

## Joint Initiative

### Article 15: Right to Enjoy the Benefits of Scientific Progress and its Applications

#### Rationale

The right to “enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications” elevates fundamental scientific values, such as equitable access to scientific knowledge, scientific freedom, and international cooperation, to universal standards that governments everywhere must protect. A right unto itself, this right is also a key prerequisite for the realization of other human rights, including the rights to health, food, water, and to a healthy environment. Although universally recognized, this human right remains largely ignored by governments, as well as the scientific and human rights communities. As a network of scientific associations that recognize a role for scientists in promoting human rights, the Coalition has a unique and vital contribution to make to efforts to ensure that governments respect, protect, and fulfill this neglected right to the benefits of scientific progress.

#### Objectives

- Knowledge among scientific associations of the meaning, significance and potential applications of the right to the benefits of scientific progress;
- Engagement of scientific associations in the realization of the right to the benefits of scientific progress; and
- Demonstration of the importance of this right in accomplishing the objectives of each of the areas of activity as well as the Coalition as a whole.

#### Content

- Develop materials to introduce “Article 15” to Coalition members;
- Promote awareness among scientific societies and associations of Article 15, including through workshops, and trainings;
- Identify potential applications of Article 15 in scientific associations’ work, including in the areas of research, policy advising, and education;
- Encourage and assist scientific associations to incorporate Article 15 into their activities, including annual meetings;
- In conjunction with working groups, identify applications of Article 15 specific to their areas of activity;
- In conjunction with scientific associations, identify discipline-specific applications of Article 15;
- Develop information materials on the links between Article 15 and each of the areas of activity, as well as discipline-specific applications of Article 15; and
- Engage scientists in UN processes relevant to the advancement of Article 15.

#### Support

- Financial: from moderate (office-printed training materials, meeting costs) to costly (professionally-designed materials, travel and associated costs)
- Human: interns for research
- Material: research and instructional materials