



United Nations General Assembly

Research Report

TISPCMUNC 2025

Prepared by Megan Loh & Jariel Chong

Contents

Introduction

1. Introduction of Chair & Co-Chair
2. Position Paper Guidelines
3. Introduction to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

Topic 1:

1. Introduction of the Topic
2. Key terms
3. Background of the Topic
4. Current Situation
 - a. Impact of the Issue
5. Past Actions by the United Nations and other authoritative bodies
6. Key Stakeholders
7. Possible Solutions

Topic 2:

Introduction of the Topic

1. Key terms
2. Background of the Topic
3. Current Situation
 - a. Impact of the Issue
4. Past Actions by the United Nations and other authoritative bodies
5. Key Stakeholders
6. Possible Solutions

Resolution, Resources, and References

1. Questions a Resolution Must Answer
2. Resources
3. Bibliography

Introduction to Board of Dais

Head Chair: Megan Loh Shu Tian

Hello everyone! My name is Megan and I will be serving as your Head Chair! Previously I studied and recently graduated from Eaton International School, however now I do IB at Nexus International School. I have been in the MUN scene for the past couple of years, mostly chairing crisis councils - especially HCC - however, I am happy to be chairing conventional again ! There may be a chance that you have been one of the delegates I have chaired previously (surprisingly quite a high chance), such as from crisis councils (TLMUN 2024) to conventional councils (IPOHMUN 2024 ECOSOC). Other than chairing, you may also know me from Eaton MUN Club :D I was the former-president, now First Consul, of the club and I have been teaching MUN to my kids since 2021.

Nonetheless, I am extremely thrilled for your performance and for fruitful debate throughout the three days ! Thank you all so much for joining our council, feel free to email or contact me in Discord, should you have any queries. See you all, and all the best ! <3

Email: megan.lohst@gmail.com

Discord: _shrekswife

Co-Chair: Jariel Chong Kuang Cin

Hi! I'm Jariel and I've been doing MUN since 2023. I'm passionate about debate and public speaking. I also have an orange cat that I share braincells with! Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions about the research report.

Email: chongkuangcin@gmail.com

Position Paper Guidelines

Your delegation **MUST** submit a position paper to be eligible for any awards under the United Nations General Assembly of Taylor's International School Puchong Model United Nations Conference 2025.

DEADLINE: 1st July 2025, 11:59PM GMT+8 (Tuesday)

Format:

Please strictly adhere to the Position Paper guidelines mentioned below:

1. Font: Times New Roman
2. Size: 12
3. Colour: Black
4. Line Spacing: 1.15
5. Paragraph Alignment: Justify
6. Length of Document: Should not exceed two pages (excluding bibliography)
7. Plagiarism: Strictly do not exceed 15%
8. Artificial Intelligence (AI Detector): Strictly do not exceed 15%
9. Citation (including bibliography): APA Style (preferably 7th Edition)
10. Name of Document: TISPMUNC26_UNGA_[Country Name]_[Full Name of Delegate]

**Note: Please ensure that both topics of this council are written and submitted in the same document.*

Content of your position paper:

1. Header - Must include the full name of your country, your full name, and the name of the council, e.g:
Full Name of Country: Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Full Name of Delegate: Winnie the Pooh
Council: United Nations Development Programme
2. Topic 1 / Topic 2 - Please ensure that you label which part of your position paper is addressing topic 1 / 2 by using subheadings, e.g:

Introduction to Committee



The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the bodies under the United Nations. Established in 1945, its main purposes include: producing and creating policies, discussion forum for 193 member states, and acting as a representative body. The GA is the only council under the United Nations that consists of all 193 member states, in which each delegation is entitled to one vote, either for, against, or, in substantive voting, abstain. It provides a space and area for countries, regardless of whether they are allies or geopolitical enemies, to diplomatically and formally discuss international and global issues, e.g poverty.

Unlike the Security Council (UNSC), the GA is non-legally binding, meaning that it does not have the power nor right to impose and implement any laws onto the member states. However, it is important to remember that the influence that the assembly holds is great, hence, although it is considered as a soft law, many member states would take it as relatively credible guidance. Resolutions should not have any definite or forced operative clauses due to absence of international law compliance power. Peace, security, human rights, and development (all linking back to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals) are common global matters that the GA debates over, with member states freely expressing their foreign policy and stances on the issue. Collaboration and cooperation with other UN bodies and specialised agencies are also possible, which is useful for settling committee-specific agenda, e.g United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The meetings are held on an annual-basis as a way to discuss and check up on all the nations and their wellbeing and development progress, however in the event of a crisis, special sessions and emergency meetings may be called and held too. One of the most crucial functions of the general assembly is their power to elect members for other councils, most importantly the UNSC. As the largest council in the UN, it also oversees and approves the finances for the United Nations, as well as sets a budget to prevent deficits.

Agenda A: Addressing Unethical Labour Practices in the Global Economy

Key Terms

Unethical Labour Practices refer to actions or behaviors by employers or labor organizations that violate the rights of employees or undermine the collective bargaining process, which open the door to unfair treatment or discrimination

Background information

Contemporary efforts to address unethical labour practices can find their historical foundations in the anti-slave trade movement, widely regarded as the first modern social movement. By directly challenging the moral legitimacy of economic systems built on exploitation, it permanently altered the rules of the global economy and set a precedent for social movements promoting the value of human rights above the value of commerce.

Current Situation

Today, in the 21st century, despite increased effort and spending from regulatory bodies, unethical labour practices still remain deeply entwined in the global economy. Workers from developing countries in particular are uniquely vulnerable to these issues which manifest in ways such as child labour, refusal to bargain, and unsafe working conditions.

Consequences

What happens if these unethical practices remain unaddressed? 2 things. First, this perpetuates the cycle of inequality and poverty, particularly in the global south. Exploited workers are routinely denied fair wages and access to education and healthcare. Without a living income or job security, the socioeconomic mobility of workers is severely compromised, which makes it impossible to increase their standard of living or break the cycle of generational poverty. This in turn creates a systemic imbalance where a small number of multinational corporations and the global north benefit from cheap labour. Meanwhile, the global south and lower castes remain economically disenfranchised. Children are forced to work instead of attending school which in turns diminishes their future opportunities which reinforce the lack of social mobility in a vicious cycle. Over time, this widens the gap both between the global north and south and within the socioeconomic classes of a nation. Which in turns leads to social unrest and political instability. Second, this creates a “race to the bottom”, when companies exploit low-cost labour to increase competitiveness, they place similar pressure on other companies to cut costs similarly in order to remain competitive. As a result, businesses continuously undercut each other by lowering labour costs and disregarding employer welfare. This downward spiral leads to widespread exploitation and undermines labour rights across the global economy.

Past actions of the UN and other bodies

Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

The International Labour Conference (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work is a statement made by the ILO "that all Members, even if they have not ratified the Conventions in question, have an obligation arising from the very fact of membership in the Organization to respect, to promote and to realize, in good faith and in accordance with the Constitution, the principles concerning the fundamental rights which are the subject of those Conventions". More information can be found [here](#).

United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

Also known as the “Ruggie Principles”, these Guiding Principles provided the first global standard for preventing and addressing the risk of adverse impacts on human rights linked to business activity, and continue to provide the internationally accepted framework for enhancing standards and practice regarding business and human rights. More information can be found [here](#).

International Labour Organization

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social and economic justice by setting international labour standards. More information can be found [here](#).

Stakeholders

Developing nations

Developing nations are often a significant stakeholder regarding unethical labour practices. This is because their economy often relies on low-cost manufacturing and foreign contracts for economic growth. In order to attract foreign investors, these countries often offer weak regulatory enforcement and turn a blind eye to unethical practices. Even when labour laws exist, enforcement is often weak due to a combination of factors such as lack of funding, corruption, and lack of political will.

Multinational corporations

Multinational corporations (MNCs) often benefit from the lower production costs that come with weak labour protections in less developed countries. By outsourcing manufacturing to countries where wages are low, MNCs can maximise their profits while maintaining competitive pricing in global markets. Many MNCs turn a blind eye to exploitable conditions that their employees are subjected to in order to avoid increased operational costs.

Solutions

International cooperation

In order to prevent a race to the bottom, developing nations should cooperate and collectively refuse to lower their labour standards in the pursuit of foreign investments. When countries compete to undercut each other by weakening protections for workers, they not only harm their own citizens but also allow themselves to be exploited by MNCs. But by upholding fair wages and working conditions, countries can maintain sustainable economic growth without sacrificing standards of living and socioeconomic mobility. Cooperation between countries can manifest itself in ways such as regional agreements or international frameworks.

Public Education

We cannot deny the role that the everyday citizen plays in combating these issues. Through their choices as consumers, workers, and citizens. They collectively hold significant power to demand accountability from companies and governments. In the current status quo, public apathy allows MNCs to continue unethical labour practices without making any meaningful change. For example, many consumers prioritise low prices and convenience over the conditions under which

the products were produced, this allows MNCs to continue profiting from exploitative supply chains without backlash. And even when backlash does occur, MNCs simply do not have the incentive to change due to the fact that public backlash is often short-lived. Without substantial and sustained pressure, we give companies little incentive to reform. MNCs are inherently motivated by profits and will only act ethically when it aligns with their business interests or when public pressure threatens their reputation. Until more consumers consistently choose ethical alternatives or hold companies accountable. It is extremely difficult to end the cycle of exploitation.

Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

- 1) What constitutes unethical labour practices?
- 2) How can relevant institutions detect unethical labour practices?
- 3) How can labour laws be enforced in areas with different labour protections?
- 4) How can affected workers receive compensation?
- 5) How can efforts to combat unethical labour practices uphold human rights while taking sovereignty into account?

Bibliography

Broad, R., & Heckscher, Z. (2003). Before Seattle: The historical roots of the current movement against corporate-led globalisation. *Third World Quarterly*, 24(4), 713–728.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/0143659032000105849>

What is an Unfair Labor Practice? - HR Glossary | TalentHR. (n.d.). TalentHR.

<https://www.talenthr.io/resources/hr-glossary/unfair-labor-practice/#:~:text=Common%20Examples%20of%20Unfair%20Labor%20Practices%20by%20Employers&text=Employers%20are%20prohibited%20from%20discouraging,of%20unionization%20violate%20labor%20laws.&text=It%20is%20unlawful%20for%20employers,or%20involvement%20with%20a%20union.&text=Employers%20are%20required%20to%20engage,with%20employees%20violates%20labor%20law.>

Wikipedia contributors. (2024a, October 3). *Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at work.*

Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration_on_Fundamental_Principles_and_Rights_at_Work

Wikipedia contributors. (2024b, November 23). *United Nations guiding principles on business and human rights*. Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Guiding_Principles_on_Business_and_Human_Rights

Wikipedia contributors. (2025, May 25). *International Labour Organization*. Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Labour_Organization

Agenda 2: Examining the Ethics of Genetically Modified Foods and Human Enhancement

Introduction

Genetically modified foods are foods with DNA / genetic material that have been tampered and altered using genetic engineering methods in order to gain more human-desired characteristics, e.g sweeter and juicier fruits for taste preference. This process can also be linked to artificial selection where farmers or scientists will choose and breed specific livestock or plants for preferred characteristics to further sustain and retain the particular traits for the future generations. Modifications can either be useful or exploited, depending on the intent, hence this raises ethical considerations as to whether GMOs (genetically modified organisms) are safe for consumption or not. Common usage of genetic modifications in foods would be to increase longevity and shelf-life to decrease waste and overall costs and expenses; increase yield for crops to prevent food insecurity and keep supply high; increase nutritional value to improve health of individuals and households. All of these reasons, and many others, are why GMFs (Genetically Modified Foods) are normalised as they are economically beneficial, yet also for survival of many areas around the world, most notably in LEDCs. However, it can also have negative consequences due to desperate financial / economic intentions of firms and businesses in order to retain or increase profit margins. Issues that can arise include allergies from foreign genes that are transferred into GMOs and possible unknown health risks, therefore leading to the ethical debate of economic vs health ethics.

Human enhancement refers to the usage of technology to improve or further increase specific desirable human traits. One of the methods is human genome editing, which allows biologists to change the DNA of many organisms such as plants, bacteria, and animals enabling changes in physical traits, like eye color, promoting disease resistance, which ultimately improves human health and the medical industry. Most of the genetic changes by gene editing tools happen to in vitro early-stage embryos and gametes. Then, the genetically modified embryos are transferred to the uterus to initiate a pregnancy for a result of a child with edited genes to be born which also affect its descendants. Other benefits of genome editing include new strategies of diagnosing diseases, treating and preventing genetic disorders, and providing new avenues to treat infertility. The first genome editing technologies were created in the late 1900s however in recent years, a new genome editing tool CRISPR was invented in 2009 making genome editing way easier. Many scientists are now using CRISPR when performing genome editing because it's simpler, faster, cheaper and also more accurate than older genome editing methods.

The biotechnological advancement in modern day has rapidly improved compared to in the past, however due to the recency of its development, it is difficult for scientists and credible professionals to be aware of all of the potential health and environmental risks of it. The asymmetric information (lack of sufficient knowledge / imbalance availability of information) is one of the causes for market failure as individuals lack the necessary information to make a rational decision of whether to purchase GMOs or not. For both agendas, there are ethical concerns to keep in mind as to what is the extent of genetic modification, as well as what laws or policies can be imposed to continue to preserve the economical and social benefits, while still preventing misuse of it.

Key Terms

Term	Definition
Genetic Modified Organism (GMO)	Artificially manipulating the DNA / genetic material of living organisms, e.g animals, plants.
Human Enhancement	Utilising technology, more specifically biotechnology, to increase and improve specific desirable characteristics in humans.
Bioethics	The ethical concerns and considerations of biological and medical procedures
Transgenics	The process of inserting and transferring a species' genes to another species.

Labeling Policy	Disclosures regarding GMO in items for consumption. (Government mandated and regulated)
Monoculture	Agricultural practice of planting and growing a single type of crop.
Biotechnology	Manipulation of living organisms to manufacture products that improve quality of human and planet life.
Transhumanism	Movement (philosophical) and idea that advocates and supports use of technology (biotechnology) to alter and enhance human traits, as well as to transcend limitations.
Bioconservatism	Movement and idea that goes against and opposes the use of technology to alter human and natural characteristics.

Background to Topic

History

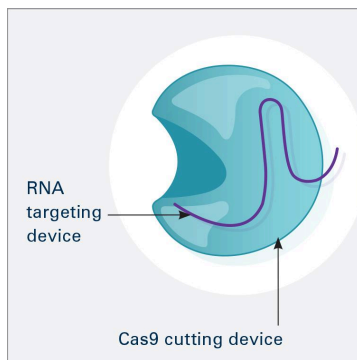
In the 1970s, genetic engineering became popular amongst scientists as the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA occurred in 1953. After the finding, many biologists began to learn the methods in order to alter the genetic material, while simultaneously developing technology for DNA structures. Prior to this, selective breeding was a frequent and common practice amongst farmers to harvest and maximise the yield of preferable crops as to increase total revenue and economic situation. As time evolved, the first genetically modified food that was approved by the government was the Flavr Savr tomato in the USA. This was the beginning for GMOs, and later, almost all supermarkets and stalls would be selling GMFs to consumers. 1975 saw the beginning of the Asilomar Conference, in which discussions regarding the potential risks of altering and manipulating genetic material and DNA occurred, in addition to establishing health and safety guidelines. However, this did not prevent stark divisions in ideas and opinions about the ethical considerations of manipulating DNA, with transhumanists supporting the selling of GMOs, while conservatives strongly against, either due to skepticism of safety, personal values, religion, or other reasons.

Due to the shift in job scopes in several economies globally, from primary sector to secondary, tertiary, or even quaternary, many individuals have opted out of primary sector jobs, such as mining and, more importantly, agriculture. The migration of individuals from farms and rural

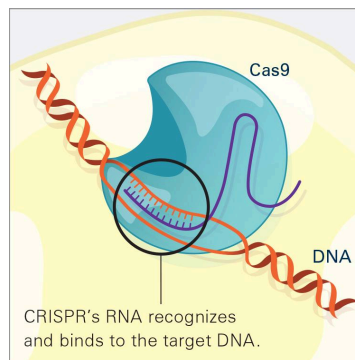
areas to the city in hopes to gain more education or a higher-paying job had caused a decrease in the supply of farmers, yet crops are crucial for food security, thus many nations have adapted genetically modified crops to increase yield and quantity supplied, as well as making up the lost of employees' output that could have been previously achieved. From an environmental standpoint, it also decreases the waste produced from unwanted vegetables and fruits.

CRISPR-Cas9 was adapted from a naturally occurring genome editing system in bacteria where it captures snippets of DNA from invading viruses and turns them into DNA segments known as CRISPR arrays. At its core, CRISPR technology consists of two molecules that complete the process of introducing a mutation to the DNA sequence which are Cas9 and RNA. The CRISPR arrays allow the bacteria to “remember” the viruses (or closely related ones) so if the viruses attack again, the bacteria produces RNA segments from the CRISPR arrays to target the viruses' DNA. Then, the bacteria uses Cas9 or a similar enzyme to cut the DNA apart, which disables the virus. It is also being explored in research on a wide variety of diseases to find treatment and prevention of more complex diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, mental illness, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. However, according to Dr. Jennifer Doudna, treatments using the CRISPR technology would cost about USD2-million per patient.

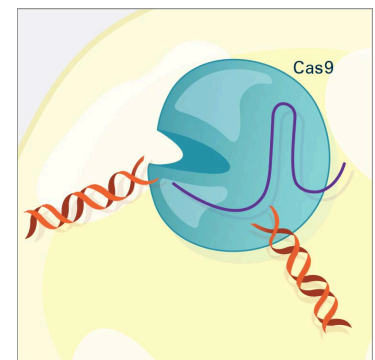
Diagram 1:



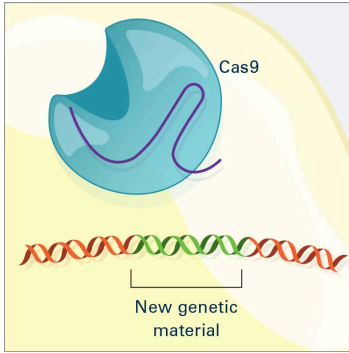
The CRISPR System has two Components joined together: A finely tuned targeting device (a small strand of RNA Programmed to look for specific DNA sequence) and a strong cutting Device (an enzyme called Cas9 that Is able to cut through double strand of DNA)



Once inside a cell, the CRISPR system located the DNA it is programmed to find. Then, the CRISPR seeking device recognises and binds to the target DNA (the one circled in black)



The Cas9 enzyme cuts both strand of the DNA.



Researchers can insert into the cell new sections of DNA. The cell automatically incorporates the DNA into the gap when it repairs the broken DNA.

Figure 1.1 - CRISPR - Cas9 Method

Xiaoyang Wu from the University of Chicago in Illinois had also genetically modified skin. In 2017, he and his team used genetically modified skin grafts as ‘drug patches’ in mice, akin to plastic nicotine or hormone patches that are able to activate the GLP1 gene which is used to control blood sugar levels and suppress its appetite. Using gene-editing technique CRISPR-Cas9, They found that these engineered skin grafts are able to successfully secrete GLP1 into the animal’s blood in response to the drug, slowing weight gain and also preventing diabetes in mice even though it was kept on a high-fat diet.

Current Situation

Economic

The increased yield of GMFs have led to increased aggregate supply in the market, hence the selling price is relatively low due to the theoretical market equilibrium matching with the aggregate demand. The high productivity also suggests a cyclical boom or economic growth as the Real GDP would increase from the increase of quantity supplied / produced, hence exports would be cheaper, attracting foreign buyers and potential increase in foreign direct investments (FDI). This can lead to an increase in export competitiveness in more economically developed nations (MEDCs), such as the United States and China. However the overexploitation of genetic modification can lead to natural crops and food to reduce in demand to the point where it could possibly be removed from the market due to its inability to survive. Smaller and independent

farmers in less economically developed countries (LEDCs) may result in economic dependency on multinational companies as those who produce without modifications may be unable to compete with the almost-perfect quality and overall preferred goods. Therefore, this can lead to potential monopoly or oligopoly structures forming within the market, hence increasing wealth disparity and inequality.

Social

GMFs may be a challenge under social context due to personal values and beliefs influencing decision-making on consumers. As mentioned above, information failure can play a significant role when choosing between GMFs and non-GMFs as some religions and cultures may clash with the transfer of genes. Dietary laws, such as kosher for Jews, can restrict altering the natural state of food. In addition, some argue that changing human creation and the works of God would result in impurity and traditions, hence the modification of food is controversial in different areas and societies around the world.

Environmental

Eutrophication is the process in which fertilisers seep into the sewage system, resulting in overgrowth of algae in bodies of water, thus causing lack of oxygen and high concentrations of CO₂ in marine and freshwater systems. This can cause animals within the ecosystem to die and end the cycle. The fertilisers and pesticides usually derive from agricultural purposes, such as nearby farms, ranging from subsistence to mass farming. Genetically modified crops, however, reduced the usage of both, as well as increased yield, hence decreasing the fertiliser used overall and entering the systems. Despite this positive effect, it is important to note that the development of superweed and deterioration of soil health can affect biodiversity in certain areas, and in conjunction with the pollutants released by infrastructure and resources for human enhancement technology, it can all result in a detrimental carbon and environmental footprint, worsening climate change and global warming. (Indirect)

Impact of the Issue:

<i>Impact</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
1.	Increase food security (especially for LEDCs), due to increased crop yields	Agriculture and nature shifts to a monoculture and loss of biodiversity
2.	Advancement and improvement of medicine that can treat specific cases	Ethical considerations and concerns
3.	Able to help increase access to more	Heavy dependency on multinational

	knowledge regarding DNA and genes, hence could potentially find cures to particular genetic disorders	companies, biotechnology corporations, and farmers (may result in overreliance and increase burden and pressure)
4.	Decrease in dangerous / critical genetic mutations in newborns (generational selective breeding / complete alteration of gene to reduce health risks)	Potential undiscovered health risks associated with genetic modification of food and human DNA
5.	Reduced hunger and promoting economic growth (SDG 2 and 8)	Cultural and religious conflict (mistrust due to information failure or dietary restriction)

Barriers in Human Genome Editing - Additional Information regarding human genome editing

Information via research report for a previous MUN conference, in which rights of both documents belong to Megan Loh Shu Tian

Technical Barriers

Even though CRISPR has much more improvement than older genome editing technologies, it is not perfect yet. For example, genome editing tools have malfunctions and cuts in the wrong spot of the DNA. Furthermore, Scientists are still not yet sure how these errors might affect patients in their daily lives.

- a. Off-target effects:
 - One of the most prominent obstacles is the issues CRISPR may cause if the tool misses its target. Furthermore, off-targets are hard to detect without whole genome sequencing and concerns have arisen over its use in treatments.
- b. Double-strand break:
 - DNAs are made of two molecule strands that wind around each other to form a double shape helix. The two molecular strands are used for cell repair, homologous recombination, and non homologous end joining. Therefore, a double-strand break is one of the worst DNA lesions. So when a double strand break occurs, cell repairs may be error-prone which leads to further issues.

The safety of gene therapies and improving upon genome editing technologies are crucial links to ensure that this technology is safe for use for the patients which is why it is currently illegal in many countries.

Ethical Concerns:

Ethical concerns that can emerge with genome editing include safety, which is why scientists and all of us should carefully consider gene editing before it is used to treat patients. Some ethical questions that scientists and people in society should consider are:

1. The principle of consent is an essential component of the human right to self-determination. Therefore, is it okay to use gene editing on an embryo when it is impossible to get permission from the embryo for treatment and is it sufficient to get permission from parents enough?
2. Most of the changes by genome editing are limited to somatic cells, which doesn't get passed from one generation to the next. However, changes made to genes in egg or sperm cells (germ cells) or in the genes of an embryo could be passed down to generations. Therefore, is it ethical to use this technology to enhance human traits such as height or intelligence?

The debate for genome editing is always about how safe is safe enough. The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technology (EGE) draws attention to the importance of nuancing and resisting this framing before the technology is able to be rolled without any hindrance. The European Commission has 3 different perspectives that are important in this regard. Firstly about the 'safe enough' narrative, the European Commission thinks that this particular narrative correlates with the undesirable notions of 'zero risk' and of 'acceptable risks'. The latter is problematic because we always take risks depending on the situation and the possible benefits. However in this context, this 'safe enough' narrative can mislead people to believe that if a technology is 'safe enough' there are no risks. Furthermore, the 'safe enough' narrative is highly context-dependent. What is needed instead should be a consideration of the complete decision problem; to take sound, well-reasoned decisions; to look at both the pros and cons; not to just consider the risks and costs but also the possible benefits.

Secondly, the restrictive focus on 'safe enough' for genome editing becomes the alpha and omega; it becomes both the reason for scientists and stakeholders to avoid responsibility and the freedom to complete their research

Thirdly, the 'safe enough' framing is reminiscent of the 'technological imperative', that 'if it is technologically feasible then it ought to be done'. This notion is used to avoid more ethically pressing questions such as whether genome editing is really necessary, acceptable, and under what conditions.

The European commission believes that the overemphasis of 'safe enough' narrative might make this a 'one door, one key' issue before the technology gets rolled out.

Legal Concerns

According to Article 13 of the Oviedo Convention, that is the only internationally legally binding instrument addressing human rights in the biomedical field, addresses concerns about genetic enhancement or germline genetic engineering by limiting the purposes of any intervention on the human genome, including in the field of research, to prevention, diagnosis, or therapy. Furthermore, it prohibits any intervention with the aim of introducing a modification in the genome of any descendants. This Article was guided by the acknowledgement of the positive perspectives of genetic modification with the development of knowledge of the human genome and also the possibility to intervene and control genetic characteristics of human beings, raising concern about possible misuse and abuses.

In September 2020, the report on *Heritable Human Genome Editing* produced by the International Commission on the Clinical use of Human Germline Genome Editing, a body cosponsored by several international bodies such as the U.S National Academy of Medicine, U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and the Royal Society in the United Kingdom (hereafter the International Commission), reiterated that heritable human genome editing is “illegal or otherwise not approved in many countries” but there is no exact information how many countries or which countries these are.

Timeline & Past Actions by the United Nations and Other Bodies

1975 - Asilomar Conference: Scientists discussing in a conference regarding safety guidelines for genetic modifications

1997 - European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE): gave advice on the ethics of human gene editing (extents)

2002 - CRISPR: Dutch Scientists Ruud Jansen and his team first coined the term CRISPR

2005 - United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO): Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights which emphasised on dignity, rights, and informed consent of GMOs (due to consumption), links to labelling policies

2012 - CRISPR-Cas9 Editing Tool: Jennifer Doudna, dubbed as the mother of CRISPR from the University of California, and her collaborator Emmanuelle Charpentier proposed that this microbial immunity mechanism could be a tool harnessed for programmable genome editing. In

2020, Jennifer Doudna was awarded the Nobel Prize. This has also become an ongoing subject of a bitter patent dispute with a Chinese-American bioengineer Feng Zhang.

General:

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Health Organisation (WHO) - Codex Alimentarius: provided safety guidelines for GMO labeling (specifically food)

United Nations - Conference on Sustainable Development: Sustainable agricultural technology, as well as for GMOs.

Key Stakeholders

<i>Stakeholder</i>	<i>Details</i>
United Nations (Committees)	World Health Organisation (WHO) Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)
Government (not limited to:)	Brazil, China, European Union, United States of America,
Biotechnology Corporations	Bayer, CRISPR Therapeutics, Syngenta
Farmers and those working in agriculture	-
Banned cultivation and/or import of GMO Crops / Animals - Nations	Algeria, Ecuador, Madagascar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, etc.

The Committee has also discussed the merits of establishing a new and permanent international body for the governance and oversight of human genome editing, by considering different institutional models for bringing together the necessary partners. They are considering approaches that were adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, ethics work at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for Economic Co-operation

and Development (OECD). The Committee has identified the strengths and weaknesses of each model. While the resources needed are different for each model, they were all considerably greater than those currently devoted to the international governance of human genome editing.

The Committee also reiterated that the governance of human genome editing, as well as many other emerging technologies, cannot be resolved by only using a single process or meeting. Given the rapidly evolving nature of these underlying technologies and the potential benefit, harm or other effects, an ongoing process is needed to take into account relevant technical, societal, economic, legal and ethical developments and adapt governance measures accordingly. As a result, the committee does not plan to end any of its tasks even when it has fulfilled its mandate, therefore, an ongoing international process is required.

Possible Solutions

1. ***Urges*** assembly to develop, establish, and finalise a global regulatory framework for human genome editing and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) lead by the United Nations and its subsequent bodies and councils;
2. ***Encourages*** governments to implement transparent labelling policies on products of consumption, such as, but not limited to: fruits, vegetables, poultry, indicating presence or absence of genetic modification and/or alteration;
3. Emphasising on importance and role of public education regarding bioethics, genetic modification, and clear distinctions of the clashes between religion, e.g dietary restrictions, and altered products of consumption.

Note: Do build upon these and all more details to align with your foreign policy !

Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMAs)

1. To what extent is the United Nations and its specialised agencies' power and role in regulating policies regarding genetic modifications in food and humans?

2. What measures should be taken beforehand to prevent monopolies from forming, such as large biotechnology corporations?
3. Should there be limitations on enhancement technology?
 - a. If so, to what extent should the limitations be?
4. Should countries be encouraged or discouraged (or neutral) to put a restriction or ban on biotech practices? What if it is related to religious beliefs?
5. How do member nations create a clear distinction and define the ethical considerations, concerns, and boundaries between exploitation and usefulness of genetic modification.
6. To what extent should the environment be compromised for biotechnology infrastructure and processes?

Bibliography

Broad, R., & Heckscher, Z. (2003). Before Seattle: The historical roots of the current movement against corporate-led globalisation. *Third World Quarterly*, 24(4), 713–728.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/0143659032000105849>

What is an Unfair Labor Practice? - HR Glossary | TalentHR. (n.d.). TalentHR.

<https://www.talenthr.io/resources/hr-glossary/unfair-labor-practice/#:~:text=Common%20Examples%20of%20Unfair%20Labor%20Practices%20by%20Employers&text=Employers%20are%20prohibited%20from%20discouraging,of%20unionization%20violate%20labor%20laws.&text=It%20is%20unlawful%20for%20employers,or%20involvement%20with%20a%20union.&text=Employers%20are%20required%20to%20engage,with%20employees%20violates%20labor%20law.>

Wikipedia contributors. (2024a, October 3). *Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at work*. Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration_on_Fundamental_Principles_and_Rights_at_Work

Wikipedia contributors. (2024b, November 23). *United Nations guiding principles on business and human rights*. Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Guiding_Principles_on_Business_and_Human_Rights

Wikipedia contributors. (2025, May 25). *International Labour Organization*. Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Labour_Organization

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2019). *The State of Food and Agriculture 2019. Moving forward on food loss and waste reduction*.

<https://www.fao.org/publications/sofa/2019/en/>

International Bioethics Committee. (2015). *Report of the IBC on updating its reflection on the human genome and human rights*. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000233258>

Ishii, T. (2017). Germline genome-editing research and its socioethical implications. *Trends in Molecular Medicine*, 23(11), 999–1010. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molmed.2017.09.007>

National Human Genome Research Institute. (2022). *What are genetically modified organisms (GMOs)?* <https://www.genome.gov/genetics-glossary/Genetically-Modified-Organism>

Nuffield Council on Bioethics. (2018). *Genome editing and human reproduction: Social and ethical issues*.

<https://www.nuffieldbioethics.org/publications/genome-editing-and-human-reproduction>

World Health Organization. (2021). *Human genome editing: Recommendations*.

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240030086>

World Health Organization & Food and Agriculture Organization. (2009). *Codex Alimentarius: Foods derived from modern biotechnology*. <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/ca2875en/>

Wolpe, P. R. (2002). Treatment, enhancement, and the ethics of neurotherapeutics. *Brain and Cognition*, 50(3), 387–395. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0278-2626\(02\)00518-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0278-2626(02)00518-8)

Zhang, S. (2018, November 26). The CRISPR baby scandal gets worse by the day. *The Atlantic*. <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2018/11/crispr-baby-scandal-gets-worse/576565/>