

Global Consultation on Genetics and New Biotechnologies
and the Ministry of the Church
Johannesburg, Dec 3-6, 2007

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS (alphabetical order by last name)

Stephen Allen, Toronto / Canada

Associate Secretary, Justice Ministries, The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC). Delegate of the Canadian Council of Churches. Planning Team. Represents The PCC on the Canadian Council of Churches' Biotechnology Reference Group. Prepared major report for The PCC on genetics. Advises The PCC on contemporary social issues and represents The PCC on several ecumenical bodies.



Prof. Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, Bamberg / Germany

Prof. for Systematic Theology at the University of Bamberg. WCC-Resource person for bioethics. Member of the Council of the Protestant Church in Germany (Department of Social Ethics). President of the Society for Protestant Theology. Working and publishing on ecumenical theology, bioethics, economic ethics, theories of justice, public theology. Ordained minister of the Protestant Church in Germany.



James Bhagwan, Suva / Fiji

Minister of the Methodist Church of Fiji. Delegate of the Pacific Council of Churches. Former radio and television producer.



Dr. Emad Kamel Gubrael Bolis, Kairo /Egypt

Physician. Delegate of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC). Member of the Coptic Orthodox Church.



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Jamie D. Brooks, Oakland / USA

Project Director on Race, Health and Justice for the Center for Genetics and Society. Observer of the consultation. Focus on human rights perspectives in the discussion and debates about emerging genetic technologies. Working with attorneys, social justice and human rights organizations, those working as health advocates and those working for racial justice to educate them on these risks and implications of the technology and build their capacity to engage on these issues.



Dr. Puleng Lenka Bula, Johannesburg / South Africa

Teacher for Christian Ethics at the University of South Africa. Representative of the South African Council of Churches (SACC). Vice President of the SACC.



The Rev. Dr. Richard Crossman, Waterloo, Ontario / Canada

Professor Emeritus of Christian Ethics, Principal Emeritus of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Delegate of the Canadian Council of Churches. Chair of the Biotech Reference Group of the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC). Evangelical Lutheran representative on the Faith and Witness Commission of the CCC. Counseling to the Canadian government on biotech and related environmental policies and matters.



Prof. Celia Deane-Drummond, Chester / UK

Professor of Theology and the Biosciences at the University of Chester and Director of the Centre for Religion and the Biosciences. Member of the Roman Catholic Church. Research on the theological and ethical implications of the new genetic technologies, including the discussion of the genetic modification of human and non-human species.



Pastor Carlos Duarte, Montevideo / Uruguay

Pastor of the Evangelical Church of Rio de la Plata in Montevideo, Uruguay, and farmer. Delegate of the Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI). WCC Central Committee Member.



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Dr. Vassilios G. Fanaras, Greece

Theological Teacher. Delegate of Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Greece. Member of European Societies of Biomedical Ethics and Genetics. Interest on Christian Ethics and Bioethics, Cloning, Euthanasia, Human Procreation, Contraception, Adoption. Artificial Reproductive Technologies.



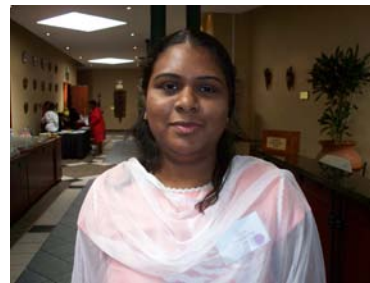
Richard Fischer, Strasbourg / France

Executive Secretary of the Church and Society Commission of Conference of European Churches (CEC) – responsible of its Strasbourg Office. Delegate of the CEC. Secretary of CEC Working Group on Bioethics and Biotechnology during the last 12 years preparing CEC's reflection and position paper for the European institutions and for its members churches.



Tabitha Gnanapriya Rao, Karnataka / India

Student, Geneticist, PG (Master of Science). Youth delegate. Represented her Church of South India as youth delegate on international conferences, e.g. at WCC assembly held at Brazil in 2006. Project work on pathogens with the help of biotechnological tools.



Jaydee Hanson, Washington DC USA

Centre for Food Safety & Director for Human Genetics Policy, International Centre for Technology Assessment (CTA), Washington. Consultation observer. Directing the CTA's work on human genetics, including work on stem cell research, cloning, and gene/embryo patenting. Assistant General Secretary for Public Witness and Advocacy at the General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church. Supervising the General Board staff related to Peace With Justice, Drug and Alcohol, Health, Environmental Justice, Bioethics, Human Welfare and Population issues.



Dr. Maria van Heemstra, Geneva / Switzerland

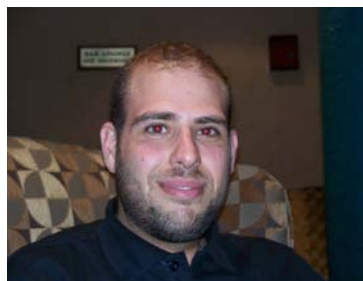
Biologist and agronomist. Working in the WCC Faith, Science and Technology project of the WCC Justice, Diakonia and Responsibility for Creation programme in Geneva / Switzerland. Organizing present consultation and follow-up. In the past involvement in advocating against GMOs and their consequences on communities and the environment.



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Sally Ibrahim Al-Rabbaa, Beirut / Lebanon

Quality System Manager at Saint George Hospital University Medical Center / Quality Systems for Healthcare Department. Youth Delegate of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC). President of the Orthodox Cultural Club in Lebanon dealing with the issues of new biotechnologies.



Prof. Dr. Eunice Kamaara, Elboret / Kenya

Professor at Moi University, Dep. of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Elboret / Kenya. Representative of All African Council of Churches. Member of WCC working group on Genetic engineering.



The Rev. Dean Desmond Lesejane, Marshalltown / South Africa

Executive Director of Ecumenical Service for Socio-Economic Transformation (ESSET). Representative of the All African Council of Churches (AACC). Focus on biotechnologies of food sovereignty and livelihoods. Minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa.



David Leslie, Portland / USA

Executive director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, a regional ecumenical association working to improve life in the Pacific Northwest through community ministry, advocacy and interreligious dialogue. Master of Divinity (Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary), Bachelor of Arts in history (University of Texas at Austin). Delegate of the National Council of Churches (NCC) / USA. Previously working for the NCC Human Genetics Policy Task Force, Oregon Senate Interim Committee on Farmworker Issues, Oregon Governor's Global Warming Advisory Group and numerous other ecumenical and interfaith organizations. Focus on developing lasting interreligious relationships to help people of faith to address societal divisions and improve social conditions.



The Rev. Dr. Eileen Lindner, New York / USA

Deputy General Secretary for Research and Planning of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Delegate of the National Council of Churches / USA. Planning Team. Former Director of the Child Advocacy Office. Theologian in Residence to the Children's Defense Fund's Summer Institute in Child Advocacy Ministry. Member of the Board of Directors of Stand for Children.



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Leslie H. Lowe, New York / USA

Director of the Energy & Environment Program at the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) in New York, which has been leader of the corporate responsibility movement for 36 years. ICCR is a membership organization of over 275 Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish institutional investors. ICCR is engaging with corporations in the biosciences field, advocating for better risk assessment and a precautionary approach to genetically engineered seed and food products that includes labeling and post-market monitoring of GE products.



Eddie Makue, Johannesburg / South Africa

General-Secretary of the South African Council of Churches. Host organization of the consultation.



Dr. Olivia Masih White, University Heights / USA

Retired Professor of Biology & Genetics from University of North Texas, Denton, Texas / USA. Master of Religious Education, Ph. D in Genetics. Co-chair of this Genetics Forum. Representative of United Church of Christ and the National Council of Churches. Member of Science and Technology Network of United Church of Christ. Chair of the Biotechnology Committee of the National Council of Churches in Christ in USA. Past Executive of the Global Ministries of United Church of Christ (2003 – 2005); Past Vice president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (1997-2004).



The Rev. Garth Minott, Kingston / Jamaica

Anglican Priest and Lecturer at the United Theological College of the West Indies, Kingston / Jamaica. Ethics teacher with focus on genetics and bioethics. Representative of the Caribbean Conference of Churches.



Anne Mitchell, Toronto / Canada

Executive Director of Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP), a not for profit research and educational organization. Delegate of the Canadian Council of Churches. Serving on governmental Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee. Co-clerk of Toronto Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Board of Directors of the Quaker Institute for the Future Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends on a KAIROS Program Committee – Global Economic Justice.



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**Moatlhudi Mogwera, Mafikeng / South Africa (Translator
English / Spanish)**

Provincial Coordinator, Youth for Christ North West.
Technician. HIV/AIDS activist.



The Rev. Japhet Ndhlovu, Nairobi / Kenya

Coordinator of All African Council of Churches Continental 9th
Assembly. As former General Secretary for the Council of
Churches in Zambia (until March 2007) involved in research on
GMO's.



The Rev. Canon Dr. Linda Nicholls, Toronto / Canada

Coordinator for Dialogue on Ethics, Interfaith Relations &
Congregational Development in the Anglican Church of
Canada. Delegate of the Canadian Council of Churches.
Member of Biotechnology Reference Group of the Canadian
Council of Churches discussing Christian perspectives on
biotechnology, monitoring government policies, developing
study resources for congregations, recommending policy
development for national Church.



The Rev. Majaha Nhliziyo, Johannesburg / South Africa

Director for Leadership Development for the United
Congregational Church of Southern Africa

Representative of United Church of Christ in South Africa
(UCCSA). Through the training and discipleship wing of the
UCCSA also covering issues of genetics and new
biotechnologies. Factoring in the insights that will emerge from
this consultation.



Nicci van Noordwyk, Mowbray / South Africa

Office Manager at Biowatch, monitoring biodiversity in South
Africa with a specific focus on Genetic Engineering in seeds,
crops and food, on nanotechnology, pharma crops and agro
fuels. Worked many years for NGOs in sectors as disability
rights, adult education, the constitution writing process and
environmental and social justice.



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Peter Noteboom, Toronto / Canada

Associate Secretary for Justice and Peace of the Canadian Council of Churches. Delegate of the Canadian Council of Churches. Staff support to the Biotechnology Reference Group of the Canadian Council of Churches focussing on ethical responses to the challenges posed by genetics and biotechnologies, end-of-life issues, nanotechnology, gmo's, and patenting of life issues. Also supporting the Ecumenical Health Care Network.



Dr. Steve Pheeha, Johannesburg / South Africa (Translator English / Spanish)

Cuban trained medical doctor with a special interest in primary health care medicine. Member of Chirst Church Ministries. Member of Friends of Cuba Society. South African Council of Churches delegate.



Root Prompalit, Sansai, Chiang Mai / Thailand

Student in Ecology Program at Chiang Mai University, Thailand. Youth Delegate of Christian Conference of Asia (CCA). Research on direct usage of Genetic Distribution and Population Dynamics under Controlled Environment and Real World case studies. Working on development and socio-political impacts of emerging biotechnologies for agricultural purposes applied by the local government in the field of Post-Harvest Technology.



Álvaro Salgado Ramírez, Delegación Gustavo A. Madero / México

Master of Agriculture and rural development at the "National Centre for Indigenous Aid and Mission" in México. Coordinator of the area of ecological agriculture.



Karen Read, Durban / South Africa

Church Capacity Building coordinator at "Diakonia Council of Churches", Durban / South Africa. Working on Environmental Justice programme, including information on GMOs in workshops; Organizing briefings on this issue, including co-hosting a number of events with Safeage, GM Free KZN and Biowatch.

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Dr. Martin Robra, Geneva / Switzerland

Director of the WCC programme area Ecumenism in the 21st Century, Planning Team. For several years in charge of work on ethics and ecology at the WCC, e.g. attending to the programmes on climate change and on the Ecumenical Water Network. Responsible for the WCC work on genetics and nanotechnology. Ordained Minister of the Protestant Church in Germany.



Javiera Rulli, Asuncion / Paraguay

Research and campaign coordinator at “BASE Investigación Sociales”, a sociological research centre in Asuncion / Paraguay. Collaborating with peasants organisations in Paraguay with a focus on the impacts of the agribusiness, specifically GM Soy sector traders. Working with campaigns which touch both ecology and Human Rights issue at national and international levels.



Dr. James J. Rusthoven, Ancaster / Canada

MD, MHSc (bioethics). Professor of Oncology at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario / Canada. Delegate of Canadian Council of Churches. Representative of the Christian Reformed Church in North America at the Biotechnology Reference Group of the Canadian Council of Churches (BRG-CCC). Involvement with Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP) to provide advise to Canadian government on developing policy to oversee development, use, and safety nanotechnologies.



Dr. Stefanie Schardien, Bochum / Germany

Vicar at WCC Faith, Science and Technology project of the WCC Justice, Diakonia and Responsibility for Creation programme in Geneva / Switzerland. Former teacher at the Ecumenical Institute at Ruhr-University of Bochum / Germany and curate. Involved in bioethical working groups, especially dealing with ecumenical ethical discernment and end-of-life issues. Member of the German Academy for Ethics in Medicine.



Dr. Priscilla Settee, Saskatoon / Canada

Professor of Native Studies. Director of the Indigenous Peoples Program CCCDE / Extension Division at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK / Canada. Member of Cree First Nations community. Working on GMO foods and their impact on Indigenous foods, sovereignty and other civic groups rights.



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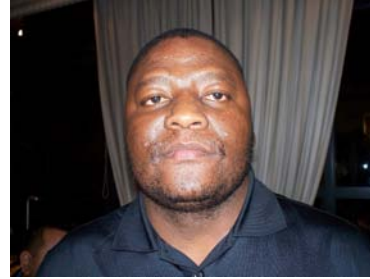
Cynthia Stephen, Bangalore / India

Independent Researcher and Writer, TEDS Trust, Bangalore / India. Member of the Dalit Community. Working on human rights, ethics and on the impact of biotechnological developments on disadvantaged people.



Dr. Dan Thokane, Vanderbijlpark / South Africa

Medical doctor. Working in a community of indigenous people close to Johannesburg. Delegate of South African Council of Churches. Senior partner of FEDSACS, an affiliate of WSCF. Member of AFMChurch, an affiliate of South African Council of Churches, where he is involved in matters of health and education. Focus on genetics and their impact on health in general especially stem cells.



Prof. Dr. Pradip Thomas, Australia / India

Teacher and Researcher at the School of Journalism & Communication, University of Queensland / Australia. Working with issues around IT, biotechnologies, organizing workshop with ecumenical partners. Research focus on the informationalisation of life processes and on the critical role played by information technologies in the new sciences and the political economy of emerging developments in this area.



Charmaine Treherne, Woodstock / South Africa

National Coordinator of S.A. Freeze Alliance on Genetic Engineering which is running two consumer campaigns on creating a GM Free food list and on calling for labeling of GM foods. Informing and educating consumers by giving talks, presentations, workshops etc. Member of the SA Faith communities Environmental Institute.



Dr. K.I. Mani Varghese, Aluva, Kerala / India

Professor Emeritus for Mycology, Principal Investigator UGC MRP at Union Christian College Aluva. Delegate of Christian Conference of Asia (CCA). Standing council member of Union Christian College Association as Orthodox Church Nominee. Presently involved in research projects on post harvest diseases of fruits and vegetables and aspects of fungal biotechnology.



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The Revd Dr Andrew E. Warmback, Pinetown / South Africa

Rector of St John Baptist Anglican Church. Treasurer of Network of Earthkeeping Christian Communities in South Africa. Board member of Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute. Chairperson of Anglican Diocese of Natal Environment Committee.



The Rev. Marcel Welty / USA

Office of Research and Planning of the NCCCUSA. Delegate of the National Council of Churches / USA. Planning Team. Staffed Biotechnologies Policy Development Committee of the NCCCUSA. Ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church USA, missionary to Chile during Pinochet. Interest in technology in the service of the Church, USA public health policy, economic models, racial disparities, and gene and genetic technology patenting issues.



Dr. Gregor Wolbring, Calgary / Canada

Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary / Canada. Nominee of the Ecumenical Disability Network (EDAN). Chair of the Disabled People's International Bioethics Taskforce. Working on bioethics, health research, governance of science and technology, disability studies and social evaluation of emerging technologies such as nanotechnology.

