



## LEGAL, DELEGATE OF MEXICO, POSITION PAPER

COMMITTEE: LEGAL

AGENDA ITEM: ETHICS AND LEGALITY OF GENETIC ENGINEERING

COUNTRY: MEXICO

The groundbreaking development of genetic engineering and gene drivers in recent years has affected many countries. Many countries have banned genetic engineering studies due to ethical rules. We, as Mexico, have made changes in some of our rules and regulations by analyzing the effects of the developments in genetic engineering on the ecological system. Most countries look at the topic of genetic engineering divided into two groups which are genetic engineering in animal cells and genetic engineering in plant cells. The Human Genome project is being worked on, animal experiments are just allowed under certain and limited conditions in almost all countries, since we still do not know exactly from which genes some of our features come from. Besides, most countries allow the production of genetically modified foods in their borders, however, consequences in the long term are able to affect natural selection therefore, evolution of genetically modified food and health of consumers.

We, as Mexico, believe that health of the community is the most important thing, therefore, according to the past experiments and results in 2002 Mexican Senate ratifies Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB), which obligates Mexico to pass domestic legislation harmonizing its domestic laws with international obligations. This obligation made the Mexican Biosafety Law passed, which regulates the research, production, and marketing of biotech-derived products in 2005. However, Mexico has not determined the regulatory status of gene drives. Due to the fact that, possible effects of bioengineering are not well understood in most cases and therefore cannot be easily predicted. A biologist at the University of North Carolina, Dr. As Neal Stewart points out, "We know very little about community ecology and almost nothing about ecosystem ecology of what these [engineered] genes will do."

In general, we do not know and cannot predict most of the effects of genetically modified plants on ecological systems (and therefore biodiversity). This uncertainty calls for careful progress with the emergence of such life forms. Furthermore, these uncertainties indicate the

need for more public dialogue, research and inquiry about the risks and benefits of biotechnology, particularly those related to genetic engineering.

We, as the delegation of Mexico, desire to discuss the issues on genetic engineering and ethics of gene editing technologies. As a federal country we would like to present the importance of health and talk regarding the possible impacts of genetic engineering on living things and ecosystems. We do hope every single delegation will find possible solutions and consider the health of organisms as the most important thing as we do.