**Committee:** Health Commission

**Issue:** What​ ​are​ ​the​ ​constraints​ ​necessary​ ​to Genetic​ ​modifications​ ​of​ ​the​ ​human​ ​gene pool?

**Author:** United Kingdom

U.K. is looking into gene modification as it is a key innovation that is producing great advances in the medical research. With the emergence of new technologies, science could go beyond research on completely transforming humankind

Genetic modification of the human gene pool holds promise. It could cure every genetic disease of humankind. The U. K is the first country in the world where a patient with a live-threatening disease has been cured by gene editing.

Last year the U. K approved the use of genetic modification being the first country to allow human gene editing even only for research. Yet.

Our country estimates that measures have to be taken by all countries before the lack of laws and regulations turns into real and irreversible disaster.

U. K has a long history of lobbying for animal rights against genetic modification and cloning (led by civil society organizations such as Gene Watch UK). Nowadays, with the emergence of the possibility of human gene modification, a fierce debate is taking place in the country. This debate is brought by the different catholic groups who are opposed to the genetically modification of human gene pool because they think that this practice is a real threat against equality. There are also scientists and politic groups (e.g., the London-based NGO Human Genetics Alert) who fear it would also bring us eventually to eugenics. It was indeed a British man, a cousin of Charles Darwin who first came up with the term eugenics in 1883.

U. K, in very controversial issues, has always supported the frame of UN as the natural host for these discussions and where the standards should be set up and agreed upon by all countries.

U. K is home to Collaborating Centres working with World Health Organisation (WHO) and other countries like China, Russia or Brazil, in looking for the utility of the human genetics modification to improve health.

 Our country is engaged in the advance of Science and is encouraged by the potential of human gene pool modification. However, UK believes that imminent measures have to be taken to regulate the use of CRISPR and other potential techniques to modify the human genes.