

## **FIFTY-FIRST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY GENEVA, 11-16 MAY 1998**

WHA51.10 Ethical, scientific and social implications of cloning in human health

The Fifty-first World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolution WHA50.37 and its condemnation of human cloning for reproductive purposes as contrary to human dignity;

Noting the general consensus reached at national and international levels since the Fiftieth World Health Assembly regarding human cloning for reproductive purposes;

Noting in particular UNESCO's Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights and the Council of Europe's Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine, which deal with the prohibition of cloning of human beings;

Considering that the currently available information from animal studies involving cloning by somatic cell nuclear transfer indicates that this would be an unsafe procedure for reproductive purposes in humans;

Recognizing that developments in cloning have unprecedented ethical implications and raise serious matters for concern in terms of safety of the individual and subsequent generations of human beings,

1. REAFFIRMS that cloning for the replication of human individuals is ethically unacceptable and contrary to human dignity and integrity;

2. URGES Member States to foster continued and informed debate on these issues and to take appropriate steps, including legal and juridical measures, to prohibit cloning for the purpose of replicating human individuals;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to establish a group, involving also government experts, with the aim of clarifying concepts and developing guidelines relating to the use of cloning procedures for non-reproductive purposes;
- (2) to continue to monitor, assess and clarify, in consultation with other international organizations, national governments and professional and scientific bodies, the ethical, scientific, social and legal implications for human health of the use of cloning;
- (3) to ensure that Member States are kept informed of developments in this area in order to facilitate decisions on national regulatory frameworks;
- (4) to report to the Executive Board at its 103rd session and to the Fifty-second World Health Assembly on action taken by the Organization in this field.

(Tenth plenary meeting, 16 May 1998 - Committee A, fourth report)

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### **WHA50.37 Cloning in human reproduction**

The Fiftieth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the Director-General's report on cloning, biomedical technology and WHO's role in standard-setting; [1]

Noting the statement issued by the Director-General on 11 March 1997,[2] as well as the statements made by Member States at the Fiftieth World Health Assembly;

Welcoming the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine of the Council of Europe,[3] which deals with the ethical principles of biomedicine;

Recognizing the need to respect the freedom of ethically acceptable scientific activity and to ensure access to the benefits of its applications;

Recognizing that developments in cloning and other genetic procedures have unprecedented ethical implications and considering that related research and development should therefore be carefully monitored and assessed, and the rights and dignity of patients respected,

1. AFFIRMS that the use of cloning for the replication of human beings is ethically unacceptable and contrary to human integrity and morality;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to take the lead in clarifying and assessing the ethical, scientific and social implications of cloning in the area of human health, in appropriate consultation with other international organizations, national governments and professional and scientific bodies; and, with the relevant international bodies, to consider related legal aspects;
- (2) to inform the Member States in order to foster a public debate on these issues;
- (3) to report to the 101st session of the Executive Board, to the Fifty-first World Health Assembly and to other interested organizations on the outcome of the assessments.

Hbk Res., Vol. III (3rd ed.), 8.2(Tenth plenary meeting, 14 May 1997 - Committee B, sixth report)