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International Council for Science

# **International Council for Science**

**“Strengthening international science  
for the benefit of Society.....”**

International Forum on Biosecurity, March  
20-22, Como, Italy



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- 1. Science and Society: Rights and Responsibilities**
- 2. Review of the Principle of Universality**
- 3. UNESCO activities**



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# Science and Society

## **Equity, Access and Universality**

“There is a continuing need to ensure the free flow of scientists and scientific information across nations and to strengthen the watchdog functions of organizations that monitor discrimination in science”

## **Accountability and Governance**

“ There is a need to foster multi-stakeholder dialogue and achieve international consensus on major ethical issues involving science and society”



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# Science and Society

## Codes of Practice

“ Universal intergovernmental declarations can only be of a very generic nature and hence have limited impact on individual scientists. We should encourage the self-regulation of science and the implementation of existing (and new) codes of practice that are context specific”



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## Review of Universality

### **Freedom to Associate**

(Re visa restrictions)

**“The exchange of ideas between scientists from different countries at international meetings is a fundamental part of the scientific endeavor...No country, no matter how advanced, can expect to build or maintain a thriving scientific community in isolation”**



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# Review of Universality

## Freedom to Pursue Science

### Discrimination or repression for political reasons:

“There are instances when scientists, as a result of their scientific activities, publication of their scientific findings, or expression of their scientific opinions, no longer able to pursue their work because they are victims of repression.....There have, for example been recent calls for organized political boycotts by scientists that amount to national and/or institutional discrimination”



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## Review of Universality

### **Excessive Restrictions, constraints and limitations on normal scientific practice**

**“Various measures, often imposed on security grounds, in a number of countries are undermining the principle of Universality.....These issues are often complex and have broader policy implications involving careful judgments as to the appropriate balance between the freedom to pursue science and national and international policy imperatives.”**



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# Review of Universality

## **Responsibilities:**

**“Upholding the Universality of Science in the modern world implies extended responsibilities for the whole of the scientific community.....(we) need to work with governments and other stakeholders with an interest in strengthening science for the benefit of society, to ensure that barriers to universality are minimized or eliminated. This is an absolute prerequisite for scientific progress”**

# UNESCO

## **International Bioethics Committee (IBC):**

- Universal Declaration on Bioethics:
- final draft stage
- doesn't address bio-security/dual use

## **COMEST**

- Code of Conduct (Hippocratic Oath) for Scientists
- Just starting consultation (2007 or 2009 deadline)
- May include reference to bio-security and/or scientists responsibilities to help enforce international conventions



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