

# Three Measures Taken by Libya Toward Transparency

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- The first of these measures was taken when Libya became one of the states parties of the Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production, and stockpiling of Bacteriological (biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their destruction (BWC). Libya signed and ratified the convention on 19th of January, 1982.

- Second ,was the unprecedented unilateral step taken in recent history when Libya announced that it was abandoning all work and research programs leading to the production and development of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear & chemical). Libya was very transparent by opening all of its relevant facilities for inspection.

In addition, Libya called upon many countries in the region to follow the Libyan initiative.

- The third important step was the creation of the Libyan Permanent National Committee for Bioethics and Biosafety (LPNCBB) in 2004.

The Committee (LPNCBB) is the national focal point for all issues dealing with bioethics, biosafety & Biosecurity. It has been quite active since the day of its establishment.

LPNCBB is acting as an institutional board to control, classify, verify, regulate, and coordinate activities related to Bioethics, Biosafety and Biosecurity.



The Committee is well noted and actively present on the national, regional, as well as, international level.

This paper aimed to high light on the measures taken in Libya in order to inform some of our friends in this world about how far we are now against of mass distraction.



- Years back, Libya took practical measures to enhance its willingness to lay down concrete foundation on which to build good bioethics & biosafety strategy & later on, biosecurity.
- These measures were in the form of proposing & issuing some national acts, collectively supporting the role of Libya in dealing with bioethics & biosafety.

- LNCBB, Libyan National Committee for Bioethics & Biosafety was born in 2004. Since then; the committee commenced its activity within the framework of its mandates & obligations.



# The Committee:

- Prepared pamphlet (in Arabic & English) for circulation among the scientific community & the public.
- Held a televised symposium: LNCBB: *what for!*
- Opened two branches in Benghazi & Sebha.
- Is searching & collecting all international treaties & documents dealing with bioethics & BW issues.



- Is working to construct a web site, to be added to the list of international bioethics committees' sites.
- Recommended the establishment of IRB. 3 have been formed in Major universities in Tripoli, Benghazi, and Sebha.
- Is responsible for filling out the CBM forms each year.
- Is studying & reviewing a data-base form dealing with research activities in biotechnology, which will include all national researchers, inside & out.

- Is working to establish a bioinformatics data base to include bioresearch projects (proposed, on-going, completed).
- Expanded its role to include regional & international arenas, In this connections, LNCBB named representatives to participate in the activities of regional & international Bioethics Committees.

# Workshops, Symposia & Conferences:

LNCBB organized, sponsored, and participated in several national, regional & international gatherings. These include:-

- Sponsored two workshops on Biosafety & Biosecurity in Tripoli (10/2004) & Benghazi (1/2005).
- Organized a workshop on Pregnancy & childbirth, ethical issues. Tripoli, 8/2007.
- Participated in a Biosecurity workshop in Amman, Jordan in April 2006.

- Participated in VERTIC workshop on "The National Implementation of the BTWC in Amman, Jordan in August 2006".
- Attended FAO-ICARDA conference on biotechnology & genetic engineering in Cairo, Egypt February 2006.
- Attended an HIV-AIDS conference in Cairo, Egypt February 2006.
- Attended the ABSA annual meeting in Boston, USA October 2006.



- Attended a regional expert meeting dealing with incorporation of ethics of the environment into national legislations. Khartoum, Sudan 9/2007.
- Organized & co-sponsored a human disease surveillance workshop in Tripoli, May 2007.
- Participated in the sixth review conference of BTWC 11-12/2006 Geneva, Switzerland.
- Participated in an international workshop dealing with scientific advances in Toxins & Biotechnology in London 2006



- Attended on symposium on (WMD) weapons of mass destruction in London 2006.
- Participated in the activities of the National Committee for Avian Flue Control (Public lectures, Posters, Symposia).
- Sponsored & organized a symposium on Modern Technology: ethical issues. Tripoli 5/2006.
- Sponsored & organized a workshop on drinking water: Biosafety Issues. Tripoli 7/2007.
- Participated in the American – North African symposium on food biosafety. Casablanca, Morocco, 2/2007.

## Up-coming workshops:-

- Biosafety issues in genetically modified foods.
- Ethical issues of pre-marriage medical tests.
- Biofarming & public health.
- Biosafety of food.
- Heat-treated feeds: biosafety issues.
- Human infertility, scioethical consequences.
- The legality of the alternate womb.

LNCBB, in fulfilling its obligations and in accordance with its role as the national authority to monitor & oversee Bioethical, Biosafety and Biosecurity issues, has formed several work teams (ad-hoc committees) to propose legislations, guidelines, and / or regulations to deal with those issues.

This includes work teams to propose:-

- Legislation dealing with manipulation of dangerous microorganisms and prepare a select list.

- Early warning system for disease outbreak (natural or deliberate).
- Legislation to protect and conserve national medicinal plants.
- Legislation controlling therapy & use of herbal medicine.
- National code of ethics for medical practice.
- National code of ethics for pharmaceutical practices.

- National guideline and code of ethics for microbiological diagnostic laboratories.
- National guideline\legislation dealing with manipulation of medical waste.
- A special ad-hoc committee was formed to review the national health code and to suggest appropriate actions.



# Currently-active work teams:

- Proposing a national act to implement the BW convention.
- Reviewing existing laws & regulations dealing with animal conservation, veterinary quarantine, animal health.
- Proposing legislation to conserve marine life.
- Proposing biosafety national guidelines for microbiological laboratories, experimental houses, and for field trials.



- Proposing national ethical guidelines for dealing with modern technology and the use of living organisms as model agents.
- Reviewing existing national legislations dealing with plant coverage, forest conservation, agricultural quarantine and national reserves.

*Thank you for being patient*

