

Student Notes for

“Respect for Cultural Diversity and Pluralism”

Objectives:

Students should be able to explain the meaning of ‘culture’ and why it is important to respect cultural diversity

Students should be able to explain the meaning of pluralism and why it is important in the field of bioethics

Students should be able to deal with cultural diversity and take into consideration cultural specificities (appropriate approach, positive inputs and limits) with respect to the fundamental principles of bioethics and human rights

Outline:

Background

- a) Definition of culture and cultural diversity

- b) Value of respect for cultural diversity

- c) Definition and value of pluralism

Explanation of Article 12

- a) As a theoretical and practical continuation of other articles

- b) The principle will raise questions concerning:
 - i Discrimination
 - ii Infringement of the autonomy principle
 - iii Infringement of national laws

Limits to the consideration for cultural specificities

- a) Human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms
- b) Domestic law, national regulations and international human rights laws
- c) Indigenous knowledge and practices
- d) Principles set out in the Declaration