



Oficina de Montevideo

Oficina Regional de Ciencias
para América Latina y el Caribe

Programa Regional de
Bioética y Ética de la Ciencia



red latinoamericana y del caribe de bioética

UNESCO Redbioética Declaration

Regarding the worrisome pandemic due to the recent COVID-19 coronavirus declared by the World Health Organization, the Latin American and the Caribbean Bioethics Network/ UNESCO (Redbioética UNESCO) declares:

1. This situation reveals the importance of health systems with universal access that guarantee access to health for the entire population, and the great weaknesses that represent the so-called health systems with “Universal coverage” in which health care for individuals and communities depend on their purchasing power. This leads to neglect of their health needs in a complete way (including disease prevention and health promotion), which, in addition to promoting inequality, facilitates the spread of disease such as the new coronavirus of the entire society. States are required to comply with the right to health: “Failure to take appropriate measures to fulfill effectiveness of the universal right to enjoy the highest possible level of health” and not having a national security policy implies a violation of this right. Pandemics such as COVID-19 reveal the degree of validity of the aforementioned, in each country and community.
2. This pandemic reinforces that it is essential to have budgets in health and education that are not limited or conditioned by political or economic situations, because in cases of risk, public health must ensure that the entire population has what is necessary to guarantee access to health care, guaranteeng individual and collective well-being.
3. This health emergency should lead to the definitive establishment of institutions such as bioethics councils and commissions, made up of expert bioethicists, who advise public authorities, in particular, and civil society, in general, on issues related to the distribution of resources, attention to vulnerable populations affected by disease whatever the circumstances, so as to ensure access to the best forms of treatment in every situation.



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4. Redbioética also expresses its concern regarding the criteria adopted when resources are not sufficient and emphasises the importance of complying with rigorous medical and scientific standards, and in particular ethical standards whatever the circumstance, so as to avoid any form of discrimination or selection that limits access to health care for some individuals in favor of others.

For this reason, Redbioética calls for solidarity and for strengthening the links as a society, uniting with the need and pain of the most vulnerable, cooperating with others and making social containment networks its greatest strength. The supportive gestures means putting aside individualistic behaviors, which only look at self-interests or at the interest of the groups we ourselves are part of. These are times to for showing ethical attitudes that transform people and societies by making them better, within the framework of active citizenship that promotes the full validity of equality and the rights of all and everyone.

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Chairwoman

UNESCO Redbioética

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