 **A delegation from the United Kingdom**

 **Position paper for the Legal Council**

The topic before the Legal council is ‘’Ethics and legality of genetic engineering’’. The U.K. recognizes the need for strong international cooperation to monitor and implement access to vital genetic engineering on humans, and it looks forward to discussing this topic at the upcoming conference.

1. **The History of Genetic Engineering in The UK**

The report by the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) states that recombinant DNA is used first in the UK. Recombinant DNA technology was first developed in the early 1970s.

1987-1994 The USDA, FDA, and EPA interpret existing laws and promulgate regulations and policies concerning GMOs.

The UK. became one of the rare countries where genome editing had not been banned outright. ( of these 78 countries, 75 (%96) prohibit heritable genome editing in humans.) Seventy prohibit it outright and five prohibit it with potential expectations.

1. **Ethics of Genome Editing in Humans**

 In the UK and many other countries, it is illegal to perform genome editing on embryos that are intended for pregnancies. ( but the restrictions could be lifted if research shows the procedure can safely prevent severe diseases.) More than half of the UK backs the idea of rewriting the DNA of human embryos to prevent severe or life-threatening diseases,

 According to a survey. Commissioned by the [Progress Educational Trust](https://www.progress.org.uk/) (PET), a fertility and genomics charity, the Ipsos poll found that 53% of people support the use of human genome editing to prevent children from developing serious conditions such as cystic fibrosis. John Harris, emeritus professor of bioethics at the University of Manchester, said he supported the “maximum possible choice” for parents in choosing the physical traits of their children if the traits in themselves are not harmful.

**ıı. Expectations of Genome Editing in the UK**

The UK approves therapeutic cloning

Three years after therapeutic cloning was made legal in the UK, the first license allowing scientists to clone human embryos to extract stem cells has been granted by the UK's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA).

Some figures in Italy have reacted with shock and disapproval at the news. 'It's not possible to justify this decision in any way,' said Francesco D'Agostino, head of Italy's National Bioethics Committee. The head of Italy's federation of doctors' guilds', Giuseppe Del Barone, added: 'I am in favor of using stem cells for medical research but I am strongly against the whole idea of cloning.' In the UK, however, the general mood seems to be in favor of such research as long as strict legislation is put in place.

In October, the United Nations will consider a proposal for an international ban on all cloning, both reproductive and therapeutic. The newly agreed license now makes the UK's position on therapeutic cloning very clear ahead of discussions in the UN. The UK and other countries, including Belgium, Sweden, and Japan, are calling for an agreement to outlaw human reproductive cloning but to permit individual countries to make their own decisions about whether therapeutic cloning should be allowed or not.