



TISB DEBATE 2024

Prepared Motions

Disclaimer

Please remember that this document serves as only a *starting point* for the motions. To form conclusive, coherent and convincing arguments, please do *further* in-depth research.

The “questions to ask yourself” sections are meant to provide *bases* for research and arguments. Your research should *include* but *not be limited* to them.

TH supports the use of genetic engineering to enhance human capabilities.

Context:

- *Genetic engineering* refers to the process of using laboratory-based technologies to alter the DNA or genetic makeup of an organism.
- Other names for it include genetic modification.
- It can include various operations; some simple, some more complex.
- In the context of the given motion, genetic engineering could involve adding a gene from one species to an organism from a different species to produce a desired trait, changing DNA base pairs, or deleting regions of DNA. Till date, genetic modification has mostly been used for cancer therapies, brewing yeasts, and genetically modifying plants and livestock.
- *Human capabilities* refer to the actions that can be performed within the limits of the human body and psyche. Capabilities that could be enhanced include, but are not limited to, eyesight, hearing, speed, resistance to weather, etc.

Questions to ask yourself:

- Benefits versus disadvantages of the process of genetic engineering (cost, time, employment, education, ethics)
- What are the incentives to perform genetic engineering and are they worth the disadvantages? If not, why? If yes, why?
- Who are the major stakeholders in the debate and who should be prioritized? Why?
- What are the short-term and long-term impacts of enhancing human capabilities? How will they change society, if they will at all?

THBT El Salvador's monetary system involving Bitcoin should be used worldwide.

Context:

- El Salvador is a country in Central America. It is the first country in the world to use Bitcoin as *legal tender* (a recognized currency under the law).
- In 2001, El Salvador changed its currency from "colón" to United States Dollars. The purpose of the dollarization of El Salvador was to achieve financial stability by encouraging foreign investment and decreasing transaction costs of international trade.
- However, in post-dollarization El Salvador, the government was unable to control monetary policies due to the rates of USD being under the jurisdiction of the United States Federal Reserve. Dollarization decreased the purchasing power of the population of El Salvador and slowed down its exports.
- In 2021, Nayib Bukele (President of El Salvador) introduced Bitcoin as legal tender via the Bitcoin Law.
- The government announced that it had set aside \$150 million in cash to back the country's bitcoin. The government announced that it would distribute US\$30 in bitcoin to people who sign up to use an electronic wallet called *Chivo* at a cost of up to \$75 million. Chivo is run by a private enterprise, but information regarding the platform and its policies are classified by the government. Transactions in bitcoin are not subject to *capital gains tax*.

Questions to ask yourself:

- What was the direct impact of the Bitcoin Law in El Salvador? (Environmental, sociocultural, economic, etc.)
- What are the positives of using Bitcoin as legal tender? What are the concerns?
- How will Bitcoin impact the economies of countries in the hypothetical scenario where they adopt it? Are they worse or better than the current economies?
- Identify the major stakeholders in the debate. How would they be impacted if a Bitcoin Law was passed/not passed? Why?
- What are the impacts of Bitcoin as a currency in and of itself? (Environmental, sociocultural, etc. impacts)
- Concerns and advantages surrounding online wallet platforms like Chivo.

THBT the United Nations Security Council should be reformed to better reflect the current geopolitical landscape.

Context:

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is a branch of the United Nations that is responsible for ensuring international peace and security. They also recommend the admission of new UN members to the General Assembly. The Council is composed of 15 Members: Five permanent members: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly. The permanent members have veto power. The UNSC was formed after WWII.
- The Council has had its fair share of both successes and failures, including, but not limited to:
 - First peacekeeping force deployed to end Suez Crisis
 - Inability to intervene in USSR's invasion of Hungary post the Hungarian Revolution
 - Remained paralyzed during Cold War due to fighting between USA and USSR
 - Authorized a US-led coalition against North Korea to repel their invasion of South Korea
 - UNOC (United Nations Operation in the Congo) deployed to restore order to State of Katanga
 - Council was bypassed in favour of direct negotiations between superpowers, for example Cuban Missile Crisis or Vietnam War
- The current *geopolitical* (a combination of political and geographic factors relating to something, such as a state or particular resources / the influence of such factors as geography, economics, and demography on the politics and especially the foreign policy of a state) landscape of the world is tumultuous. Key points to consider can be strategic competition between the US and China, considering anti-/deglobalization, climate risk, energy security, the aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic fallout, the Israel-Palestine war, and the Russia-Ukraine war.

Questions to ask yourself:

- What are the impacts of major facets of the current geopolitical landscape on the global economy?
- How important is being able to keep up with the geopolitical landscape for the UNSC?
- What is the impact the UNSC is able to make globally? Evaluate the impacts of past failures and successes.
- Will the current body of the UNSC be able to keep up with the changing geopolitical landscape based on past events?
- If the UNSC has to be reformed, how so? What changes should be made to adapt to the current world situation, how, and why?