

Ethical, scientific and social implications of cloning in human health

The Executive Board,

Having considered chapter IX on Ethical, scientific and social implications of cloning in human health in the Director-General's report on implementation of resolutions and decisions,¹ and the information document on the same subject,²

RECOMMENDS to the Fifty-first World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Fifty-first World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolution WHA50.37 on cloning in human reproduction;

Noting the general consensus reached at the 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 human beings;

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

Recognizing that developments in cloning and other genetic procedures 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 take appropriate steps, including legal and juridical measures, to prohibit cloning for the purpose of replicating human individuals;

¹ Document EB101/10.

² Document EB101/INF.DOC./3.

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to establish a study group with the aim of 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 and social implications of the use of cloning procedures in human health;
- (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 103rd session of the Executive Board and Fifty-second World Health Assembly on actions taken by the Organization in this field.

Sixteenth meeting, 27 January 1998
EB101/SR/16

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