



AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition

Council Meeting Report

July 26, 2010

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Welcome, Introductions, and Meeting Objectives

The Coalition has made progress, **Jessica Wyndham** (AAAS Science and Human Rights Program (SHRP)) said when opening the second meeting of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition Council. “Through your hard work and the growing interest in and commitment of scientific associations to human rights, we have made progress,” she said. “The Coalition working groups have started to develop toolkits, compile online resources, and tackle tough conceptual issues, while at the same time the membership of the Coalition has continued to grow”. The Coalition now has 28 member associations, 16 affiliated associations, and 52 affiliated scientists, and the number and variety of human rights activities carried out by these associations continues to increase.

“While progress continues to be made,” Wyndham said, “there are some areas to which the Coalition needs to turn its attention.” Two priorities for the Coalition in the coming year include diversifying the Coalition membership, particularly among the life, physical and engineering sciences, as well as ensuring greater engagement among existing members in the work of the Coalition. To assist the Coalition in its work, SHRP secured a two-year grant from the Oak Foundation which has allowed the Program to hire an additional staff person whose role includes support to the Coalition working groups.

Finally, Wyndham noted that although SHRP remains in transition while AAAS conducts a search for a Director, “over the past year we have not only kept moving forward, we have grown, supported by the dedication of the Steering Committee, the commitment of the working group co-chairs, the growth in the SHRP team, and the increasing interest and commitment of the scientific community to strengthening the connection between science and human rights.”

Following introductions by each of the Council members, Wyndham explained the meeting objectives: (1) to monitor progress of the Coalition’s five working groups; (2) to engage members in the implementation of the Joint Initiative Plan of Action; (3) to determine strategies for increasing member engagement in the work of the Coalition; and (4) to agree to an outreach strategy for diversifying the Coalition’s membership.

Council Meeting 2009: Report and Follow-up

The Coalition Council met for the first time in July 2009. **Susan Hinkins** (American Statistical Association) presented the report of that Meeting and introduced the recommendations made by the Steering Committee in follow-up to Council’s requests to (1) identify appropriate rules of procedure; (2) decide the circumstances in which the Council may enter executive session; and (3) develop publication guidelines.

The Steering Committee recommended, and the Council agreed as follows:

Rules of Procedure: Meetings of the Council will be conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised.

Executive Session: The Council will enter Executive Session only when matters of particular sensitivity are involved. These may include, but are not limited to, matters of personnel. When the Council votes¹ to enter Executive Session, all Observers will be requested to leave the meeting. The subject and outcome of an Executive Session will be made public in the report of the Council meeting.

Susan Hinkins clarified the circumstances that could justify entering executive session, including circumstances involving issues of personnel, or human rights abuses where the safety of an individual might be at risk. **Doug Richardson** (Association of American Geographers) added that it may also be valuable if discussing future staffing issues involving the Science and Human Rights Coalition or Program.

In the event Council agreed to enter executive session, members discussed the importance of recording that such a motion was passed. **Art Kendall** (Capitol Area Social Psychological Association) raised the question of whether a majority vote or two-thirds majority would be necessary to pass such a motion. **Paula Skedsvold** (Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences) and **David Schrader** (American Philosophical Association) recommended that a majority vote should be required.

Finally, Hinkins presented and Council agreed to the Publications Guidelines proposed by the Steering Committee (see attached).

Programs: Areas of Activity Progress Reports

The Coalition's programmatic work is carried out along two parallel tracks: five specialized areas of activity and an overarching initiative. The co-chairs of each of the five areas of activity working groups highlighted the progress their group had made in the previous year.

Welfare of Scientists: **John Gillespie** (American Physical Society) explained that on January 21, 2010, the group hosted a training session on "Best Practices for Defending the Human Rights of Scientists." The session was conducted by Scholars at Risk and attended by approximately twenty members of scientific societies and associations. The group has also updated a Resource List of organizations working on behalf of the welfare of scientists, providing a brief synopsis of each organization's work, as well as direct links to websites and contact emails. The group anticipates developing a network among the existing members of the Resource List to promote "early detection" of scientists at risk and a forum for disseminating information about such cases. Gillespie raised the question of how scientists might become aware of the network. Council members recommended that the American Association of University Professors may be a useful counterpart for disseminating information about the existence and function of the network.

¹ Note: The original language proposed by the Steering Committee was as follows: "When the Council agrees...". The Council agreed to an amendment of that language, replacing "agrees" with "votes."

Science Ethics and Human Rights: **Rob Albro** (American Anthropological Association) explained that the group is in the process of developing a “landscape document” detailing the connections between human rights and international and domestic ethical standards, as well as case studies highlighting the interaction of human rights with specific scientific associations’ ethical standards. Albro explained that three case studies in anthropology, computer science and psychology are currently being drafted, and an additional three are expected to pull from geography, intellectual property, medicine and/or weapons development. As part of the document, the group will develop a guide for incorporating human rights into codes of ethics. Albro asked Council members to contact him if they were currently or about to undertake a review of their code of ethics. **Kerry Bolger** (American Educational Research Association) noted that her Association is currently going through an ethics review.

Service to the Scientific Community: **Lee Herring** (American Sociological Association) announced that the group has finalized the “Starter Kit” aimed at assisting associations increase and diversify their human rights activities by providing the conceptual and practical tools, examples, and resources necessary to do so, whatever their current commitment to human rights. The kit will be launched on the Science and Human Rights Coalition website and promoted at speaker events over the next year. The working group has also started to focus on its Joint Initiative project, aimed at engaging scientific associations in defining the right to benefit from scientific progress.

Service to the Human Rights Community: **Susan Hinkins** (American Statistical Association) outlined the three projects on which the working group is focused: (1) publishing Guidelines to facilitate practical collaborations between human rights organizations and scientists; (2) developing clinics to bring human rights organizations together with scientists to tackle how science, scientific methods and scientific research can most effectively benefit specific projects or goals of the human rights organization; and (3) developing indicators by which to measure government compliance with their obligation to realize the right to the benefits of scientific progress. **Art Kendall** suggested Health Professionals Against Torture could be a possible partner group.

Education and Information Resources: **Jeff Toney** (Sigma Xi) noted the informational infrastructure built by the group, including several online resources: an annotated science and human rights bibliography, science and human rights syllabi, and case studies of partnerships between scientists and human rights organizations. He highlighted a new project of the group, to develop human rights modules for incorporation into science curricula. **Clinton Anderson** (American Psychological Association) recommended developing the modules to accord with the chapters commonly contained in textbooks as a way of encouraging their incorporation into standard texts. **Art Kendall** (Capitol Area Social Psychological Association) added that the book *Statistical Methods for Human Rights* (Asher, Banks and Scheuren eds) provides a series of potentially useful case studies.

Programs: Joint Initiative Plan of Action (2009-2011)

In addition to the five working groups that engage member associations in the pursuit of specified areas of activity, the Coalition is committed to pursuing an overarching initiative that engages the full membership. The human right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress (Article 15, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) was chosen as the focus of the Joint Initiative.

Jessica Wyndham (AAAS Science and Human Rights Program) introduced the Joint Initiative Plan of Action (2009-2011) (see Appendix 3), highlighting the significant developments that had occurred in the past year in the international and domestic context with regard to Article 15. She noted that a UNESCO-initiated process had concluded with the adoption of a Statement that called for the scientific community to become involved in the process of defining the right; AAAS, particularly the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, had become increasingly interested in how the scientific community could contribute to this work, leading to the adoption by the AAAS Board of Director of a Statement on the right; and, finally, a newly appointed UN Independent Expert on Cultural Rights had announced her intention to give focus to this right in her first report to the UN Human Rights Council.

In reviewing the document, Wyndham summarized the principal activities to be pursued by each working group. She summarized them as follows:

- (1) A Guide: The Connection Between Scientific Freedom and Human Rights;
- (2) Article 15, Human Rights to Science Ethics: An Analysis;
- (3) Engaging Scientific Associations to Define Article 15;
- (4) Indicators: Measuring Compliance with Article 15;
- (5) A Primer: Options and Opportunities for Scientists to Use Article 15 in their Work.

After presenting the Plan of Action, Wyndham called on Council members to endorse the Joint Initiative; to participate in the Joint Initiative activities through the working groups; and to raise awareness among their staff and membership of the right and the Coalition's activities to give focus to it.

In the discussion that followed, **Doug Richardson** (Association of American Geographers) emphasized the relevance of the Joint Initiative to other initiatives that may dovetail with Article 15, including programs aimed at redressing the digital divide and promoting access to information. He also suggested that geographers could be valuable in creating visual representations of areas of access, or lack of access, to the benefits of science. **Rob Albro** (American Anthropological Association) spoke of the value of explicitly linking codes of ethics to the language of Article 15 where the link may currently be only implicit. He also asked the question, "at what stage of science do we evaluate the benefit?", suggesting that the community consider when in the research stage information should become public. **Clifford Duke** (Ecological Society of America) suggested there could be a valuable link to explore between Article 15 and the right to data about your surroundings, particularly as a tool to promote environmental justice. Following on from this comment, **George Middendorf** (Ecological Society of America)

questioned where the boundary of rights should be drawn, referencing the example of “landscape rights.” Finally, **Jeff Toney** (Sigma Xi) highlighted an inherent tension and challenge within Article 15 of reconciling intellectual property and human rights, suggesting Article 15 could be a vehicle for proposing reforms to US patent law.

Highlight: Members Addressing Human Rights

Jessica Wyndham (AAAS Science and Human Rights Program) highlighted the growth in member actions associated with education, training, and awareness raising of human rights issues, but noted slower gains in structural and institutional developments, such as the creation of human rights committees, the adoption of statements relevant to human rights, and the development of pro bono programs.

To highlight the work occurring within member organizations, **Clinton Anderson** (American Psychological Association) led the discussion among Council members who identified relevant and related initiatives within their own organizations.

- **American Anthropological Association:** the Standing Committee on Human Rights Advocacy successfully advocated on behalf of a Guatemalan anthropologist
- **Ecological Society of America:** the national meeting to be held the week after the Council meeting includes a symposium on climate change from the perspective of environmental justice, and a student-led symposium addressing the role of community-level ecologists and the promotion of ecological justice
- **American Philosophical Association:** letters of protest were sent regarding the death of a philosophy student in Iran, and the firing of two philosophy professors at Kings College, London; the Association seeks funding to conduct education outreach to disadvantaged groups
- **Capitol Area Social Psychological Association:** reported that the Society of Terrorism Research has adopted a policy that each meeting will address a topic specific to human rights
- **Association of American Geographers:** human rights are being mainstreamed in annual meetings through the identification of relevant speakers, training sessions and films; the Association has facilitated discussion in the profession regarding the misuse of information, especially with regard to vulnerable populations; human rights themes are included in the newsletter and through an online portal, including a human rights and geography bibliography, events listings, and interactive forum
- **Council on Undergraduate Research:** an annual meeting event that was planned to address human rights was changed to focus on social justice broadly; students are carrying out research on Asian spas and sex trafficking
- **American Society of Civil Engineers:** a video addressing corruption in infrastructure projects and its global implications was developed (available at ethicana.org)

Membership and Member Engagement

Doug Richardson (Association of American Geographers) introduced the topic of membership engagement by asking “how can we make the Coalition so compelling that people want to attend and participate?” Two compelling reasons for participation that he emphasized are: (1) the tangible benefits of involvement in the Coalition - learning from others, collaboration with like minded colleagues, and receipt of valuable resources and information; and (2) the opportunity to engage in meaningful work beyond the immediate self-interest of the individual or association.

As the Coalition grows and continues to take shape, several Council members favored multiple levels of engagement, allowing for flexibility and a natural evolution of involvement particularly among new members. **Jeff Toney** (Sigma Xi) advocated for a “grass roots” approach that included engaging students and university faculty. **Alyson Reed** (Linguistics Society of America) noted that the completion of projects encouraged sustained involvement of members, and that the focus of membership engagement activities should be the accomplishment of the Coalition’s goals, rather than growth in membership for its own sake.

To maintain momentum and engage representatives more fully in the activities of the working groups, **Clinton Anderson** (American Psychological Association) noted that a succession plan for co-chairs should be developed. Finally, **George Middendorf** (Ecological Society of America) recommended conducting an informal evaluation to determine the reasons for which some representatives are not participating in the Coalition. **Jessica Wyndham** (AAAS Science and Human Rights Program) agreed that she would contact the representatives individually for this purpose.

As an example of how Coalition members may effectively engage the staff and members of their own organization in the work of the Coalition, **Clinton Anderson** (American Psychological Association) detailed the efforts he has initiated to engage the various governance structures of his organization in the Joint Initiative, specifically to define the right to the benefits of scientific progress. If fellow Council members were interested in undertaking a similar project, Clinton identified several valuable resources that could assist them, including the Starter Kit developed by his working group and the Article 15 training provided by Jessica Wyndham, as well as other trainings on human rights broadly.

Council welcomed this example, and suggested that to generate similar levels of engagement among other member organizations, particular attention needed to be given to the choice of member representatives, given the level of participation expected in the work of the Coalition. **Rob Albro** (American Anthropological Association) suggested that working with the human rights committees of member organizations could prove fruitful. **Doug Richardson** (Association of American Geographers) added that the membership, development and government committees of organizations should also be on board to ensure sufficient institutional backing for representatives.

Specifically with regard to engaging Coalition members in the Joint Initiative, **Constance Thompson** (American Society of Civil Engineers) suggested the development of a train-the-trainer session for Article 15, and **Doug Richardson** (Association of American Geographers) recommended developing an online module and/or webinar on the same topic.

Outreach and Communication

While Coalition membership continues to increase, the involvement of associations from the life, physical and engineering sciences remains relatively low. **Jen Makrides** (AAAS Science and Human Rights Program) presented an outreach and communication strategy that aimed to engage new members, including from among these target disciplinary groups.

Several Council members offered suggestions for reaching target groups and associations: **Alyson Reed** (Linguistics Society of America) recommended capitalizing on personal and professional contacts, including among AAAS staff members, **George Middendorf** (Ecological Society of America) suggested using “diversity” as a hook with associations, particularly those engaged in education, and **Constance Thompson** (American Society of Civil Engineers) offered to assist in bringing onboard the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), the Mexican American Engineering Society (MAES), the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), and the National Organization for the advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBBChE). She also offered to assist in engaging the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS). **Clifford Duke** (Ecological Society of America) also recommended reaching out to the American Institute of Biological Studies (AIBS), and **Alyson Reed** (Linguistics Society of America) suggested doing the same with the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB).

Council members suggested various resources that could usefully be shared with Coalition members and others to generate greater interest in the Coalition’s activities, including: news about Coalition activities, as well as science and human rights generally; links to resources and services available for associations; and regular updates from each working group.

Appendix 1: Meeting Attendees

Organization	Representative(s)
1. American Anthropological Association	Rob Albro
2. American Educational Research Association	Kerry Bolger
3. American Philosophical Association	David Schrader
4. American Physical Society	John Gillespie
5. American Psychological Association	Michele Irwin
6. American Society of Civil Engineers	Clinton Anderson
7. American Society of Civil Engineers	Constance Thompson
8. American Sociological Association	Lee Herring
9. American Statistical Association	Susan Hinkins
9. Association of American Geographers	Megan Overbey
10. Capital Area Social Psychological Association	Doug Richardson
11. Council on Undergraduate Research	Art Kendall
12. Ecological Society of America	Nancy Hensel
12. Ecological Society of America	Clifford Duke
13. Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences	George Middendorf
13. Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences	Paula Skedsvold
14. Linguistic Society of America	Alyson Reed
15. Sigma Xi	Jerry Baker
	Jeffrey Toney

Secretariat (AAAS Science and Human Rights Program):

Jen Makrides, Program Associate

Amrita Rajasingham, Intern

Katie Scrivner, Intern

Jessica Wyndham, Senior Project Director and Coordinator, AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition

Appendix 2: Policies and Procedures

AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition

Policies and Procedures

Council Meetings

Rules of Procedure: Meetings of the Council will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

Executive Session: The Council will enter Executive Session only when matters of particular sensitivity are involved. These may include, but are not limited to, matters of personnel. When the Council agrees to enter Executive Session, all Observers will be requested to leave the meeting. The subject and outcome of an Executive Session will be made public in the report of the Council meeting.

Publications

Scope:

These guidelines apply to informational materials, including at least: reports, teaching modules, primers, brochures, presentation materials (e.g., PowerPoint slides), spreadsheets, databases, and related products.²

Individual publications:

Individual Coalition members are free, and encouraged, to publish scholarly works addressing science and human rights. Such publications will not include formal or legal attribution of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program, or the Coalition.

Working group and committee publications:

Attribution: Any informational material developed by working groups or committees of the Coalition which will be available or distributed to the public, will be attributed to the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition and, if appropriate, to the working group or committee responsible for its development. Members of a working group or committee can be listed in Acknowledgments.

² According to the Coalition Council's *Rules and Procedures* public statements or opinions will not be made in the Coalition's name. If the Council approves a public statement, it will be published in the name of the Coalition member organizations that endorse them, not the Coalition.

Approval process: Any information materials to be distributed in the name of the Coalition must first be approved, in order, by the relevant working group and then the Steering Committee. Finally, an appropriate AAAS representative, such as the Coalition Coordinator, must approve formal or legal attribution.

Checklist for publication of Coalition materials, to be completed in the following order:

1. Submit materials to the working group co-chairs for review within the group.
2. Submit final draft to the Steering Committee for peer-review. The Steering Committee will review the materials immediately upon receipt and issue recommendations for revision or publication (if no revisions suggested).
3. The Steering Committee will seek final approval for publication by the AAAS representative (e.g., the Coalition Coordinator).
4. Products approved for public distribution will reside online in an archive and will be made available via a link from the Coalition website.

Appendix 3: Joint Initiative Plan of Action (2009-2011)

AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition

Joint Initiative Plan of Action (2009-2011)

This plan of action sets out activities to be pursued in the first three years of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition Joint Initiative. The focus of the Joint Initiative is Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) which requires governments to: (1) recognize the right of everyone to “enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications”; (2) take steps necessary for the “conservation, the development and the diffusion of science”; (3) respect the “freedom indispensable for scientific research”; and (4) recognize the benefits of “international contacts and co-operation in the scientific and cultural fields.”

Article 15 was chosen as the focus of the Joint Initiative because: (1) it lies at the nexus of science and human rights; (2) elucidation and promotion of the right cannot be accomplished without the scientific community; and (3) the right has direct relevance for each of the areas of activity to which the Coalition is already committed.

This three-year plan of action addresses the following:

- Context
- Goals and Objectives
- Activities: General and Area of Activity Working Groups
- Benchmarks

Context

The right to benefit from scientific progress was first internationally recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). An international process is currently underway that will take into account different perspectives and diverse interests in defining the meaning of the right and determining how best to implement the right in practice. To date, the international process has principally involved academics, legal scholars and human rights practitioners.

In July 2009, experts participating in a UNESCO process to elucidate the meaning of the right to benefit from science adopted the *Venice Statement*. The *Venice Statement* outlines the minimum core elements of the right and identifies next steps towards giving meaning to the right, including engagement of the scientific community to further the comprehensive elucidation of the right.

Responding to the *Venice Statement* and building on the work of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program on Article 15, the AAAS Board of Directors adopted a Statement on the right to the benefits of scientific progress in April 2010. The purpose of the Statement is to encourage greater and more effective engagement of the scientific community in the process of clarifying the meaning of this right.

The scientific community has the credibility necessary to act as a catalyst in putting this right squarely on the agenda of the human rights community. To that end, a vital first step is to encourage the Committee responsible for monitoring compliance with the right to hold a ‘day of general discussion’ on the right to benefit from scientific progress. A day of general discussion would involve all relevant stakeholders, including scientists, and would serve to highlight the scope and breadth of the right, as well as any contentious legal or policy questions that arise from its interpretation. A day of general discussion may then lead to the development of a ‘General Comment’ on the right. A General Comment is an authoritative analysis of the meaning of a right, which serves to raise the profile of the particular right, to provide guidance to governments in how to implement it, and to provide a framework for measuring governments’ compliance with their obligations.

Goal and Objectives

Goal

In the first three years of the Joint Initiative, the Coalition aims to engage the scientific community in clarifying the meaning of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress. This phase of the Joint Initiative will end with the presentation of findings to the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders.

Objectives

- Increase knowledge among scientific associations and their members of the existence, significance and potential applications of this human right;
- Determine the meaning of this right as it applies to the practice and concerns of scientific associations from across the disciplines; and
- Leverage this human right to accomplish the objectives of the Coalition’s Area of Activity Working Groups.

Activities

The programmatic work of the Coalition is carried out along two parallel tracks: specialized areas of activity and an overarching initiative. The two sets of activities are

envisioned to be mutually supportive and reinforcing, with progress on one enhancing the likelihood of progress in another.

General

In accordance with the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition Plan of Action (2009-2011), the following are the overall activities to be pursued as part of the Joint Initiative. Responsibility for undertaking these activities lies principally with the Secretariat of the Coalition.

2009

- Develop materials to introduce “Article 15” to Coalition members
- Hold a training session on Article 15 for new Coalition members
- In conjunction with working groups, identify applications of Article 15 specific to their areas of activity and develop relevant information materials
- Design overall initiative with detailed plan of action, benchmarks, and objectives to begin implementing in 2010
- Prepare presentations for relevant meetings, conferences, etc.

2010

- Hold a training session on Article 15 for new Coalition members
- Hold sessions at relevant meetings, conferences, etc.
- Begin implementing Year I of the initiative
- Provide ongoing guidance to working groups
- Work with working groups to prepare presentation to UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights

2011

- Hold a training session on Article 15 for new Coalition members
- Hold sessions at relevant meetings, conferences, etc.
- Implement Year II of the initiative
- Hold major event ahead of the meeting with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Geneva or New York)
- Assess progress of Joint Initiative and measure achievement of objectives
- Design detailed plan of action (2011-2013)

Areas of Activity

I. Welfare of Scientists

Goal

The Welfare of Scientists working group is committed to improving efforts made to protect persecuted scientists, including by strengthening the advocacy efforts on their behalf. The goal of the working group's Joint Initiative activities is to encourage the human rights community to address scientific freedom as an issue of human rights, which is particularly relevant to the obligation on governments to "respect the freedom indispensable for scientific research" (Article 15(3)).

Objectives

- Demonstrate breadth of government activities that restrict scientific freedom in practice
- Identify multiple links between scientific freedom and human rights, including with regard to the rights of individual scientists, and the human rights impact of restricting scientific freedom
- Encourage adoption of positive legislative, structural and programmatic measures to ensure scientific freedom

Activities

- Identify scientific associations and human rights organizations with experience in addressing the welfare of scientists
- Conduct an analysis of existing and previous cases of persecuted scientists and scholars at risk
- Identify and research multiple cases to determine the human rights implications of restricting scientific freedom in each case
- Work with scientific associations to identify positive examples of steps taken by governments to promote scientific freedom.

Outputs

- A comprehensive and annotated list of ways scientific freedom is restricted in practice
- Multiple case studies demonstrating the human rights impact of restricting scientific freedom
- Multiple exemplars highlighting positive government measures that promote scientific freedom.

II. Science Ethics and Human Rights

Goal

A basic goal of the Science Ethics and Human Rights working group is to facilitate professional scientific associations in the United States draw more explicit links between international human rights principles and their own ethical frameworks for professional conduct. To this end, the working group will both characterize the current state-of-affairs

of the ethics codes of scientific associations to determine the extent to which the language of Article 15 is present or absent and, in conjunction with the Service to the Scientific Community working group, go on to identify what steps scientific associations can take to better orient their ethics codes to Article 15.

Objectives

- Establish the current state-of-affairs with respect to the presence/absence of the language of Article 15 in ethics codes of scientific associations
- Provide particular guidance in the arena of research involving human subjects and the implications of Article 15 for such research

Activities

- Survey and evaluate the current ethics codes of scientific associations in order to determine the presence/absence of elements of Article 15
- Together with the Education and Information Resources working group, identify potential doorways or locations in ethics codes for the introduction of Article 15, including taking into account disciplinary differences in ways leading to different strategies for different scientific associations

Outputs

- Produce a landscape document that compares international ethics instruments with domestic ethics codes, in terms of a series of particular ethics case studies, as a white paper that includes discussion of the current status of Article 15 in ethics codes
- Organize a case-driven panel at the biennial AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition meeting on the subject of the relevance and application of Article 15 across select scientific disciplines.

III. Service to the Scientific Community

Goal

One of the overall goals of the Service to the Scientific Community working group is to increase engagement of scientists in human rights. By providing a vehicle for attracting scientific associations' attention to human rights, the goal of the working group's Joint Initiative project is to increase awareness of and engagement in Article 15 among the scientific community.

Objectives

- Raise awareness among scientific associations of the existence and significance of Article 15

- Engage scientific associations, their governance and special interest groups in identifying the link between Article 15 and their discipline.

Activities

- Analyze the *Venice Statement* to identify relevant content and messaging for outreach
- Develop information materials on Article 15 for conducting outreach to scientific associations
- Work with scientific associations to bring Article 15 to the attention of their members
- Conduct targeted outreach to the scientific associations represented in the working group and Coalition and engage their governance and special interest groups to determine the meaning of Article 15 in the context of each discipline

These activities will be carried out in close collaboration with the Service to the Human Rights Community working group.

Outputs

- Information packet about Article 15 and the activities of the working group to be used in outreach to the scientific community;
- News article template about Article 15 and the activities of the working group for members to use in outreach to their associations;
- Report on scientific associations' recommendations concerning the application of Article 15 to specific science disciplines.

IV. Service to the Human Rights Community

Goal

One of the overall goals of the Service to the Human Rights Community working group is to contribute to human rights by demonstrating the value of applying specific scientific tools and methodologies, including quantitative and qualitative approaches, to human rights work. To this end, the working group aims to develop a guide to assist human rights organizations monitor and track how well a government is meeting its obligations under Article 15.

Objectives

- Identify indicators by which to measure implementation of Article 15
- Determine data/evidence required for measurement/testing
- Demonstrate application of metrics with reference to select indicators

Activities

- Conduct research concerning current evaluation techniques relevant to economic, social, and cultural rights
- Coordinate with the Service to the Scientific Community working group to select several measures, of different types, to focus on “how” to evaluate progress towards compliance with Article 15
- Investigate available data sources and develop potential measures

Outputs

- List of indicators by which to measure implementation of Article 15
- Analysis of data sources and data needs to effectively apply indicators
- Identification of barriers to collecting data relevant to applying indicators
- Analysis of US progress towards realizing Article 15 with reference to select indicators

V. Education and Information Resources

Goal

The Education and Information Resources working group bridges the scientific and human rights community through the development of resources and creation of opportunities for exchange. Through their Joint Initiative activities, the working group aims to facilitate and encourage scientists and scientific associations to incorporate the right into their education, research and policy activities. These activities will be conducted in collaboration with other relevant working groups.

Objectives

- Raise awareness of Article 15 within the scientific community
- Identify options and opportunities for incorporating Article 15 into the work of scientific associations, universities, and research institutes.

Activities

- drawing from academia and scientific associations, identify relevant US-based individual scientists to take part in a series of focus groups
- conduct focus groups to identify potential applications of Article 15, including in the areas of equitable access to science, science education, funding for R&D, international cooperation, and the rights of scientists;
- based on the outcome of the focus groups, develop a primer outlining the content and significance of Article 15, and detailing examples of how the scientific community can use and apply Article 15 in their work.

These activities will be carried out in close collaboration with the Welfare of Scientists and Service to the Scientific Community working groups.

Outputs

- A practical online guide for incorporating Article 15 into the daily practices of scientists who may be employed among a variety of institutions.
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Benchmarks

The Coalition is committed to achieving measurable progress towards the goals set in the Joint Initiative Plan of Action (2009-2011). Progress will be measured according to the following benchmarks:

- Association staff, members and individual scientists trained in Article 15
- Association governance groups that have addressed Article 15
- Association resources and publications on Article 15
- Association annual meeting sessions addressing Article 15
- Associations engaged in Joint Initiative activities

Appendix 4: Baseline and Benchmark Data (2010)

Benchmark Data is collected through online research by the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program and by corroboration of voluntary reporting by Coalition members and affiliates, and AAAS affiliates.

<i>Benchmark</i>		<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010*</i>
1. Human Rights Committees, Sections or Working Groups	Coalition Member and Affiliated Associations	12	12	12
	AAAS Affiliates	5	5	5
2. Issue Statements or Resolutions on Human Rights	Coalition Member and Affiliated Associations	1	3	0
	AAAS Affiliates	0	1	0
3. Research on Human Rights Issues	Coalition Member and Affiliated Associations	0	2	0
	AAAS Affiliates	0	0	0
4. Work on Protection of Scientists	Coalition Member and Affiliated Associations	6	6	5
	AAAS Affiliates	2	3	3
5. Educational Programs on Human Rights for their Members	Coalition Member and Affiliated Associations	1	5	6
	AAAS Affiliates	1	5	5
6. Public Education Programs on Human Rights and their Discipline	Coalition Member and Affiliated Associations	0	0	1
	AAAS Affiliates	0	0	2
7. Award Prizes for Upholding Human Rights	Coalition Member and Affiliated Associations	4	5	5
	AAAS Affiliates	3	3	1
8. Application of Discipline-specific Knowledge & Skills to Human Rights	Coalition Member and Affiliated Associations	0	0	1
	AAAS Affiliates	0	0	1
9. Pro-Bono Program for Human Rights Groups	Coalition Member and Affiliated Associations	1	1	1
	AAAS Affiliates	0	0	0
10. Human Rights in their Code of Ethics	Coalition Member and Affiliated Associations	5	5	5
	AAAS Affiliates	5	7	7
11. Dissemination of Human Rights Resources & Publications to the Public	Coalition Member and Affiliated Associations	2	5	4
	AAAS Affiliates	0	4	0

* data for 2010 represents actions between January and July 2010.