

M A S M U N

Urgency for Justice



World Health Organization Guide

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Committee Description

The World health organization is the coordinating and planning committee on worldwide wellbeing and welfare. "Health," as characterized within the WHO structure, is the state of total physical, mental, and social wellbeing, and not simply the absence of illness or infirmity. Indeed, the aforementioned points are what this committee aims to establish, that is the improvement of societies by tackling the issues stemming from the roots of citizens: mental, physical, and social health. The main objective of the World Health Organization is to strengthen humanitarian aid by ensuring the highest conceivable level of wellbeing around the world. From moral dilemmas to humanitarian crises, delegates will debate to find the best policies to resolve the issue.

Topic 1 Description

The Morality of Genetic Engineering and Eugenics

New genetic innovations are both exciting and frightening. To avoid health issues, society may be able to conquer illnesses by modifying individual genomes or selecting certain embryos. However, it may also give rise to “super-humans” who are optimized for specific features (such as intelligence or appearance) and worsen societal disparities. What is certain is that people will be able to make decisions about their lives in ways that were impossible in the past, when we relied more on random evolution than deliberation. In the words of Jamie Metzl, we are “Hacking Darwin,” the title of his latest book. It is a thoughtful romp through new genetic technologies, with insights on what it means for individuals, society and even great-power politics.

Attempted solutions that have failed

1. In the U.S., a rider included in a Congressional Appropriations Act in place until April 2017 forbids the FDA from considering any trials that will alter the human germline. Experience with other riders shows that this ban could be extended indefinitely.

- The report sought to develop “a framework based on fundamental, underlying principles that may be adapted and adopted by any nation.” But how could this framework be adopted by nations that currently ban any germline modification?

2. A [2014 study](#) found that 29 out of 39 surveyed countries have decided to ban the use of technologies to modify the human germline. Of these, countries such as Austria, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands have a ban in place. And others

such as Argentina, Greece, Peru and South Africa have ambiguous regulations.

- However, it is unlikely that countries will reach any agreement in the near future.

The report noted that different regulatory approaches could be tested in different countries until we better understand these technologies and the best way to regulate them.

Proposed Solutions

1. Proceed to allow genome editing only when no other “reasonable alternatives” exist
2. Utilizing genome editing to primarily prevent a serious disease or condition from being transmitted from parent to offspring.
3. Oversight research must be in place especially to determine the effects of these technologies on the health and safety of the research participant

4. Achieving a balance between ensuring maximum transparency and respecting the privacy of the patient.
5. Placing reliable oversight to prevent the use of these technologies for reasons going beyond the prevention of a "serious disease or condition."

Questions to Answer

1. What is the stance of global nations on the subject of genetic engineering?
2. How are governments trying to ensure the safety and protection of patients undergoing genome editing?
3. What stance do citizens have on this subject and are they willing to trust the system and invest their money?
4. What laws can be implemented to solve the implications that may rise from genetic engineering?

5. Why are attempted solutions failing or not giving the expected results?

Useful Resources

<https://www.britannica.com/science/genetic-engineering>

<https://www.genengnews.com/>

<https://www.economist.com/open-future/2019/04/25/how-genetic-engineering-will-reshape-humanity>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-00673-1>

<https://www.future-science.com/doi/10.2144/btn-2019-0056>

Topic 2 Description

Crisis in Northern Ethiopia

“Many vulnerable families face a long and difficult road to recovery — all while their future is uncertain and unstable,” says Karmen Till, senior director of operations for World Vision in Ethiopia.

- More than 5.2 million people in Tigray, Ethiopia, are in dire need of humanitarian support, including health care, due to the conflict that erupted at the end of 2020. The conflict has left thousands injured and traumatized and had a severe impact on the families’ lives and livelihoods. Additionally, people are suffering from trauma and injuries, food insecurity and malnutrition, sexual and gender-based violence, communicable diseases such as malaria, cholera, as well as reduced access to treatment for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services. Furthermore, the

conflict has also disrupted the COVID-19 response. Millions of people are facing acute food insecurity in the region, with over 400,000 people close to famine.

Attempted solutions that have failed

1. The United Nations has attempted to coordinate humanitarian responses to recurrent drought and internally displaced people (IDP) in Ethiopia. In 2018, the UN closely worked with the Ethiopian government, donors and partners to provide humanitarian assistance to 7.9 million people.
 - However, in 2020 and 2021 thousands of civilians had been forced to flee after “killings, rapes, destruction and looting of properties, fear of reprisal attacks, and as a result of ethnic and identity-based attacks”, particularly in Western Tigray.
 - According to the most recent statements from the United Nations, 5.2 million

people in the northern Tigray region of Ethiopia (90% of the local population) are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, 400,000 of whom are already facing “famine-like conditions”. This unprecedented increase in IDPs projects the failure of the system developed by the UN in 2018.

2. On the international level, the United Nations has been calling for a ceasefire and for humanitarian corridors to be set up since November of last year to no avail.
3. The African Union (AU) has also called for a ceasefire and dialogue between the two sides since the beginning of the conflict. Additionally, in June the AU launched an investigation into alleged rights abuses in Tigray, and on 3 September 2021, it called on Ethiopia to do more to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid to Tigray. All to no avail.

Proposed solutions

1. Enacting a cross-line ceasefire that is responsible for securing and enforcing protection and safety with all the protagonists. The United nation and the African Union must have a prominent role to play in monitoring this ceasefire.
2. Facilitating national dialogue within Ethiopia in a transparent, democratic inter-regional way, with the leadership of the Ethiopian government, and the support of international partners.
3. Promoting the withdrawal of unnecessary foreign forces from the conflict for the utter sake of avoiding further burdening the protagonists involved in the crisis.
4. Facilitating the return of IDPs and refugees to their homeland.

5. Sustaining a coherent and credible central government in areas where the leading authority is decapitated or deeply disrupted.

Questions to Answer

1. Does the African Union seek to send aid and decrease the losses at hand, if so, how?
2. How are international communities trying to enhance the safety and protection of citizens in Ethiopia?
3. Are there any efforts being put in place to solve the problem, if so what parties are leading them and is there prominent improvement in the conflict at hand?
4. What resources does the Ethiopian nation lack so greatly and how is the government planning on tackling this issue?
5. What laws can be implemented to avoid further losses in Northern Ethiopia?
6. Why are attempted solutions failing or not giving the expected results?

Useful Resources

1. <https://www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/ethiopia-tigray-conflict-facts>
2. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/16/can-the-african-union-solve-ethiopia-yearlong-conflict-tigray>
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/57929853>
4. <https://www.usaid.gov/ethiopia>
5. <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/11/03/africa/ethiopia-tigray-explainer-2-intl/index.html>

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