

Resolution 30C/24

Bioethics and the rights of the child*

The General Conference,

Reaffirming the principles set out in the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights, which it adopted on 11 November 1997,

Recalling the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 November 1975,

Referring to 25 C/Resolution 7.3 “Human rights and scientific and technological progress”, which emphasizes “the respect of fundamental human and, above all, children’s rights”,

Referring also to 27 C/Resolution 1.20 “Preventive education”,

Bearing in mind the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 29 November 1989 and came into force on 2 September 1990,

Noting that that Convention recalls in its Preamble that “as indicated in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child ... ‘the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth’”,

Believing that, given the dangers that certain constantly-evolving scientific advances and their applications may pose for children, an urgent need arises to examine bioethical issues from the viewpoint of protecting them,

Welcoming the work done by the World Association of Children’s Friends (AMADE) since its establishment in Monaco in 1963 to promote, in particular, the legal protection of children and to contribute to their full development,

1. Invites the Director-General:

(a) to organize in 2000, in close liaison with AMADE, an international seminar on bioethics and the rights of the child;

(b) to transmit the report on the proceedings of this seminar to the Member States and to the relevant intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental institutions;

2. Requests the Member States to take part in the dissemination of this report by making it available to all public and private bodies and to interested researchers in their countries;

3. Decides to place this matter on the agenda of its 31st session.

*Resolution adopted on the report of Commission III at the 25th plenary meeting, on 16 November 1999