical concepts used in the text, such as justice, fairness, solidarity remain unclear. Given the elusive nature of these notions it would be highly beneficial to define these concepts in the context of climate ethics.

The Declaration should draw on more vigorously from the UNESCO's own work and heritage, existing ethical concepts in international law and legal literature as well as from the teachings of religions¹.

Suggestions:

- a stronger reference is needed to the “intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind”, a founding principle of the Constitution of UNESCO, especially in the preamble to the Declaration;

¹ See in this context the various documents of COMEST, e.g. The Ethical Implications of Global Climate Change, Environmental Ethics and International Policy, etc.

- the ethical language should be strengthened by reference to such key moral categories as conscience, courage, responsibility, global common good, human dignity, humanism, indifference, etc.;²
- the starting point of climate ethics should be the fact that it is mankind that has caused anthropogenic climate change, therefore acting on climate change is an “ethical imperative”³. While nations, regions and individuals hold a differentiated responsibility, they all remain accountable;
- the text should make it clear that given the finite nature of natural resources and their ever-growing degradation no nation, company or individual can claim a right to unlimited consumption and growth;
- inter-generational equity should be given central role in the Declaration,
- the role of the individual should be strongly highlighted in the text (despite the fact that the main addressees of the Declaration are states);
- the Declaration should strongly underline the importance of long-term action and necessity of long-term commitment by all actors;
- the Declaration should make reference to such emerging relevant legal/ethical concepts as the stewardship of natural resources.

2.4 *Methods and means of implementation*

The role of sub-state level actors and actions should be significantly strengthened in the text as follows:

- the role of municipalities and local communities: much of real-impact climate action takes place at municipal/local level. More attention should be paid to the key importance of these actors;
- public participation: while the Declaration makes reference to public participation, it nonetheless does not cover the full range of participatory rights. In particular, access to decision-making with regards to projects, plans and strategies with a significant climate impact is not mentioned at all. This should be rectified as public participation underpins the legitimacy of the implementation of the Declaration;
- networking: strong reference should be made in the text to the importance of formal and informal networks in implementation. At the age of web-based social network this is a critical shortcoming;
- sharing of best practices: the Declaration devotes several sections to the sharing of scientific information and technological inventions. Sharing of best practices at all levels should be highlighted in the same manner;
- education and awareness raising: the central role of youth in climate change action and ethics should be highlighted in the text, possibly under a separate section. Equally, the education section in the Declaration falls short of the paradigm shift required by the transition towards sustainability as well as some of the UNESCO’s own progressive work in the field;
- reference should be made to such established economic regulatory tools of climate policy as green procurement, taxation, etc.

² E.g. see sections 52 and 169 of the Encyclical Letter “Laudato Si” by Pope Francis on the Care for Our Common Home.

³ Language borrowed from the Messages and Policy Recommendations of the 2016 Budapest Water Summit.

2.5 *Links to other documents*

Given the broad context of climate change as well as its linkages to other policy areas and activities, the Declaration should make explicit references to some key documents existing in the field such as the various publications of the COMEST in the field of environmental ethics or the UNESCO's own materials on sustainable development education.

3. **Textual amendments**

Suggested amendments to the text are indicated as follows:

- **new text (bold, italics, underlined)**;
- **~~deletion (bold, italics, crossed)~~**;
- *justification (italics)*;
- *comment (italics)*.

FIRST DRAFT OF A PRELIMINARY TEXT OF A DECLARATION ON ETHICAL PRINCIPLES IN RELATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The Member States of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, meeting in Paris at the thirty-ninth session of the General Conference, from 7 to 29 November 2017,

Considering the reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other relevant expert organizations on the scientific findings on climate change,

Noting with great concern that human-induced climate change is threatening the sustainability of the Earth's living and non-living systems in an unprecedented way, and is already causing **widespread** harm and entails ~~potentially~~ irreversible adverse consequences,

Justification: the language of the recital should be strengthened by way of pointing to the omnipresent and irreversible nature of climate change.

Recognizing that human-induced climate change has been caused by humankind that holds the ultimate moral responsibility to rectify it. Action against climate change is therefore a collective ethical imperative,

Justification: a new recital should be introduced that, as the ethical premise of the entire Declaration, introduces the concept of humanity's moral responsibility for climate change and for resolving the problem. All other principles flow from this core moral imperative.

Aware of the ethical responsibilities of the human beings in this regard individually and collectively,

Justification: the ultimate addressee of all moral norms is the individual. The individual's role and responsibility should take centre stage in the text as, ultimately, climate change and climate change action is the consequence of choices made by individuals (as politicians, consumers, social activists, etc.) and their communities.

Acknowledging that responses to climate change are also likely to have many important and variable ethical implications, and that it has become an imperative to place ethics as a core and necessary element in climate change solutions,

Justification: there is a slight confusion in the Preamble as to the ethical considerations relating to the emergence of climate change on the one hand, and climate change action, on the other. It should be made clear that both have deep ethical dimensions and the Declaration addresses both. Therefore the relevant recital on climate change solutions should be moved upward and amended as above.

Recognizing that inaction to address climate change will have devastating consequences and that there is now an urgent imperative for all to mitigate the causes and adapt to the consequences of climate change,

*Convinced that the challenge of climate change cannot be met without the participation of **and cooperation between** all and at all levels: international organizations, States, subnational entities, cities, administrations, private sector, civil society organizations, and individuals,*

Justification: the text should contain a reference not only to participation, but also to cooperation.

Recognizing that climate change is closely linked to other powerful trends of the Anthropocene, such as population growth, urbanisation, the degradation of finite natural resources, economic expansion, etc. and that it requires concerted systemic action in all connected fields in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Justification: it should be made clear that climate change is not a stand-alone natural phenomenon, but one of the powerful transformational changes shaping the Men's Age (Anthropocene). Thus, action on climate change should be concerted and system-wide, under the UN's overall framework action programme: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Recognizing the countries taking the lead in sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production, and recognizing that sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of production and consumption play an important role in addressing climate change,

~~*Aware of the ethical responsibilities of human beings in this regard,*~~

Justification: this recital should be moved upwards as amended above.

~~**Acknowledging that responses to climate change are likely to have many important and variable ethical implications, and that it has become an imperative to place ethics as a core and necessary element in climate change solutions,**~~

Justification: this recital should be moved upwards and amended as above.

Conscious of the importance of undertaking climate change actions in accordance with the common but differentiated responsibilities principle as reaffirmed in the Paris Agreement; that significant responses should be pursued by all to limit climate change; and of providing support to countries requiring assistance through both financial and technological means,

Recognizing also that the share of historical, current and future global emissions of greenhouse gases is different among nations and various social groups, and therefore that their responsibilities differ,

Noting with concern that the burdens of climate change are unequally distributed among the Earth's nations and various social groups, with climate change exacerbating other threats to social and natural systems, and placing additional burdens particularly on the poor and vulnerable,

Reflecting on the complexity of the causes and impacts of human-induced climate change, and Convinced of the need to develop effective and comprehensive cross-cutting policies which address the needs of the most vulnerable and which are gender responsive,

Emphasizing the fundamental importance of science, information and education for responding to the challenge of climate change, and raising awareness about it,

Justification: it may be useful to underline that science, information and education are also key for awareness raising.

~~**Conscious of the different ethical perspectives in regard to climate change, and**~~

Justification: this recital becomes redundant in view of the above suggestions.

Recalling the work of the United Nations and its Agencies, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement adopted by 195 countries at COP-21 in December 2015, in which it was resolved to keep increase in the global average temperature ~~global warming~~ well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels,

Justification: use the agreed language of the Paris Agreement.

Bearing in mind the UNESCO Declaration on the Responsibilities of the Present Generations Towards Future Generations of 1997, as well as the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development of 2013 and

Justification: it would be useful to make a reference to UNESCO's landmark educational programme in the field.

Recalling the work carried out by the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) on environmental ethics in general and the ethical issues associated with climate change in particular,

Adopt this Declaration and proclaim the following principles.

General Provisions

Article 1: Scope

1. This Declaration addresses ethical issues in relation to human-induced climate change while considering the development of scientific knowledge and technological innovations.
2. This Declaration is addressed to States, and concerns actions related to climate change taken internationally, regionally, nationally, sub-nationally and locally.
3. This Declaration also provides guidance to decisions and practices of individuals, groups, scientific and other communities, institutions and corporations, public and private at all levels.

Article 2: Aims

The ultimate aim of the ethical principles outlined in this Declaration is to help anticipate, avoid or minimize the adverse effects of climate change and to protect humankind and the Earth's living and non-living systems by:

- a. providing a universal set of relevant ethical principles that should guide States in formulating their policies, legislations, and other instruments in the response to climate change;
- b. guiding the actions of individuals, groups, communities, institutions, and corporations, public and private in their responses to climate change;
- c. promoting respect for life on Earth, ***stewardship of natural resources*** and protection of the Earth's living and non-living systems as a common responsibility of humankind consistent with international agreements on climate change, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and other relevant international environmental agreements;

Justification: the concept of stewardship of natural resources is an emerging legal and moral concept underpinning intergenerational solidarity. See the 2013 UNSG report on Intergenerational solidarity and the needs of future generations (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2006future.pdf>);

- d. promoting cooperation and solidarity ***among generations, nations, regions and various social strata*** in responses to climate change;

Justification: solidarity is a very broad and flexible term. It should be clarified that the Declaration aims to encompass all facets of solidarity.

- e. recognizing the importance of scientifically informed decision-making on climate change while stressing the relevance of appropriate local, traditional and indigenous knowledge, within the framework of the ethical principles set out in this Declaration;
- f. fostering multidisciplinary, pluralistic, and intercultural dialogue about the ethical implications of climate change within society, between sectors, and at different levels of government;
- g. **fostering systemic economic and social innovation necessary for the transition to sustainable societies;**

Justification: technological and scientific innovations are insufficient to meet the challenges of the Anthropocene. Instead, large-scale systemic innovations are needed to trigger the comprehensive transformation that handling climate change and all the related problems require.

- h. promoting equitable access to climate change knowledge and appropriate technological innovations in response to climate change; and promoting the greatest possible flow and rapid sharing of knowledge and benefits in this regard, in particular with the most vulnerable, including vulnerable countries such as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
- i. preventing the creation of new, and the deepening of existing vulnerabilities and inequalities by human-induced climate change and associated responses;
- j. promoting policy responses to climate change that can also contribute to addressing other policy goals that advance the well-being of all peoples, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- k. safeguarding the **equal** interests **and rights** of present and future generations **in leading a dignified life.**

Justification: when talking about intergenerational equity it should be underlined that present and future generations should enjoy the same rights. The ultimate goal of this Declaration should be to protect the natural resource base and social capital for all generations to lead a life in dignity.

Principles

Within the scope of this Declaration, in decisions or practices taken or carried out by those to whom it is addressed, the following principles are to be respected:

Article 3: Avoiding Harm

Since climate change not only threatens the sustainability of the Earth's living and non-living systems, the integrity of species, the welfare of nations, peoples, local communities and individuals, but already has been causing harm and negative consequences, some of which are irreversible, States and other social actors should take all measures within their powers to:

- a. formulate and implement policies and actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change;
- b. anticipate, avoid or minimize harm, wherever it might emerge, from climate adaptation and mitigation policies and actions, and any other possible measures aiming at alleviating the impacts of climate change;
- c. seek transnational cooperation before deploying new technologies that may have transnational impacts;
- d. remedy residual harm from climate change, and climate adaptation and mitigation policies and actions.

Article 4: Precautionary Principle

States and other social actors shall use the precautionary approach widely according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective **preventive** measures. **The principles laid down by this Declaration shall not be ignored based on the level of certainty in climate science reports.**

Article 5: Justice and Fairness

1. Global justice in relation to climate change requires the participation of all members of society. The common but differentiated responsibilities principle as reaffirmed in the Paris Agreement should be applied not only among nations, but also within nations.
2. It is an imperative for all to take measures to safeguard and protect the Earth's living and non-living systems for present and future generations. These measures should take into account the most vulnerable and should be gender responsive.
3. States, other social actors, and everyone in a position to do so, should take immediate action to contribute through scientific, technical, and financial support, to increase the adaptive and mitigating capacities of the most vulnerable.
4. Each individual or group of individuals should be granted effective and timely access to information on climate change and the means of implementation for mitigation and adaptation. States should facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available and in a timely manner.
5. In order to prevent adverse effects of climate change, and of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and actions, each individual or group of individuals should be granted effective access to justice, including redress and remedy.
6. **In order to enhance intergenerational equity, states should, as appropriate, promote decision-making mechanisms and institutions that give due consideration to the long-term interests of future generations.**

Justification: the institutional representation of the interests of future generations should feature on the text. On this subject see the 2013 UNSG report on

Article 6: Sustainability

To sustain the long-term survival of life on Earth, and to ensure that future generations are able to meet their needs, States and other social actors should:

- a. use resources efficiently, adopt green economic systems and support climate-friendly low-carbon technologies;
- b. allow the Earth's living and non-living systems to regenerate themselves by adopting sustainable patterns of consumption and production;
- c. ensure that all people benefit from the opportunities of development so that no one is left behind, especially local communities, indigenous peoples, and others vulnerable to climate change.

Article 7: Solidarity

1. States, other social actors, and those who have the decision-making powers to address climate change should act and cooperate by taking into account:
 - a. the importance of protecting and enhancing the world we share in common in such a way that reflects the solidarity and interdependence among peoples of different backgrounds, and the interdependence of humankind with its surroundings;
 - b. the well-being, livelihood and survival of future generations which depend on our current use of resources;
 - c. the interconnectedness of the physical, ecological and social systems of all countries, regions and communities within the biosphere, as well as of the Earth's living and non-living systems and near Earth outer-space.
2. Those who have knowledge related to climate change impacts and solutions have an obligation to share such knowledge in a timely manner and on equitable terms. This obligation, based on intellectual and moral solidarity, includes providing access to essential resources, as well as scientific, technological, and medical knowledge related to climate change, in order to increase adaptive and mitigating capacities, and to increase the resilience of people and of the Earth's living and non-living systems.
3. Human beings collectively and individually have an obligation to assist the most vulnerable to climate change, especially when catastrophic events occur.
4. States should cooperate to address climate change challenges by providing transfer of technologies, capacity-building and financial resources, particularly to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Article 8: Scientific Knowledge and Integrity in Decision-Making

1. Decision-making based on science is critically important for meeting the mitigation and adaptation challenges of a rapidly changing climate. Decisions must be based on and guided by the best available science, particularly the IPCC reports, taking into account appropriate local, traditional and indigenous knowledge at any point in time, with a view to integrating all of them into the innovation process as much as possible.
2. In order to optimally aid in decision-making, science needs to meet the highest standards of research integrity by being impartial, rigorous, and honest. Scientific knowledge should be freely shared, and must give adequate estimates of uncertainty in order to give decision-makers insight into and understanding of the underlying risks, as well as opportunities.
3. States should:
 - a. take measures which help protect and maintain the integrity of the scientific process, including guarding against scientific misconduct. This includes assisting in maintaining strong scientific standards and transparency at all levels with respect to scientific funding, methodologies and research findings;
 - b. raise awareness and promote literacy in science among all sectors of their populations in order to underpin strong action against climate change.
4. Innovative and potentially high-impact solutions and technologies which are safer, cheaper and more accessible, as well as behavioral change towards a low carbon lifestyle, should be prioritized by States, individuals, groups, communities, institutions and corporations, public and private, and investments should be made to fast track them.
5. States should:
 - a. build, maintain and enhance science capacity through education, training and establishing relevant scientific infrastructure;
 - b. act with priority on climate change knowledge and its implications in an ethical manner as outlined in this Declaration;
 - c. help protect the independence of scientific activity from the pressure of vested interests;
 - d. promote accurate communication on climate change based on peer-reviewed scientific research.

Implementation of the Principles

The following actions by States and other social actors will promote effective implementation of the ethical principles in relation to climate change:

Article 9: Science, Technologies and Innovations

1. Develop strategies to uphold the integrity of scientific research in addressing climate change issues.

2. Use the best available scientific knowledge in decision-making that directly or indirectly relate to climate change issues.
3. Give preference to the development and up-scaling of technologies, infrastructure and behaviors that reduce climate risks.
4. Increase the participation of scientists from developing countries in climate-related science.
5. Develop appropriate training programmes to help apply these principles to build capacity within public administration, civil society organizations, media and the private sector.

Article 10: Risk assessment and management

Undertake and institutionalize evidence-based assessment and the appropriate management of risks related to climate change.

Article 11: Vulnerable groups

Give priority in climate change responses to the needs of vulnerable groups, in particular those affected by climate change, so that benefits are widely shared, as are the success stories of different communities in relation to climate change.

Article 12: Education

1. **In line with UNESCO's initiatives on Education for Sustainable Development and Education for Climate Change, advance curricula and mainstream educational methodologies that build awareness about humankind's relation to the Earth's living and non-living systems as well as competences (knowledge, skills, capabilities) necessary for responsible decision-making in the field.**

Justification: the original text represents a very low level of ambition, especially in light of UNESCO's primary mission as an educational body. The subsection should be therefore strengthened by making reference to UNESCO's ongoing initiatives in the field and by expanding the scope of the subsection to the obligation to climate-education mainstreaming that includes competence-building, not only the transfer of knowledge.

2. Promote formal and non-formal education with regard to climate change challenges, and ways to address them, **including the role of the individual in climate action.**

Justification: climate change education should not be a purely academic subject, but should enable the pupils, students, etc. to take individual action to tackle climate challenges.

3. Encourage educational institutions and educators to integrate these principles **as well as the competences needed for the implementation** in their teaching activities aimed at a full range of ages beginning at the pre-school level.

Justification: again, climate educators should be called upon to transfer not only the sheer knowledge of the principles, but also the competences needed for their implementation.

4. Ensure that governments, formal and non-formal educational institutions, and others involved in education, contribute actively to awareness-raising regarding, **as well as understanding, implementing and mainstreaming** these principles.

Justification: as above.

Article 13: Public Awareness

Promote awareness regarding climate change and responses to it, through communication by the media, **engagement of** civil society organizations, scientific communities, ~~as well as~~ religious, cultural and other communities **as well as by strengthening social dialogue and collecting and disseminating best practices. Special attention should be paid to awareness raising among the youth.**

Justification: public awareness raising should not be limited to unidirectional communication, but should encompass the broad programme of reach-out, social dialogue and best-practice sharing. It also should be underlined that one of the key target groups of awareness raising should be the younger generation.

Article 14: Accountability, review and evaluation

1. Ensure that policy goals, commitments and agreements are acted upon, and that the actions taken are regularly evaluated, including against the ethical principles evoked in this Declaration.
2. Ensure the integrity of climate policy and action through governance measures preventing corruption, misuse of power, and fraud, and promoting transparency.
3. Ensure that gender is given due consideration in all climate change policies and actions.
4. **Ensure the institutional representation of youth as well as the due consideration of the interests of future generations in all climate change policies and actions.**

Justification: intergenerational equity requires some kind of formal involvement of the youth as well as the institutional consideration of the interests of future generations.

5. **Without prejudice to the constitutional set-up of each state and in line with the principle of subsidiarity, ensure the institutional engagement of territorial governments and municipalities in the development and implementation of national**

and international climate change policies and actions. The role of such territorial governments and municipalities should be clearly defined and they should be equipped with the necessary powers and financial means to discharge their duties under these policies.

Justification: although local and regional governments bear the bulwark of the implementation of climate policy, the Declaration almost completely ignores them. Their institutional role, including their competences and financial means, should be clearly stated in the text.

6. Empower citizens to hold their governments accountable to act on international and national climate goals, commitments and agreements, including those made in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.

Article 15: National policy and International cooperation

1. Take appropriate measures to ensure that decision-makers use these principles as a guideline for policy-making.
2. Share with developing countries the results of science and technological innovations in a timely manner and on equitable terms.
3. Act urgently upon the commitments taken in the Paris Agreement regarding international climate finance and capacity-building.
4. Invest in multilateral processes and programmes to communicate these principles and to promote multidisciplinary, pluralistic and intercultural dialogue around them.
5. Facilitate, support and invest as States in international cooperation promoting these principles within their competence.
6. In engaging and developing international research collaborations related to climate change, the scientific community should follow and promote these principles.

Article 16: Follow up by UNESCO

UNESCO shall reaffirm its commitment to dealing with the ethical principles in relation climate change. In doing so, UNESCO shall promote and disseminate this Declaration, in collaboration with the World Commission on Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC), the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), the International Geosciences Programme (IGCP), the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Management of Social Transformation Programme (MOST), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Convention on

Biological Diversity (CBD), and other relevant international bodies working on the issues of climate change.

Comment: it is unclear why certain UN agencies and bodies are mentioned or omitted.

Final provisions

Article 17: Interrelation and complementarity of the principles

The Declaration needs to be understood as a whole and principles are to be understood as complementary and interrelated. Each principle is to be considered in the context of the other principles, as appropriate and relevant in the circumstances.

Article 18: Denial of acts contrary to human rights, fundamental freedoms, human dignity, and respect for life on Earth

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, other social actor, group, or person any claim to engage in any activity or perform any act contrary to human rights, fundamental freedoms, human dignity, and respect for life on Earth.