

**STATEMENT BY DR. M. GANDHI, COUNSELLOR O THE ELABORATION OF  
A MANDATE TO A CONVENTION AGAINST THE REPRODUCTIVE  
CLONING OF HUMAN BEINGS ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2002**

Mr. Chairman

At the outset let me congratulate you for the exemplary manner in which you are conducting the proceedings of the meeting of the working group.

Mr. Chairman

India is deeply concerned about the scientific possibility of cloning of human beings. Reproductive cloning of human beings raises profound, ethical, social and health concerns worldwide. Cloning as replication of human individuals is ethically unacceptable and contrary to human dignity and morality. Therefore, we support the proposal submitted by France and Germany to elaborate an international convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings. We believe that it is very urgent to elaborate such an international convention before the first human being is cloned.

I am pleased to state that India through an ethical guidelines on Biomedical research banned reproductive cloning of human being through nuclear transplantation since 1997. We believe that the purpose of therapeutic cloning is different from

reproductive cloning. The goal of therapeutic cloning is to obtain embryonic stem cells which may be developed into any kind of cell or body tissue. We also believe that any standard setting on therapeutic cloning requires to be based on social necessity, safety, health considerations, human dignity and must commensurate with the legal parameters which determine the birth of a human entity. These criteria may not be uniform in all societies. Till such diversity exists, therapeutic cloning may ideally be regulated by national legislation with stringent conditions and regulatory approvals on a case-by-case basis. Availability of more information and perfection in the methods of therapeutic cloning will eventually lead to the development of international legal standards in this regard. The necessity for adequate legal and practical safeguards and precautions in this regard cannot be over-emphasized

Mr. Chairman

We do not want any complex debate on a complicated issue like therapeutic cloning which would take away all our time. Instead, we should act effectively within the mandate of the General Assembly and devote our time

on the elaboration of a possible legal instrument prohibiting human reproductive cloning, which enjoys consensus.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.