**FORUM:** General Assembly 3

**QUESTION OF:** Examining the risks and consequences of human genetic engineering

**MAIN SUBMITTER:** Bangladesh

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Philippines, Japan, South Africa, France, Mexico, Germany

THE 3RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

*Acknowledging* the potential of gene editing technologies, such as CRISPR, to combat life-threatening diseases and counter pressing healthcare challenges,

*Deeply concerned* about the risks of off-target mutations, long-term health consequences, and the exacerbation of global inequalities due to the unequal distribution of genetic engineering technologies,

*Recognizing* the cultural and religious sensitivities surrounding the use of gene editing, particularly germline editing, and the need to respect diverse ethical frameworks,

*Recalling* Sustainable Development Goal 3, which emphasizes the need for healthy lives and promoting well-being for all,

*Emphasizing* the responsibility of member states to ensure that advancements in genetic engineering do not come at the cost of ethical standards, equity, or safety,

1. Proposes the establishment of the International Council for Genetic Ethics and Safety (ICGES) under the UN to regulate and oversee the global use of gene editing technologies, assuming responsibilities including but not limited to:
2. developing global ethical guidelines for gene editing, including provisions such as:
   1. a mandatory moratorium on germline editing for non-therapeutic purposes, preventing the creation of "designer babies" or enhancements
   2. the ICGES will review the moratorium every five years, considering advancements in safety and ethical frameworks
   3. the moratorium will remain in place until rigorous, multi-generational safety studies demonstrate minimal risks and an international consensus is achieved
   4. permitting germline editing only for the prevention of severe genetic diseases and only after rigorous ethical and safety reviews
   5. making it clear that somatic gene editing is prioritized for therapeutic purposes, such as treating diseases like cancer or sickle cell anemia
   6. mandate pharmaceutical companies and research institutions to conduct long-term safety trials and assume financial responsibility for any harm caused by their therapies
   7. failure to comply with the regulations above will result in penalties, international sanctions and restrictions on research funding and resources
   8. genetic therapies must obtain an ICGES "Safety Seal" before being marketed ensuring rigorous pre-approval layers and establishing a clear footprint
   9. the ICGES will mediate disputes between scientific and cultural representatives ensuring that ethical guidelines balance universal values with cultural diversity
3. enforcing global safety standards to address the risks of off-target mutations, through measures such as:
   1. requiring extensive multi-generational testing of genetic therapies before approval for human use
   2. mandating that all clinical trials and genetic research adhere to WHO-approved safety protocols
   3. establishing a global database to track adverse effects and ensure transparency in genetic research outcomes
   4. clear guidelines on what is permissible (e.g., somatic editing for life-threatening diseases) and what is prohibited (e.g., germline editing and designer babies)
4. promoting representation of diverse cultural and religious perspectives in regulatory decisions by:
   1. including cultural and religious representatives alongside scientific experts in the council's decision-making processes
   2. creating subcommittees to address region-specific ethical concerns
   3. have these subcommittees send representatives to attend annual summits hosted by the newly created International Council for Genetic Ethics and Safety
   4. cultural and religious representatives will have voting rights on ethical guidelines and will chair subcommittees addressing region-specific concerns
   5. conducting regular consultations with faith-based organizations to align policies with cultural sensitivities;

2. Recommends the creation of a Global Genetic Fund (GGF), co-managed by WHO and UNESCO, to subsidize genetic research and therapies for LEDCs, with financing and implementation to include:

1. funding contributions from member states structured as:
   1. a GDP-based contribution system where wealthier nations allocate 0.01% of their GDP to the fund
   2. voluntary contributions from philanthropic organizations and private-sector entities
   3. redirecting a portion of existing Official Development Assistance (ODA) and International Monetary Funds (IMF) to genetic research and healthcare infrastructure in LEDCs
   4. the redirection of ODA and IMF will only apply to funds already allocated to healthcare and will not impact other critical development areas
   5. member states can meet their contribution commitments through a mix of direct funding technology transfer or capacity-building
2. subsidizing genetic therapies for low-income countries through mechanisms such as:
   1. a tiered pricing model that ensures treatments are priced affordably based on a country’s income level
   2. grants for the establishment of regional genetic research hubs in South Asia Africa and Latin America to conduct research on gene-editing technologies tailored to regional challenges
   3. regional hubs will be funded by the GGF and co-managed by local governments and international organizations
   4. financial incentives for pharmaceutical companies to prioritize affordable access to life-saving genetic therapies
   5. partner with international organizations like WHO and the regional research hubs to provide training for doctors and healthcare workers on administering gene-editing therapies safely and effectively
   6. the GGF will offer recognition awards or tax incentives to private corporations that contribute significantly to the fund
3. ensuring financial accountability and transparency in fund usage by:
   1. requiring annual audits of fund allocations by independent third-party organizations
   2. publishing detailed reports on fund usage and project outcomes accessible to all member states
   3. implementing anti-corruption measures such as blockchain technology to track all financial transactions
   4. initiating an "Ethical AI System" to evaluate and flag ethical concerns in genetic research proposals;
4. Encourages the establishment of regional research hubs to promote collaboration between LEDCs and MEDCs in advancing gene-editing technologies, with specific responsibilities to include:
5. facilitating technology transfer and capacity-building by:
   1. creating knowledge-sharing platforms where researchers from LEDCs and MEDCs can collaborate on genetic research
   2. offering scholarships and exchange programs for scientists and healthcare professionals from LEDCs
   3. encouraging MEDCs to share non-proprietary genetic technologies with LEDCs to reduce costs and dependency
   4. advocates for technology-sharing agreements between developed and developing nations to bridge the gap in technical expertise
6. conducting research tailored to the healthcare priorities of LEDCs including:
   * 1. developing low-cost methods for gene editing to treat diseases prevalent in LEDCs
     2. creating genetic solutions for region-specific challenges such as sickle cell anemia in Africa or thalassemia in South Asia
     3. establishing partnerships with local governments to align research efforts with national healthcare strategies
7. ensuring equitable access to the benefits of genetic engineering by:
   * 1. requiring that research outputs from regional hubs be made publicly accessible through open platforms
     2. creating agreements to ensure that intellectual property rights do not prevent LEDCs from accessing life-saving technologies;
8. Calls for public awareness campaigns to educate citizens on the benefits, risks, and ethical considerations of gene editing, with measures including but not limited to:
   1. culturally sensitive awareness initiatives including:
      1. partnering with local religious leaders and community influencers to disseminate accurate information
      2. cautiously using creative approaches such as radio dramas folk songs and storytelling in local languages to simplify complex scientific concepts
      3. developing mobile apps with offline capabilities to provide accessible information to rural populations
   2. combating misinformation and addressing public fears through:
      1. hosting town halls and public forums to discuss the implications of genetic engineering
      2. creating educational materials that address common misconceptions and fears
      3. engaging with social media platforms to counter misinformation campaigns
      4. the ICGES will conduct annual surveys to assess public understanding of genetic engineering and adjust campaigns based on feedback
9. improving transparency and trust in genetic research by:
   1. requiring all research funded by the Global Genetic Fund to publish results in open-access journals
   2. developing feedback mechanisms for citizens to voice concerns or report ethical violations
   3. Establishing independent ethics committees to oversee public outreach efforts;
10. Recommends the creation of an international liability framework to protect individuals and nations from the risks of genetic engineering, through measures such as:
11. holding corporations and researchers accountable for off-target effects and adverse consequences by:
    1. mandating that all genetic therapies come with detailed risk assessments and safety guarantees
    2. imposing financial penalties on entities responsible for harm caused by genetic therapies
    3. establishing a global compensation fund for victims of adverse genetic engineering outcomes
    4. the global compensation fund will provide interim relief to victims while liability cases are resolved
12. ensuring transparency and accountability in liability cases through:
    1. creating international arbitration panels under the International Council for Genetic Ethics and Safety to resolve disputes over genetic harm
    2. the ICGES will establish independent forensic teams to investigate claims of harm caused by genetic therapies determining liability based on scientific evidence
    3. an international arbitration panel under ICGES will handle cases involving multiple jurisdictions ensuring fair and consistent rulings
    4. requiring all liability cases to be publicly documented to ensure transparency
    5. encouraging independent oversight of liability proceedings to prevent conflicts of interest
13. Providing financial and legal support to LEDCs in liability cases by:
    1. allocating funds from the Global Genetic Fund to assist LEDCs in pursuing legal action
    2. offering pro bono legal services through international organizations
    3. ensuring that liability frameworks are accessible and equitable for all nations regardless of economic status;
14. Requests the ICGES, World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to collaborate in ways such as but not limited to:
    1. conducting comprehensive studies on the risks and benefits of human genetic engineering
    2. providing technical assistance and capacity-building programs for developing countries to regulate and utilize genetic engineering technologies responsibly,
       1. hosting annual workshops to enhance global expertise in ethical genetic engineering practices
       2. having professionals from the IGCES panel conduct anonymous monthly audits for developing nations including but not limited to check-ups on infrastructure, medical staff and public awareness
       3. assisting based on data of the audits helping countries that are declared in need of assistance by the WHO, ICGES, and UNESCO.