



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

**The Assistant Director-General
for External Relations and Public Information**

To Permanent Delegates and
Observers to UNESCO

23 MAR. 2017

Ref: SHS/BIO/17/2660

**Subject: Renewal of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific
Knowledge and Technology of UNESCO (COMEST)**

Sir/Madam,

In accordance with its Statutes (copy attached herewith), the Director-General will proceed, at the beginning of 2018, with the renewal of one half of the membership of the UNESCO World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), whose terms of office expire at the end of 2017.

Article 3, paragraph 1 of the afore-mentioned Statutes states that members of COMEST “*shall be 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*”. Moreover, paragraph 4 of the same Article states that “*members of the Commission shall be chosen from among eminent personalities in the fields of science, professional engineering, law, philosophy, culture, religion or politics, having the competence and the authority necessary to fulfil the functions entrusted to the Commission, taking due account of geographical distribution and ensuring coverage of the various disciplines and schools of thought*”. In addition and in line with UNESCO's commitment to promote gender equality in all its activities, the choice of the Director-General also will take into account the need to ensure gender balance in the composition of COMEST.

..I...

Pursuant to these provisions, I invite your country to propose to the Director-General the names of suitable personalities who might be considered for membership of the Commission for a period of four years, from 2018 to the end of 2021. I should be grateful if you would send details of your nominee(s), together with their *curriculum vitae*, to the Bioethics and Ethics of Science Section of the Social and Human Sciences Sector (7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France; tel.: +33 1 45 68 38 57 / 39 45; e-mail: comest@unesco.org) **before 1 December 2017**.

In ending, allow me to take this opportunity to remind you that the Director-General cannot appoint any person for more than two consecutive terms of office (Article 3, paragraph 2).

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Eric Falt

Encs. 2

Cc: National Commissions for UNESCO



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

Distribution: limited / limitée

SHS/YES/BIO/COMEST16-17/INF.1
Paris, 28 April / avril 2016
Original: English / français

**COMPOSITION OF THE
WORLD COMMISSION ON THE ETHICS OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE
AND TECHNOLOGY OF UNESCO (COMEST)
(2016-2017)**

**COMPOSITION DE LA
COMMISSION MONDIALE D'ETHIQUE DES CONNAISSANCES
SCIENTIFIQUES ET DES TECHNOLOGIES DE L'UNESCO (COMEST)
(2016-2017)**

Division of Ethics, Youth and Sport /
Division de l'éthique, de la jeunesse et des sports

NAME / NOM**TERM OF OFFICE /
DURÉE DU MANDAT**

ADEPARUSI Prof. (Ms) Eunice Oluwayemisi (Nigeria) Professor, Department of Fisheries and Aquacultural Technology, Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA) / Professeur, Département de technologie de la pêche et de l'aquaculture, Akure (FUTA) Member, National Association of Women Academics (NAWACS) / Membre, Association nationale des femmes universitaires (NAWACS) Member, African Women in Science and Engineering (AWSE) / Membre, Association des femmes africaines en sciences et ingénierie (AWSE) Member, Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) / Membre, Organisation des femmes de science pour les pays moins avancés (OWSD) Member, World Aquaculture Society (WAS) / Membre, Société mondiale d'aquaculture (WAS)	2016-2019
ALENEZI Prof. (Mr) Raslan (Kuwait / Koweït) Doctorate in Chemical Engineering / Docteur en génie chimique Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, College of Technological Studies, Shuwaikh, Kuwait / Professeur agrégé, Département de génie chimique, Collège des études technologiques, Shuwaikh, Koweït Vice-Chairperson of COMEST (2016-2017) / Vice-président de la COMEST (2016-2017)	2014-2017
ALSWAILEM Prof. (Mr) Abdulaziz (Saudi Arabia / Arabie Saoudite) Vice-President, Scientific Research Support, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology / Vice-président pour le Soutien à la recherche scientifique, Cité du Roi Abdulaziz pour les sciences et la technologie Chairperson, National Bioethics Committee / Président, Comité national de bioéthique Former Chairperson, Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IGBC) / Ancien président, Comité intergouvernemental de bioéthique de l'UNESCO (CIGB)	2014-2017
BRACANOVIĆ Prof. (Mr) Tomislav (Croatia / Croatie) Associate Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy at the Centre for Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb / Professeur agrégé de philosophie, Département de philosophie au Centre d'études croates, Université de Zagreb Member, Steering Committee, Society for the Advancement of Philosophy / Membre, Comité directeur, Société pour la promotion de philosophie Member, Editorial Board, philosophical journal <i>Prolegomena</i> / Membre, comité de rédaction, journal philosophique <i>Prolegomena</i> Member, Ethics Committee, NewFelPro Fellowship Project, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports / Membre, Comité d'éthique, projet NewFelPro, Ministère des Sciences, de l'Éducation et des Sports	2014-2017
HODSON DE JARAMILLO Prof. (Ms) Elizabeth (Colombia / Colombie) Professor Emeritus, Universidad Pontificia Javeriana / Professeur émérite, Universidad Pontificia Javeriana Corresponding Member, Colombian Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences / Membre correspondant, Académie des sciences exactes, de physique et des sciences naturelles de Colombie Former Director (1990-2010), Biotechnology Unit, Faculty of Science, Universidad Pontificia Javeriana / Ancienne Directrice (1990-2010), Unité de Biotechnologie, Faculté des Sciences, Universidad Pontificia Javeriana Member, Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) / Membre, Groupe ad hoc d'experts techniques sur l'évaluation et la gestion des risques, Convention sur la diversité biologique	2016-2019

NAME / NOM	TERM OF OFFICE / DURÉE DU MANDAT
<p>IBANA Prof. (Mr) Rainier A. (Philippines) Professor of Ethics, Environmental Ethics, Social Philosophy and Philosophy of Education, Ateneo de Manila University / Professeur d'éthique, d'éthique de l'environnement, philosophie sociale et philosophie de l'éducation, Université Ateneo de Manille President, Asia-Pacific Philosophy Education Network for Democracy / Président, Réseau Asie-Pacifique d'éducation philosophique pour la démocratie Vice-President, Philosophy with Children and Youth Network for Asia-Pacific / Vice-président, Réseau Asie-Pacifique de la philosophie pour les enfants et les jeunes Vice-Chairperson of COMEST (2016-2017) / Vice-président de la COMEST (2016-2017)</p>	2010-2017
<p>IRAJI ZAD Prof. (Ms) Azam (Islamic Republic of Iran / République islamique d'Iran) Doctorate in Physics / Docteur en physique Professor, Department of Physics, Sharif University of Technology / Professeur, Département de physique, Université de Technologie Sharif Chairperson, Institute for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology / Président, Institut pour la nanoscience et la nanotechnologie</p>	2014-2017
<p>KELBESSA GOLGA Prof. (Mr) Workineh (Ethiopia / Ethiopie) Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia / Professeur agrégé, Département de philosophie, Université Addis Ababa, Ethiopie Former Fellow, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation / Ancien boursier, Fondation Alexander von Humboldt Member, Editorial Advisory Board, Environmental Ethics Journal / Membre, Conseil consultatif de rédaction, Journal d'éthique environnementale</p>	2012-2019
<p>MESSER-YARON Prof. (Ms) Hagit (Israel) Professor of Electrical Engineering, and former Vice-President for Research and Development, Tel Aviv University / Professeur d'ingénierie électrique, et ancien Vice-président de la recherche et du développement, Université de Tel-Aviv Former Vice-Chairperson, Council of Higher Education of Israel / Ancien Vice-président, Conseil de l'enseignement supérieur d'Israël Former President, Open University, Israel / Ancien Président, Open University, Israël Former Chief Scientist, Ministry of Science of Israel / Ancien Scientifique Principal, Ministère des sciences, Israël</p>	2016-2019
<p>MITTELSTRAß Prof. (Mr) Jürgen (Germany / Allemagne) Professor of Philosophy and Philosophy of Science, University of Constance / Professeur de philosophie et de philosophie des sciences, Université de Constance Member, Pontifical Academy of Sciences / Membre, Académie pontificale des sciences Former President, Academia Europaea (London) (2002-2008) / Ancien Président, Académie européenne (Londres) (2002-2008) Former Chairperson, Austrian Science Council (2005-2015) / Ancien Président, Conseil scientifique autrichien (2005-2015)</p>	2010-2017
<p>MONTALVO BATISTA Dr (Mr) Miguel A. (Dominican Republic / République dominicaine) Doctor of Medicine / Docteur en médecine Executive Director, National Council for Bioethics and Health / Directeur exécutif, Conseil national de la bioéthique et de la santé</p>	2014-2017

NAME / NOM	TERM OF OFFICE / DURÉE DU MANDAT
<p>OMLADIC Dr (Mr) Luka (Slovenia / Slovénie) Lecturer, University of Ljubljana / Maître de conférences, Université de Ljubljana President, Slovenian Philosophical Society / Président, Société slovène de philosophie</p>	2012-2019
<p>UGHTON Prof. (Ms) Deborah H. (Norway / Norvège) Professor and Research Director, Centre for Environmental Radioactivity, Norwegian University of Life Sciences / Professeur et Directrice de recherche, Centre de radioactivité environnementale, Université des sciences de la vie de Norvège Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Oslo / Professeur adjoint, Faculté des mathématiques et des sciences naturelles, Université d'Oslo Former Member and Vice-Chairperson, National Ethics Committee for Science and Technology / Ancien Membre et Vice-présidente, Comité national d'éthique pour les sciences et les technologies Former Member, Ethics Advisory Board for Patents / Ancien Membre, Conseil consultatif d'éthique pour les brevets Former Member, Climate Panel, Norwegian Academy of Sciences / Ancien Membre, groupe d'experts sur le climat, Académie des sciences de Norvège</p>	2014-2017
<p>PARIZEAU Prof. (Ms) Marie-Hélène (Canada) Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, Université Laval (Québec City) / Professeur, Faculté de Philosophie, Université Laval (Québec) Leader, Research Group on Medical and Environmental Ethics / Directrice, Groupe de recherche en éthique médicale et environnementale Chairperson of COMEST (2016-2017) / Présidente de la COMEST (2016-2017)</p>	2012-2019
<p>SENE Prof. (Mr) Abdoulaye (Senegal / Sénégal) Environmental sociologist / Sociologue de l'environnement Coordinator for "Ethics, Governance, Environmental and Social Responsibility", Environmental Sciences Institute, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar / Coordonnateur pour « Éthique, gouvernance, responsabilité sociale et environnementale », Institut des sciences de l'environnement, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar Chairperson, Board of Directors, National Authority for Quality Assurance of Higher Education of Senegal / Président, Conseil d'Administration, Autorité Nationale de l'Assurance Qualité de l'Enseignement Supérieur du Sénégal (ANAQ-SUP)</p>	2012-2019
<p>SHINWARI Prof. (Mr) Zabta K. (Pakistan) Laureate of the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science (2015) / Lauréat du Prix UNESCO Avicenne d'éthique scientifique (2015) Secretary-General, Pakistan Academy of Sciences / Secrétaire général, Académie des Sciences du Pakistan Chairperson, Biotechnology Department, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad / Président, Département de Biotechnologie, Université Quaid-i-Azam, Islamabad President, National Council for Tibb / Président, Conseil national pour Tibb (médecine traditionnelle) Founder and Former Vice-Chancellor, Qarshi University, Lahore / Fondateur et ancien Vice-Chancelier, Université de Qarshi, Lahore Founder and Former Vice-Chancellor, Kohat University Science and Technology (KUST) / Fondateur et ancien Vice-Chancelier, Université des sciences et des technologies de Kohat (KUST) Founder and Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Science and Technology, Bannu / Fondateur et ancien Vice-Chancelier, Université des sciences et des technologies, Bannu</p>	2016-2019

NAME / NOM**TERM OF OFFICE /
DURÉE DU MANDAT**

SIRJU-CHARRAN Prof. (Ms) Grace (Trinidad and Tobago / Trinité-et-Tobago) Retired Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry and former Head, Department of Life Sciences and Institute for Gender and Development Studies, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine / Ancien Maître de conférences de biochimie et Directeur, Département des sciences de la vie, Institut des études de genre et de développement, Université des West Indies, St Augustine Member, National Commission for UNESCO (2007-2015) / Membre, Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO (2007-2015) Chairperson, Bioethics Committee, National Commission for UNESCO (2013-2015) / Président, Comité de bioéthique, Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO (2013-2015) Vice-President, Bioethics Society of the English-speaking Caribbean (BSEC) / Vice-présidente, Société de Bioéthique des Caraïbes anglophones Rapporteur of COMEST (2016-2017) / Rapporteur de la COMEST (2016-2017)	2014-2017
VERBEEK Prof. (Mr) Peter-Paul (Netherlands) Professor of Philosophy and Technology, University of Twente / Professeur de philosophie et de technologie, Université de Twente Vice-Dean, Faculty of Behavioural, Management, and Social Sciences and Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Twente / Vice-Doyen, Faculté des sciences sociales, du comportement et de gestion et Président, Département de philosophie, Université de Twente Member, Supervisory Board, Netherlands Organisation for Applied Research (TNO) / Membre, Conseil de surveillance, Organisation pour la recherche appliquée des Pays-Bas (TNO) Member, Council for the Humanities, Royal Academy of Sciences / Membre, Conseil des sciences humaines, Académie royale des sciences	2016-2019



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

STATUTES OF THE WORLD COMMISSION ON THE ETHICS OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY OF UNESCO (COMEST) *

Article 1

A World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology, hereinafter called 'the Commission' (category V), is hereby established.

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,
- to promote dialogue between scientific communities, decision-makers and the public at large.

Article 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.
2. The members shall be appointed for a four-year term, renewable once. In the event of the resignation or death of a Commission member, the Director-General shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the current term.
3. One half of the members of the Commission shall be replaced every two years. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 above, when appointing the first members of the Commission, the Director-General shall designate the nine members whose term shall expire on 31 December 1999.
4. The members of the Commission shall be chosen from among eminent personalities in the fields of science, professional engineering, law, philosophy, culture, religion or politics, having the competence and the authority necessary to fulfil the functions entrusted to the Commission, taking due account of geographical distribution and ensuring coverage of the various disciplines and schools of thought.

* Adopted by the Executive Board at its 154th Session, on 7 May 1998 (154 EX/Dec. 3.4.2).

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.
6. The Commission shall define, in agreement with the Director-General, the conditions under which certain specialists, representatives of non-governmental organizations or personalities may be consulted in person, on the questions listed in its programme.

Article 4

1. The Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO may participate as observers in the meetings of the Commission.
2. States which are not Members of UNESCO, but Members of the United Nations system organizations, may participate as observers in the Commission's meetings at the invitation of the Director-General.
3. The United Nations and the other organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has concluded mutual representation agreements may participate as observers in the Commission's meetings.
4. The Commission shall define, in agreement with the Director-General, the conditions under which other intergovernmental and international nongovernmental organizations with purposes similar to those of the Commission may be invited to attend its debates.

Article 5

1. The Director-General shall convene the Commission in ordinary session once every two years. He/she may convene extraordinary sessions at the request of the President of the Commission and subject to the availability of the necessary resources.
2. The Director-General, in consultation with the Bureau of the Commission, shall set the date and place of each session.
3. Any Member State of UNESCO, or Member of one of the United Nations system organizations, may invite the Director-General to convene a session of the Commission on its territory.

Article 6

1. At each of its ordinary sessions, the Commission shall elect a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur, who shall form the Bureau of the Commission and shall remain in office until the following ordinary session.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 above, the Director-General shall appoint the first President of the Commission.

3. The Director-General shall convene the Bureau, in consultation with the President, and shall be represented at the Bureau's meetings.

Article 7

1. The Director-General shall provide the staff and the resources needed to ensure the operation of the Commission's secretariat.
2. The Director-General of UNESCO shall designate a member of the UNESCO Secretariat as the Executive Secretary of the Commission.

Article 8

1. The travel expenses and subsistence allowances payable to Commission members in connection with meetings shall be borne by UNESCO, in accordance with the applicable travel regulations.
2. The costs arising from the participation of specialists, in connection with any hearings requested by the Commission, shall be borne by UNESCO, in accordance with the applicable travel regulations.
3. The international non-governmental organizations invited to participate in the Commission's work shall bear the expenses arising from the participation of their representative in the Commission's sessions.
4. The running expenses of the Commission shall be financed by an allocation made for that purpose by the General Conference at each of its ordinary sessions or by extrabudgetary resources that states may donate for that purpose.

Article 9

1. The Commission shall establish its Rules of Procedure, which shall be submitted to the Director-General for approval.
2. The Director-General shall draw up the agenda of the Commission's sessions, after consultation with the President of the Commission.
3. After each session, the Commission shall submit to the Director-General a report on its work, and its recommendations. The Director-General shall transmit the results of the Commission's work to the governing bodies of the Organization, and to the bodies concerned by the Commission's proposals.

Article 10

The present Statutes may be modified by the Executive Board at its own initiative or on a proposal by the Director-General.